

# EBRD lends €70 million to Ukraine postal operator

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The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is lending €70 million to Nova Post, a leading private postal and courier operator in Ukraine, to finance its investment programme for 2024.

“The loan will support the company’s long-term growth strategy, which envisages a transformation of its customer service model while keeping employees and clients safe in wartime,” said Arvid Tuerkner, the EBRD’s Managing Director for Ukraine and Moldova.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022 initially hit Ukraine’s postal and delivery sector hard, but the parcel segment recovered quickly as people and businesses resumed their business activity. Nova Post has played a leading role in this recovery and now seeks to expand, which would in turn support the economic activity of small firms across the country.

The company wants to support future growth in the courier, express and

parcel delivery segment by expanding its parcel locker network by a quarter and enabling it to run 24/7, updating hundreds of post offices and terminals, developing its branch network and building more than 600 “safety capsules” and shelters at its premises around the country.

Responding to labour market shortages and workforce disruption, the EBRD’s technical support will help to improve human resources policies through a dedicated capacity-building programme aligned with the company’s most pressing human capital needs. EBRD engagement will help Nova Post improve return-to-work pathways and in-work support systems for some 3,500 of its own staff currently serving in the army and other veterans returning to civilian life.

The EBRD’s engagement will also help the company to fill critical vacancies by broadening access to training and employment opportunities for women workers, return migrants and others with funding support from the Bank’s Action for Equality and Gender Multi-Donor Fund.

The EBRD is Ukraine’s largest institutional investor. It has deployed €4.5 billion in the country since 2022 and has secured agreement for a further €4 billion capital increase to continue lending at these levels in wartime, with the potential for more once full reconstruction begins.

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