

# **SOLUTION MINING RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

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**Meeting  
Paper**



## **Developing a Master Plan for Additional Storage Caverns in Poland**

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## 1. Introduction

Underground storage of gaseous and liquid hydrocarbons in salt caverns is a standard technology. More than 30-year-long world-wide experience has proved that cavern storage offers many advantages. Therefore, it has been usually developed wherever natural conditions make it possible.

Poland has especially advantageous natural conditions for the development and operation of salt storage caverns for gaseous and liquid hydrocarbons. At the moment, however, there is no cavern storage site in operation in Poland. (The UCGS "Mogilno" project is fairly advanced - the first two caverns are to be filled with gas still in 1996). The existing situation has been caused mainly by the doctrinal "real socialism" economic policy which completely ignored real needs.

The process of introducing free-market rules to the economy started in Poland in 1989. State reforms were undertaken. The process of creating new laws and regulations adjusted to market economy was initiated. Substantial growth has been noticed. At the same time, new demands for modernisation of whole branches of economy (including industry, transport, system of reserves, etc.) have become evident.

Under the circumstances the following question might be interesting : "When, and to what extent, the "invisible hand" of the market has resulted in new projects of underground storage in salt caverns to be undertaken in Poland". The present paper, being a preliminary report on the "storage market" situation in Poland, can be treated as an attempt to answer the above question.