BUSINESS AUTUMN IN POLAND 2010

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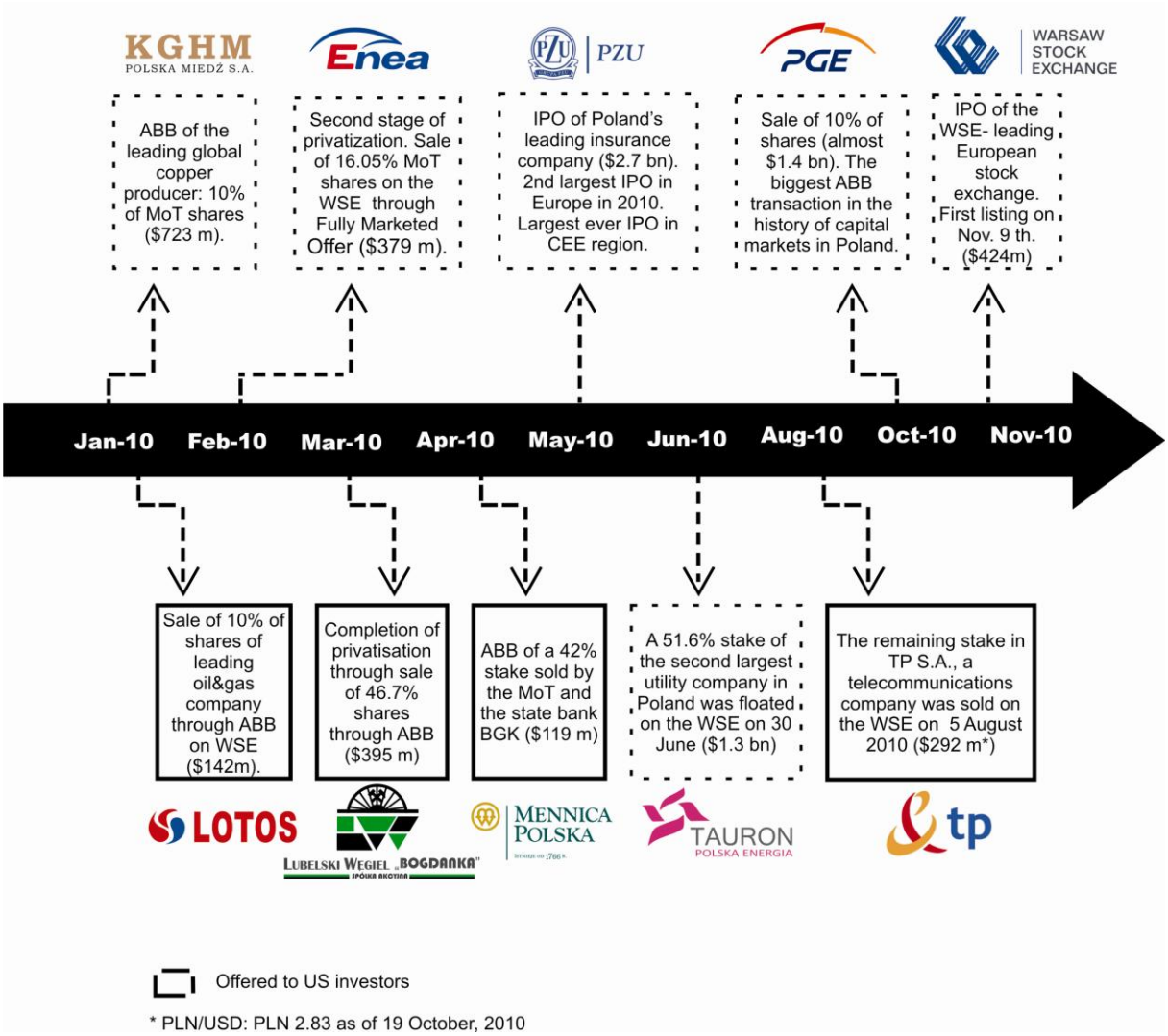
Privatisation Reinforces Warsaw's Position as CEE Financial Hub

by the Ministry of Treasury

Polish privatisation gained new momentum in 2010. The initial public offering of the Warsaw Stock Exchange (WSE) and the initial public offering of two Polish giants – PZU in the insurance sector and TAURON Polska Energia in the energy sector – confirmed Warsaw's leading position among Central and Eastern Europe's capital markets. Privatisation through the stock exchange still attracts large institutional investors from Poland and abroad.

Recent key transactions in the capital markets carried out by the Ministry of Treasury met with great interest from large, global institutional investors. The initial public offering of the Warsaw Stock Exchange was a record deal in Poland. The offering generated a large amount of interest among institutional investors, with demand for shares exceeding supply 25 times over. Institutional investors included key financial institutions from nearly 30 countries across five continents, including Polish pension funds (OFE) and investment funds (TFI), as well as leading world investment funds, sovereign wealth funds, mutual funds and university funds. The initial public offering of the Warsaw Stock Exchange once again confirmed Warsaw's strong position as a CEE financial hub and proved that foreign investors are becoming increasingly more interested in the developing Polish economy.

Key transactions on capital market executed by the Ministry of Treasury in 2010



In 2011, the Ministry of Treasury plans to conduct a public offering of a real state holding. The holding will comprise i.a. Dipservice and TON Agro. Both companies are engaged in the letting of own property, office space and commercial facilities.

They also specialise in acquiring real estate and preparing them for commercial investments. Dipservice has 107 items of real estate in prime locations in Warsaw. TON Agro has 38 land properties located across Poland. It is expected that the new real estate holding will make its debut on the Warsaw Stock Exchange in 2011.

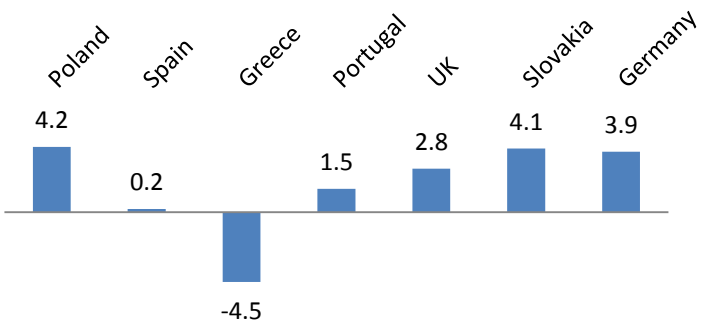
Another important event in the Polish financial sector will be the initial public offering of Bank Gospodarki Żywnościowej (BGŻ). BGŻ specialises in financing agriculture, agri-foodstuffs and regional infrastructure.
It is expected that the initial public offering of BGŻ will take place at the end of 2011 or the beginning of 2012.

The interest of institutional investors in the Polish capital markets serves to reinforce Warsaw's position in competing for the leadership in the regional financial market.

Four global investment banks have already opened their local branches in Warsaw: Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan and Credit Suisse. Stable foundations and the development of the Polish economy favour foreign investment in Poland. Economic growth at 1.7% in 2009 and 4.2% in Q3 2010 puts Poland high on the list of Europe's fastest growing economies.

The main goal of privatisation activities in Poland remains the same – to increase the proportion of private property in the economy.
The Ministry of Treasury is looking to take up another challenge, as it plans to use privatisation transactions in the capital markets to consolidate, in the long run, the role of Warsaw as a CEE financial hub.

GDP growth in Q3 2010 in selected EU countries



Source: GUS, Eurostat, as of December 1st, 2010

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Internet-powered improved Law-making in Poland

by the Ministry of Economy

The Ministry of Economy is currently developing an internet-based system for managing and processing information supplied by stakeholders. This system will be the EU's first Business Intelligence solution for better law-making in the government sector. The Project is co-financed by the Human Capital Operation EU Program.

The key role of this system is to alleviate the burden attached to accessing and searching for public information on legislative processes with a direct view to enhancement of legislative process transparency. The secondary goals of this project are seen as raising awareness of Regulatory Impact Assessment quality and enhancing the roles of civil society in the law-making process. By the end of 2012 you will be able to log into the Ministry of Economy Online consultation system, browse through multiple tagged categories of problems that need to be solved, and share your opinion with other parties and finally with the government.

But this will be only the tip of the iceberg. Legislators in the Ministry of Economy will receive a powerful back-office application for managing and supporting decision-making processes. This application will enable them to browse thorough available Impact Assessments, multiple statistical databases, use customized tools for cost-benefit analysis of scenarios, reduce the time of access to information and follow the best practices already implemented. This system also presents an opportunity for Poland to set up a wide-ranging knowledge resource on tracking administrative burdens.

Project Agenda

The project is currently is at the planning stage. The Better Regulation Team from the Ministry of Economy is working hard to optimize and systematize the legislative process. We are also developing a whole new pre-legislative phase of problem analysis and *ex-post* RIA. By mid 2011 the Ministry of Economy is expecting to have organized a public tender for the design and creation of online applications. After the successful introduction in this single governmental unit, the system will be introduced in other ministries. It is expected that full operational capacity will be achieved by 2017.

Please stay tuned for developments in our product. We would also be happy to hear your remarks and opinions. More information about the project may be found at www.reforma-regulacji.pl

BPO – Be Poland Oriented

European Commission experts emphasise that the economic recovery, while still fragile, is progressing at a faster pace than previously envisaged. The EC latest twice-yearly interim forecast expects Poland's GDP growth to accelerate to 3.4% i.e. an upward revision by 0.7pp.

by the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency

The optimistic prognoses for Poland make the country attractive. But what is even more attractive about Poland is the fact that the country has been experiencing a faster than previously expected recovery in attracting foreign investors.

Not only do companies worldwide keep putting this country high on their investing agendas, but they also tend to change the category with which Poland is now associated – to be Poland-oriented boils down to BPO.

It's has been some time since Poland was perceived as a perfect place for location of BPO and R&D investments and the trend continues in 2010. In the 3rd quarter of the year the Polish Information and Foreign Investment
Agency helped launch 8 investment projects which are jointly worth EUR 210 million and will generate 2,047 new jobs in the coming years.

Half of the projects were implemented in the BPO sector, which not only creates workplaces but uses the potential of the country's highly educated people effectively. The proportion of projects located in the services sector as well as highly advanced projects is clearly on the rise.

At the moment BPO projects constitute the second biggest sector among projects which have currently been negotiated by PAIiIZ.

In fact, in the first half of October 2010 alone PAIiIZ managed to successfully complete negotiations concerning further BPO and R&D projects which will be developed in Poland.
In Poznań Ciber Inc. has just opened its first International IT Services Centre, which will hire 80 people by the end of the year and already has plans to create 200 jobs and organise student placements.

The facility will provide technical support over the phone in several languages e.g. will help with Internet access problems.

Moreover, IT specialists at the Poznań-based Ciber centre will be able to take control of their clients' computer and lead them step by step to the solution to a problem.

"*We decided to invest in Poznań because the city offers access to excellent personnel and has attractive labour costs. Our Centre needs not only good IT specialists but specialists who speak foreign languages,"* says Anthony D'Ambrosi, director at Ciber. "*Besides it is an investor-friendly city. We were also attracted to the place thanks to the support we were offered by the local administration,"* adds Mr D'Ambrosi.

As far as R&D is concerned, the latest project supported by PAIiIZ in this field will be implemented by the American company Symantec. The company, the world leader in designing anti-virus software, chose Warsaw because the project requires high-quality specialists in the field of IT.
The capital of Poland was selected as the place where Symantec wants to set up its Center of Excellence, in which 50 Polish IT specialists will improve, upgrade and expand Symantec products.

Names and initiatives speak for themselves but the trend also finds reflection in international rankings, where the fact that Poland is a BPO-friendly place attracts attention. In the Global Competitiveness Report 2010-2011 published by the World Economic Forum, Poland went up by 7 positions and besides being assessed highly in the market size category, the country was highly appreciated for its higher education and training systems, which in the long run translate into qualified and educated workers.

BPO is only one of numerous sectors which have been developing dynamically in Poland. One should not forget that Poland's general competitiveness has been appreciated by the biggest TNCs, which took part in the survey made for the need of UNCTAD's World Investment Report.

According to the survey, Poland ranked as the 12th most FDI attractive country in the world and was 3rd among European countries, following only the UK and Germany, which have been evaluated as the best potential place for investment.

In addition to projects in the automotive and BPO sectors, which attract the biggest numbers of FDI projects to Poland, the country has been attracting a steady number of investors in fields which have traditionally been important in the country's economy.
One such sector is the aviation sector. Thanks to the assistance provided by the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency, Poland's well-known Aviation Valley, located in the south of Poland, has attracted a new international player, who has decided to construct its new PLN100 million factory in Rzeszów.
Thanks to the project, the American aircraft systems provider Hamilton Sundstrand will employ around 300 people, including 70 engineers. The estimated time-frame for construction of the facility should not exceed 18 months. The factory's Engineering Centre will design sub-assembly units and other elements for plane engines.

Alongside production and assembly testing of the engines will also take place in Rzeszów. The factory will be located on a 1.5 ha plot which forms part of the Mielec Special Economic Zone and is situated within the WSK PZL-Rzeszów, a company owned by the United Technologies Company.

Good prognoses, a rising number of successful projects and the fact that currently PAIiIZ has been providing assistance to over 142 investment projects i.e. 25% more than in the same period last year, suggest that Poland's investment climate is improving and getting warmer even despite the upcoming winter.



Walbrzych Special Economic Zone
"INVEST - PARK"
Place for Investment

Place for Investment

by Walbrzych Special Economic Zone "INVEST - PARK"

The Walbrzych Special Economic Zone "INVEST-PARK" is an administratively separate area on Polish territory and is designated for running business activity under preferential conditions.

The WSEZ "INVEST-PARK" covers:

- Over 1685 hectares of greenfield investment areas situated in 40 different communes in the south-western part of Poland; most of the areas are located on the outskirts of towns and have access to technical infrastructure as well as to internal and national roads; every site is subdivided according to investors' requirements,

- Properties designated for service activities (Business Process Outsourcing),

- Production halls and warehouse spaces for small- and medium-sized enterprises designated for rent or sale.

Business activity in the Special Economic Zone runs on preferential conditions, which enables investors to benefit from income **tax exemptions** amounting even to **70%** of investment expenditure or two years' labour costs.
Furthermore, they have the opportunity to benefit from other forms of public aid available in Poland, such as:

- A permit for conducting business activity within the area of the Zone, which is issued by the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK" Sp. z o.o. (Ltd.). This constitutes the legal basis for benefiting from public aid in the form of income tax exemptions. Such permits for conducting business activity within the area of the Zone are issued for major manufacturing and some services activities.

- Predominant investments within the WSEZ are related to the automotive industry and the production of household appliances. Other well represented sectors include: the electrotechnical, electronic, machine, metal, building, plastics and clothing industries.

- Entrepreneurs conducting their business activity within the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK" employ over 31,000 people.

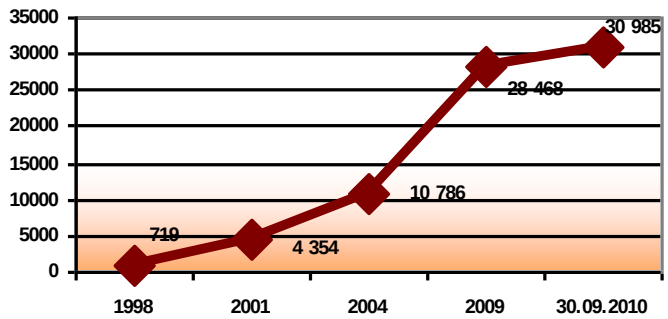
- Entrepreneurs from Germany, the USA and Japan constitute the largest share in employment in the WSEZ. The largest investment expenditure in the WSEZ was borne by Japanese entrepreneurs.

The Managing Company of the Walbrzych Special Economic Zone "INVEST-PARK" initiated its activity in 1997 and has several years' experience in creating attractive investment conditions for both Polish entrepreneurs and foreign companies.
The Managing Company of the Walbrzych Special Economic Zone "INVEST-PARK" has convinced over 200 entrepreneurs to locate their investments within the Zone. The following companies have placed their trust in them: Toyota, Cersanit, Faurecia, NSK, General Electric, Metzeler, Henkel Ceresit, FagorMastercook, Electrolux, Bosch, Bridgestone, Colgate Palmolive, Cadbury, Marcegaglia and IBM.

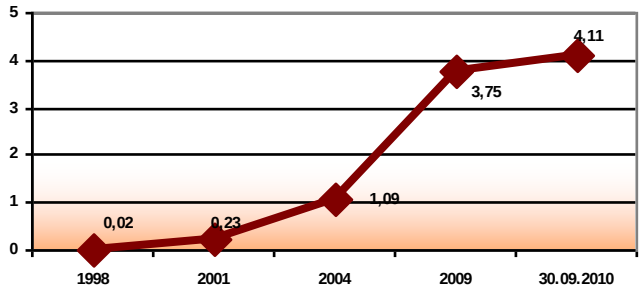
The Walbrzych Special Economic Zone "INVEST-PARK" is one of the fastest developing industrial zones in Poland. The areas of the WSEZ “INVEST-PARK” are situated in south – west Poland in a region with a convenient geographical location in the vicinity of the Czech Republic and Germany borders.

The areas proposed to entrepreneurs who would like to conduct business activity within the Walbrzych Special Economic Zone "INVEST-PARK" are greenfield sites with good communications within the Subzone, as well as good communications with the largest industrial centres in Poland and Europe. These areas boast a developed technical infrastructure and a qualified labor force, which all allows investors to develop dynamically.

Employment changes within the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK"



Investment expenditures in the WSEZ "INVEST-PARK" (billion dollars)



Growing Potential in Public-Private Partnership Projects In Poland

by Lukowicz Swierzewski & Partners

Poland recently amended its regulations related to public-private partnership ("PPP"), in order to promote a wider use of this formula not only to the biggest projects in main cities but also on a wider scale among local governments in Poland. The market reacted with a significant increase in the number of projects prepared and carried out in the PPP model, especially in infrastructure construction.

Public-private partnership is a form of long-term cooperation between public and private entities in undertakings aimed at pursuing public objectives, based on a detailed contractual arrangement.
The PPP formula is used when it may provide greater advantages compared to other usual methods of executing public investments leading to mutual benefits for the parties to the undertaking.

Public-private partnerships usually provide for greater risk sharing by the partners and an enhanced possibility of using EU funds.

Companies from the private sector benefit from a stable and long-term contract, greater independence from the budget constraints of the public sector, greater flexibility in specifying the product or service and most of all, usually from the possibility for commercial use of investments or innovations and generating income from end users (or other third parties).
Common models of public-private partnerships include:

▪ Design-Build (DB) - where the private party takes the investment risk while the public party is the owner of the
investment, has decisive powers and bears the financial and economic risks,

• Design-Build-Operate-Transfer (DBOT or BOT) – where the private party is responsible for the design, construction and management of the investment while the public party bears the financial and economic risks,

• Design-Build-Finance-Operate (DBFO) – a standard concession, where the public party is the owner of investment,

• Build-Own-Operate (BOO) – where the ownership of the investment is transferred to the private party, which becomes the owner, investor and manager of the entire investment,

• Build-Operate-Renew (BOR) – where the private party constructs the building and finances the investment, as well as operates and services it; during the operation the private party may charge fees from users of this building.

Unfortunately, the Polish Act on public-private partnership adopted in 2005 was far from perfect and did not trigger a much needed improvement in cooperation with private companies.

The Act gave priority to investments in big cities, which was one of the reasons for its limited use. It also lacked a detailed definition of a public objective, public service or public interest and used a narrow concept of partnership in the definition of the investment and undertaking. There was also a great difficulty for the public entity in making the obligatory analysis of risks connected with carrying out the investment.

The Ministry of Economy considered the preparations for the Euro 2012 as a good opportunity for simplifying the regulations on PPP and promoting investments which should be carried out in this formula and prepared a new proposal of the Act on public-private partnership. The aim of the Ministry of Economy was to promote the application of public-private partnership not only to bigger investments such as stadiums, bridges or airline terminals, but also to smaller investments such as the construction and renovation of local roads.

The parliament adopted the new Act on public-private partnership generally in line with the proposal. Public-private partnership may now be applied in a much wider scope of projects, including, for example, the construction of social housing or conservation of historic buildings. In the case of smaller projects, the obligatory legal and economic analysis is much simplified, which should help in the wider application of the PPP formula.

Local governments are now motivated to look for private partners for many new projects, which should promote the use of the PPP in building new schools, hospitals, air, train and bus terminals or motorways.

The new simplified regulations of public-private partnership are complemented by a modification to the Act on public procurement (aimed at accelerating and simplifying the procedure on granting public tenders and a new method of verifying appeals) and the new Act on concession for construction works or services.

In many cases the new Act allows for a facilitated use of the PPP formula, without the requirement to always apply the Act on concession for construction works or services or the Act on public procurement, as long as fair competition, equal treatment, transparency and proportionality are observed.

At the EU level, there are two main forms of PPP: contractual (based on an agreement) and institutional (based on a commercial company). The Polish Act on public-private partnership combines these two forms, by providing that in the first step a PPP agreement is concluded and subsequently it is possible to establish a special purpose company.

The new regulations should lead to limiting the administrative expenses of local authorities, and joint projects valued at some PLN 4-5 billion are expected to be completed by the end of 2012, leading to approximately PLN 400 million in savings for the budget.

We can recently observe a growing interest among investors in PPP, especially in infrastructure projects. Several Polish cities recently announced their lists or plans for projects to be implemented under the public-private partnership (including Warsaw, Sopot or Wrocław) and new projects are being developed. Investors who wish to successfully compete for new projects in the PPP scheme should remember that even with the easing of the regulatory scheme, there are still strict rules and legal requirements in the preparation of the documentation and offers in the bidding for infrastructure projects.

IBM Pledges $50 Million To Create 100 Smarter Cities

Top IBM talent to help cities deliver services more efficiently and effectively

by IBM

IBM has inaugurated the Smarter Cities Challenge, a competitive grant program in which IBM will award $50 million worth of technology and services to help 100 municipalities across the globe. Teams of IBM experts will provide city leaders with recommendations for successful growth, better delivery of municipal services, more citizen engagement, and improved efficiency.

This new program is the single-largest philanthropic investment currently planned by IBM, which made US$186 million worth of charitable contributions in 2009, comprising cash, technology, and consulting services.

Over the next three years, IBM will send its top experts to those cities that have made the strongest case for participating in the Smarter Cities Challenge. IBM consultants will immerse themselves in local issues involving the administration of healthcare, education, safety, social, transportation, communications, sustainability, budget management, energy, and utilities.

IBM's consultants and technology specialists will help municipalities analyze and prioritize their needs, review strengths and weaknesses, and learn from the successful strategies used by other cities.
After studying the role that intelligent technology might play in uniting and advancing different aspects of city life, IBM will recommend concrete strategies designed to help make regions healthier, safer, smarter, more prosperous and attractive to current and prospective residents and businesses.

A consistent theme will be collecting, sharing, analyzing and acting on data. For instance, IBM experts might suggest ways to link the processes and objectives of multiple departments to reduce costs and improve productivity.
A city's education program could be more effective if it was closely coordinated with social services, transportation, parks and recreation, public health, and safety.
Police officers might be more effective if timely, customized information were electronically "pushed" to them while walking the beat or in transit. Citizen engagement could be improved if computer access were more widespread. Snow removal teams might be more efficiently deployed if ultra-precise weather data were obtained and analyzed.

The Smarter Cities Challenge will draw upon IBM's intrinsic technological savvy, but also upon the field experience accumulated by IBM over the last three years from the company's ongoing pro bono Corporate Service Corps grant program.
The Corporate Service Corps deploys teams of top IBM employees from around the world with skills in technology, scientific research, marketing, finance, and business development. They work with local government, non-profit civic groups, and small business to develop blueprints that intersect business, technology, and society. Teams have gone to work in places such as Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Chengdu, China; and Katowice, Poland.

Inspired by that program's enthusiastic acceptance, IBM is now creating the Smarter Cities Challenge to extend IBM's expertise even more widely. To ensure the success of the Smarter Cities Challenge, IBM has completed, or is conducting, a series of pilot grants in Baltimore, Maryland; Austin, Texas; and Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (Greater Charlotte).
Those engagements are producing a valuable insight into how cities might derive the greatest benefit from IBM's expertise, and will serve as a model for engagements elsewhere.

The approximate value of each Smarter Cities Challenge grant will be equivalent to US$400,000. Each team will comprise top IBM talent, who will bring their unique expertise to the program. The engagement will be conducted in a collaborative, constructive and transparent manner, with IBM team members working alongside leaders from the public, private, and volunteer sectors.

The need for better city management has never been greater. In 2008, according to the United Nations, more than half the world's human population began living in cities for the first time in the world's history.

"Cities are vitally important to society and the economy," said Anna Sieńko, Country General Manager, IBM Poland. "But they pose enormous challenges and need the innovation, creativity and technical know-how to tackle longstanding, tough issues and plan for the future. We're excited at the prospect of helping city leaders address the most demanding challenges of our time and make their cities even more liveable."

Municipalities will be selected competitively based on a number of criteria, including the ability to clearly articulate between two and four strategic issues that can potentially and reasonably be acted upon. Also considered will be the city's track record of innovative problem solving, commitment to the use of technology and open data, and demonstrated willingness to provide access and time with city leaders and public engagement.

The most successful proposals will offer clear, compelling evidence that a particular city is poised to best utilize the resources offered in the Smarter Cities Challenge, that the grant has the potential to substantially enhance a city's capacity to act on key issues, and that the city is ready to match IBM's investment with its own commitment of time and talent. Municipalities of all sizes are eligible, but it is believed that cities with populations between 100,000 - 700,000 will gain the most from the experience.

Cities interested in researching, and potentially applying for a Smarter Cities Challenge grant can visit www.smartercitieschallenge.org

The Smarter Cities Challenge is sponsored by the international philanthropic foundation at IBM, which has been a leader in corporate social responsibility and corporate citizenship for nearly 100 years. IBM implements initiatives to address specific vital issues such as the environment, community economic development, education, health, literacy, language, and culture.

IBM employs its most valuable resources -- technology and talent -- to bring these programs to fruition. Since 2003, more than 150,000 IBM employees have shared more than 10 million hours of service, transforming communities in more than 70 countries. The expertise and time shared during that time is estimated to be valued at one-quarter of one billion U.S. dollars.

To learn more about IBM's corporate citizenship initiatives, please visit: ibm.com/blogs/citizen-ibm

W E L C O M E T O

WARSAW

2010 Chopin Year Celebrations
200th Birth Anniversary

Chopin and his Europe
Piano International Festival

On August 1st, the 6th International Music Festival "Chopin and His Europe" - one of the most important artistic events in Poland every year, created and directed since by Stanislaw Leszczynski – began.
Over 50 extraordinary concerts, over 2,000 performers. The program of the sixth edition of the International Music Festival “Chopin and his Europe" includes the works of the masters of baroque, classicism and romanticism.
The concerts are to take place at the Warsaw Philharmonic, the Grand Theatre - National Opera, the Witold Lutosławski Concert Studio of the Polish Radio, in Palladium Hall and in the churches of Warsaw.

The program of the jubilee festival encompasses the finest selection of artists. Among the invited guests there are outstanding performers from around the world, including Martha Argerich, Mischa Maisky, Nikolai Lugansky, Denis Matsuev, Volodos Arcadia, Dang Thai Son, Christian Zacharias, Kristian Bezuidenhout, Andreas Staier, Christoph Prégardien, Dina Yoffe, Alexander Gavrylyuk, Joshua Bell, Steven Isserlis, Antonio Meneses, Menahem Pressler, Stanisław Bunin, Nelson Freire, Maria Joao Pires, Nelson Goerner, Thomas Zehetmair, Philippe Giusi, Fou Ts'ong, Howard Shelley, Ian Hobson, The King's Singers, Akiko Ebi, Lenneke Ruiten, Rudolf Jensen, Jon Nakamatsu, Russian National Orchestra conducted by Mikhail Pletnev, Frans Brüggen and the Orchestra of the 18th Century, Marc Minkowski, Philippe Herreweghe with the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées, Il Giardino Armonico conducted by Giovanni Antonini, as well as the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne.

Traditionally, a very important part of the festival's program are the historical performances - performance of works in their original sound on historical instruments. As in previous years, a number of artists will perform on historical pianos, held by the Fryderyk Chopin Institute: Erard from 1849, Pleyel from 1848 and Graf (a copy of the instrument from about 1819).
An outstanding event during the festival will be the inaugural oratorio concert performed by the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin and Cappelli Amsterdam conducted by Daniel Reuss, during which the *Great Mass* in B Minor by Bach will beperformed, preceded by Chopin’s last work - *Mazurka in F minor*. For the first time in Warsaw one will hear *Missa Solemnis* by Beethoven in the original performance of the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées conducted by Philippe Herreweghe.

For the first time an opera will be presented at the festival - an art so close to Chopin: one is more than welcome to come and listen to Bellini's *Norma* performed by Europa Galante conducted by Fabio Biondi (performed for the first time in Poland on historical instruments!) and attend an opera evening with the Sinfonia Varsovia under the baton of Marc Minkowski (including extensive excerpts from Meyerbeer's *Robert le Diable [Robert the Devil]*).

A separate and very significant part of the festival program comprises improvised music concerts with jazz at the foreground, with performances by such eminent artists as: Tomasz Stańko with Dominik Wania, Sławomir Kurkiewicz and Olavi Louhivuori (August 4th); Agata Zubel, Uri Caine, Cezary Duchnowski, Jacek Kochan, Andrzej Bauer and Maciej Walczak (August 10th), Makoto Ozone, Anna Maria Jopek and Gregoire Maret with the latest project *Road to Chopin* (August 16th); Bobby McFerrin & NDR Big Band (August 17th), Inga Lewandowska and Kuba Stankiewicz with *Chopin Songbook* (August 21st), Markus Stockhausen and Władysław "Adzik" Sendecki (August 22nd); Krzysztof Herdzin Chopin Quintet (August 24th). On August 11th a famous group Paco Peña Flamenco Company will give a concert under the working title *Chopin and Flamenco music*.



The Museum Exhibition

CHOPIN

Iconosphere of Romanticism

Arranged to honour the two-hundredth anniversary of Frederic Chopin's birth, the exhibition presents the *milieu* of the composer against the historical and artistic panorama of the first half of the 19th century. The exhibition reconstructs an artistic *imaginarium* of cultural spaces of Warsaw and Paris in the Romantic period. Almost 200 paintings, sketches, prints, sculptures and photographs uncover the world of European Romanticism's *iconosphere.*

The term *icono-sphere,* borrowed from Mieczysław Porębski, is applied here to the *universum* of visual and symbolic culture of the period, which merges high art with the representations of everyday life, drawing room interiors with urban space, photography and press illustrations. The exhibition pays special attention to the relationship between Chopin and Teofil Kwiatkowski, as well as Polish émigré poets, such as Adam Mickiewicz and Cyprian Kamil Norwid. It has been divided into eight thematic sections, which refer to the crucial artistic issues of Romanticism.

The first section entitled ***Persons*** introduces the viewer to the Parisian life of the period, including the most significant figures of the post-Uprising émigré community. Portraits of people who were closest to the composer, George Sand, Delfina Potocka, Teofil Kwiatkowski and Ferenc Liszt, reveal the emotional intensity of Romantic portraiture. ***Places,*** the spaces imbued with an air of an intensive social, artistic and political life are the theme of the second part of the exhibition. The ambience of Chopin's favourite cities—Warsaw and Paris—is reflected in the 19th-century photographs by Karol Beyer, Achille Quinet, Édouard Denis Baldus and Bisson brothers, as well as in a lovely view of *Restaurant de laCité*at boulevard des Italiens frequented by the composer.

Historical paintings and drawings by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Paul Delaroche, Piotr Michałowski, Józef Simmler and the young Jan Matejko remind us of a dispute between the last adherents of classicism and Romantics over the significance of the ***History and Tradition*** as well as over the means of artistic expression appropriate for them.

Images of the ***Romantic Hero***, alienated and torn apart inside, both individual and collective are conveyed by the works of Delaroche, Antoine-Jean Gros and Ary Scheffer. Shared by the Polish and French nations, the fascination with great historical figures is reflected in the legend of Napoleon, one of the key themes of Piotr Michałowski.

A totally different model of the Romantic hero is defined in the next section of the exhibition entitled, after Baudelaire: ***The Heroism of Modern Life.*** It comprises caricatures by Honoré Daumier, genre scenes by exandre-Gabriel Decamps, Paul Gavarni, Piotr Michałowski as well as humorous drawings by Jean-Jacques Grandville.

All of them portray the individual through the prism of bourgeois everyday life, which is now raised to the rank of a legitimate artistic theme, treated on equal terms with Great History. In fact, Chopin's life itself embodies the idea of the heroism of modern life.

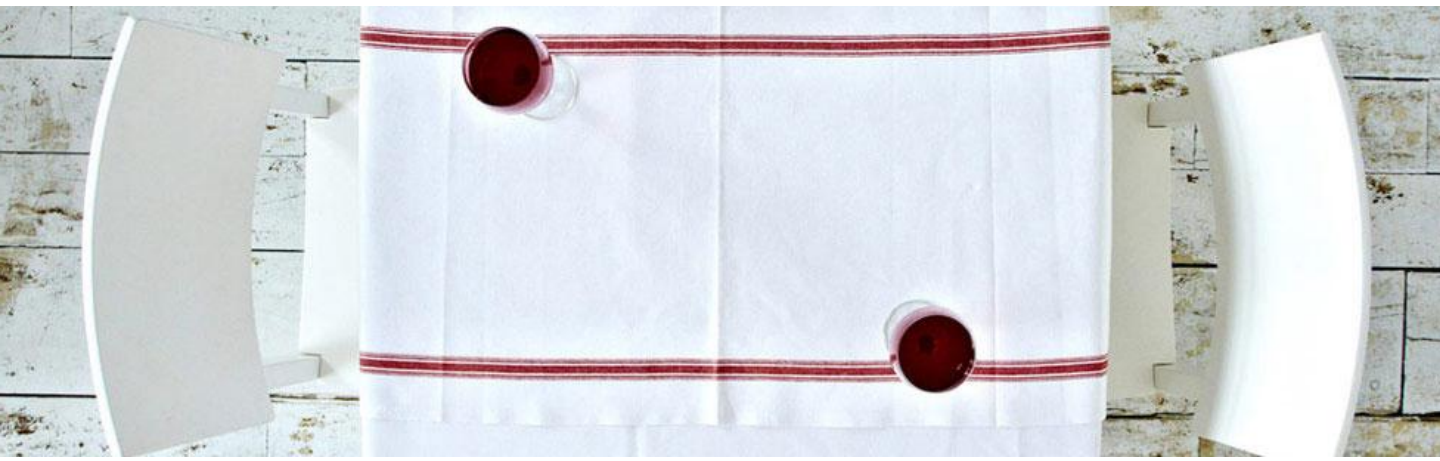
The section ***Landscapes*** presents a radical change in the approach to landscape painting in the Romantic period. The juxtaposition of works by Polish artists, such as Wincenty Kas-przycki, Chrystian Breslauer, Wojciech Gerson or Józef Szermentowski with landscapes by Jules-Louis Dupré or Charles-François Daubigny shows the difference between the traditional heroic landscape and the new portrayal of nature, devoid of narrative character and stemming from direct observation, influenced by the Barbizon school.

The Artist's Studio shows the artistic practices of painters active in the first – half of the 19th century. Oil sketches and drawings by Eugčne Delacroix's, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres's study, or Henryk Rodakowski reveal the methods of their work, while a startling image of an artist's studio itself is shown by Delacroix's *Corner of the Studio, the Stove.*

The Chopin Legend throws some light on the birth and persistence of the Chopin myth in the European consciousness. It evolves largely around the theme of the artist's death, which is often represented, as in the works by Teofil Kwiatkowski, on the pattern of the traditional iconography of the death of a Christian martyr, a monarch or a leader.

Most of the works on display come from the collections of the National Museum in Warsaw. Other exhibited works have been generously lent by the following museums in France and Poland: the Louvre, Musée de la Vie Romantique, Musée Carnavalet and Musée National Eugene Delacroix in Paris, Musée Ingres in Montauban and Musée Farbe in Montpellier, Nasjo-nalmuseet in Oslo and Dordrechts Museum, from National Museums in Cracow, Poznań and Wrocław, the Princes Czartoryski Foundation in Cracow, Raczyński Foundation at the National Museum in Warsaw, Ciechanowiecki Foundation at the Royal Castle in Warsaw, Pełkinie Foundation of Princes Czartoryski and the Fryderyk Chopin Museum in Warsaw, as well as from private collections in the UK and Poland.

WHERE TO EAT?



Qchnia Artystyczna
Artistic Kitchen in Warsaw
Simplicity maintains extravagant décor and food

The Marta Gessler restaurant is located at the Center of Contemporary Art in Ujazdowski Castle in the prestigious part of Warsaw, near to the Agricola park and Royal Baths Parks *(Łazienki Królewskie)*.

We have many years' experience in implementing avant-garde and traditional projects such as: cultural events, exhibitions, fashion shows, large corporate banquets, press release breakfasts, business lunches and private meetings in the halls of Ujazdowski Castle. We offer entertainment with unique ideas for menu and stage design.

We follow the latest culinary trends. The food in our restaurant is modern, healthy and beautifully served. The interior is constantly changing. Simple forms and bright colors.

Qchnia Artystyczna has broken away from traditional ways of thinking about cooking. Looking for inspiration and creativity driven by a love of the simple.

The restaurant welcomes you to one of the most charming places in Warsaw, where we will entertain and accept your unusual orders.



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