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Public-private partnership in the military-industrial complex: prospects and challenges

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By the end of the 80's, the military-industrial complex (MIC) occupied a dominant position in the economy of the USSR.

A sharp decline in the share of national defense spending has led to the destruction of technological chains and, as a result, to the loss of many important high-tech technologies, high-tech equipment, and highly qualified personnel. Currently, the average profitability of defense enterprises is 6.7%, which is significantly lower than the level for the industry as a whole.

In recent years, major problems in the organization of the defense industry have become even more acute. There are big gaps in the legislative sphere that need to be closed urgently.

The process of technical re-equipment of the Armed Forces can take more than one decade and include solving problems not only in the actual production of Weapons and Military Equipment, but also training qualified personnel, organizing fundamental and applied research, creating and promoting new technologies. All this does not fall within the scope of existing market instruments and requires the constant presence of the state in the organization of the defense industry, a rational combination of market mechanisms and state planning.

The positive side of state presence in the economy is obvious – focus on the most significant activities that will bring significant effect in the long term, the formation of the economy on the principle of a single organism, of a subordinate to perform common tasks.

But the disadvantages of state intervention in the economy are also obvious: private enterprises that have received a state order with a guaranteed rate of profit are not inclined to struggle to reduce production costs when forming the price of products and the rate of profit. In addition, the role of distributors of state orders increases, which leads to an increase in corruption of officials.

It is obviously advisable to combine the positive aspects of these two approaches – competition, which is inherent in private business, and long-term public administration. Moreover, the state itself must constantly take care of creating an effective competitive environment as a factor of dynamic development.

Therefore, the organization of effective interaction between the defense industry and private business is currently an important state task. Its relevance is due not only to the need to create well-equipped Armed Forces that fully meet modern global challenges, but also to the need to restore the rhythmic and dynamic functioning of one of the most important sectors of the economy, which can become a driver for the development of the entire machine building industry.

Private businesses are not only risk-averse, but also have a higher degree of responsibility for their economic and investment decisions. Private sector investment often has greater sustainability and greater returns.

With the arrival of private business in the defense industry, fresh ideas will appear, energetic and enterprising people will work, able to overcome frozen traditions and provide a qualitative breakthrough.

Private businesses need not only profit, but also the rhythm of its receipt, stability of the order system and other operating conditions. Therefore, in order to attract private businesses, it is necessary to provide them with constant, as clear and reliable information as possible.

Currently, the cooperation between the defense industry and private business mainly takes place in two forms – in the form of a state contract and privatization. This is clearly not enough. There are a number of constraints that prevent its expansion, the main of which are economic.

The development of cooperation between business and the defense industry at the state level should follow the path of creating conditions for public-private partnership (PPP). Such a form of economic and business development as PPP has been widely developed abroad. All the leading manufacturers of Armed and Military Equipment in the United States and Europe are non – governmental, but the participation and influence of the state in their activities is quite large.

The development of the defense industry by the state alone is inefficient already, and in the medium term it is economically impossible. It is important to promote public-private partnership in the defense industry, including by simplifying the procedures for creating new defense industries. New private companies can be the source of technological breakthroughs that can radically change the industry.

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Современные маркетинговые стратегии белорусских предприятий легкой промышленности

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Легкая промышленность является одной из основных отраслей белорусской экономики и ежегодно приносит стране до 2% ВВП. Однако на данный момент белорусская легкая промышленность находится в неудовлетворительном состоянии. Во многом это определяется тем, что значительная доля производственного парка устарела (около 50% всей техники), а сырьевая база не всегда отвечает современным стандартам. В свою очередь, эти факторы отрицательно сказываются на потребительском спросе и темпах роста экспорта [1].



Рисунок 1. – Внешняя торговля товарами легкой промышленности Республики Беларусь.

Источник: собственная разработка на основе [2].

Так, можно сделать вывод, что среднегодовой темп роста экспорта продукции легкой промышленности увеличивается значительно медленнее, чем импорта, хотя по объемам экспорт все еще превышает импорт. Кроме того, экспортные поставки осуществляются преимущественно в страны ближнего зарубежья, что говорит о недостаточной проработанности внешних рынков потребительских товаров [2].