

BULGARIA

Population: 7,600,000
Capital: Sofia
Language: Bulgarian
Currency: Bulgarian Lev (BGN)
GDP per capita: 6,097 (2008)

The following sectors offer the best prospects for U.S. firms in Bulgaria:

WATER & WASTE WATER

The EU membership of 2007 imposed stricter environmental standards and regulations on Bulgaria. Bulgaria needs to spend major funds on the establishment, improvement, expansion and replacement of its sewer, water supply and water/waste water treatment facilities. While the water sector is still mainly state-owned, the government of Bulgaria will adopt a new piece of legislation in May 2009 to allow private participation in the water sector.

Bulgaria is one of the countries with poorest water resources in Europe. While the water supply infrastructure is relatively well developed and 98.9% of the population has running water of good quality, the sewage network and the urban treatment plants are considerably unsatisfactory. 95% of the towns have sewer network, while only 9% of the villages have sewage system.

In addition, many existing waste water treatment plants (WWTP) do not meet minimum Bulgarian standards under EU directives. Bulgaria has the obligation to build 430 waste water treatment plants for populated areas above 2000 inhabitants by 2014, as well as many drinking water treatment plants.

Market demand for advanced technologies is mostly satisfied by imports. European companies dominate the market.

The following equipment and services offer best sales prospects on the Bulgarian market:

- Various water/waste water treatment technologies and equipment
- Sludge treatment technologies
- Aeration systems
- Pumps
- Valves
- Process control systems
- Consulting

WASTE & RECYCLING

The average total quantity of the waste generated in the country is about 13,5 million tones. Most of the waste is produced by industries, including construction companies. The municipal waste is about 25% of the total quantity of waste generated and the hazardous waste is about 5% of all waste generated. Most of the population of the country is covered by organized municipal waste collection systems.

The EU has expedited the process of recycling and re-use of waste in Bulgaria. The collection of hazardous waste for recycling is limited (mainly used oils and waste petroleum products). The collection system for some groups of specific hazardous waste streams, such as luminescent lamps, batteries,

small chemical waste, etc. is still not completed. While the process of recycling and separate collection of waste started in 2004, Bulgaria is far from reaching the recycling levels of the older EU member states.

Landfilling is still the most popular way of solid waste disposal. There are no incineration or waste-to-energy facilities in Bulgaria as of 2009. A significant number of the existing landfills for solid waste do not comply with the requirements of the national and EU legislation. The EU is encouraging construction of regional landfills for a large group of municipalities. Therefore, Bulgaria is in the process of closing hundreds of unregulated dumps or old landfills and building new modern regional landfills. The EU Post-Accession Funds continue to be available for the waste management sector.

TRADE EVENTS

Bulaqua

Dates: 26 – 29.05.2009

Frequency: Annual

Venue: Inter Expo and Congress Center, Sofia, Bulgaria

Profile: Control and measuring devices, control and automation equipment, electronics and automation, laboratory equipment, systems for environment protection, including water treatment

Web: http://www.bawk-bg.com/bulaqua2009_en.html

Aquatech

Dates: September 29- October 4, 2008

Frequency: Annual

Venue: Plovdiv Technical Fair

Profile: water/waste water treatment equipment, pumps, valves, pipes, etc.

Web: <http://www.fair.bg/en/events/aqua08.htm>

AVAILABLE MARKET RESEARCH

Water & Waste Water (2009)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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