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**THE CONCEPT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY IN  
THE ELECTRICAL MACHINE BUILDING OF THE UKRAINIAN SSR IN  
THE PERIOD OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY (1921-1931 YRS.)**

**Summary**

In March 1921 "New Economic Policy" (NEP) was introduced in the Soviet Ukraine. The essence of the NEP was in admission of private capital to the production of social product. Having undertaken certain obligations to support private businesses, public authorities refused to directly influence on its scientific and technological policy. However, the current situation has shown that the private sector of the Ukrainian economy is more capable of rapid innovation than the public one. The leading pace of development of the private sector created a threat that it contradicts to the principles of construction "of the Soviet economy."

Due to the loss of possibility of direct administrative influence on the distribution of gross product between the public and private industry, science and technology policy was the only way to control this balance in favor of the first. Given that electrical engineering has played a strategic role in the industrial development of the country, the problem for the industry became dominant. To solve this problem, the capacities of public enterprises have been preventively backfilled, mostly due to withdrawal of the active part of basic production assets of the previously nationalized small electric machine building workshops and factories, which in the conditions of the NEP were provided to the transfer of

private capital. As a result, the capacities of the private electrical engineering already existed at the start of the NEP in Ukraine were practically zeroed. The next step was a program of scientific and technical cooperation between the National Electrical Trust and a number of leading foreign electrical companies. Private capital was not allowed to provide independent foreign economic activity. Foreign investors also were not allowed to conduct production activities in Ukraine. As a result of this approach, state-owned enterprises in Ukraine were the only sector provided the latest knowledge in the field of electrical engineering.

Obtaining by state-owned enterprises of the preferences in the formation of the material-technical base and access to the latest scientific and technological achievements during NEP, practically leveled the role of the private sector in the development of electrical engineering in Ukraine. However, because of the slowness of management structure and lack of scientific and technical personnel training system, the public sector was unable to take advantage of his position and failed to become a leading organization in the development of the industry. All products of state industry were just copies of the foreign prototypes adapted to the conditions of domestic production.

The direction of scientific and technical policy and consistency of its implementation indicate that the Soviet government directly defined from the beginning the distribution pattern of the shaft of industrial production between the private and public sectors in this industry. With limited opportunities in the conditions of NEP to directly influence the private electromechanical engineering shaft by administrative means, the Soviet government used methods of limiting its scientific and technological potential to achieve that originally set directive. As a result, the corresponding sector of private industry could not realize its inherent flexibility and promptness of response to changes in market conditions. At the same time, the state electrical machinery did not acquire such qualities. As a result, by 1930 the scale of gap of domestic electromechanical engineering from similar industries of the leading countries of the world has not changed in comparison with the pre-Soviet period.

**Keywords:** *science and technology policy, electromechanical engineering, scientific support, new economic policy, industrial power, electric drive.*