

Alternative variants

Kazakh Ambassador to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Anatoly Smirnov, notes that Kazakh oil may be supplied to Mozyr and Novopolotsk oil refineries this year

By Vitaly Vasiliev

The diplomat explains that oil will be processed and further transported to EU countries. Previously, such collaboration was restrained by high tariffs for hydrocarbon transportation. However, the new Customs Union allows Kazakhstan to freely supply any volume of oil to Belarus.

Kazakhstan is an important player on the energy market, with oil extraction volumes quickly rising in the country. In 2000, 33 million tonnes of oil were extracted, compared to 75 million in 2008. The figure is set to reach 100 million tonnes this year, with exports accounting for the lion's share. Belarusian oil refineries could become beneficial partners for Kazakh oil companies.

Minsk and Astana have long discussed the supply of oil to Belarusian refineries, whose capacity is estimated at 30 million tonnes per year. However, much depended on the tariffs, set by the Russian companies. The former Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Belarus, Bolat Iskakov, noted, "We are ready to pump oil to Novosibirsk and then directly to Belarus, supplying oil and gas. However, the owners continue

to tell us that the pipes don't have infinite capacity."

The Head of the Strategy Analytical Centre, Leonid Zaiko, believes that the pumping of Kazakh oil to Belarus through Russian oil pipelines may become problematic, 'since it crosses certain (we know whose) interests'. "It would be nice to use an alternative route — via the Odessa-Brody oil pipeline. Of course, railway supplies via Russia are also possible," comments Mr. Zaiko. "What benefits will this bring? It's difficult to say, since oil prices are constantly fluctuating, alongside transport tariffs. However, oil business representatives are good at calculating; if they begin to speak of oil supplies from Kazakhstan to Belarus, this project could have commercial benefits."

Russian experts present curious estimations, saying that Kazakh oil could be more beneficial for Belarusian refineries than that of Russia. In an interview with Business FM radio station, Dmitry Alexandrov, an analyst from Univer-Capital Company, notes that, "Kazakhstan previously had export duties but these are now gone. In this sense, Kazakhstan can offer greater concessions compared to Moscow. An average tonne of Ka-



Naftan JSC mastering advanced technology of oil processing

zakh oil would be cheaper for Belarus by \$60 to \$85."

"Kazakhstan has long been aiming to enter the European market of fuel and energy resources," asserts Andrey Grozin, the Head

of the CIS Institute's Department for Central Asia and Kazakhstan, in his interview for *Gazeta*. "Belarus is not only a possible partner in oil processing but can also remove some barriers to this market."

Optimising financial flow

Minsk region implementing major projects jointly with Russian, Iranian, Lithuanian and Belgian investors

The projects aim to construct housing, transport and logistics centres and hypermarkets along the Minsk ring road. The Minsk region has also launched construction of a plant to produce detergents for industrial and household purposes (attracting Cyprian investors). In the Pukhovichi district, a plant is being built to produce crop-protecting agents.

The Minsk Regional Executive Committee's Economy Committee tells us that the region's investment policy for the forthcoming years focuses on further improvement of its investment climate. Preferential terms for new investors should optimise financial flow, with investments guided towards the development of certain sites, construction of factories, engineering infrastructure and the purchase of modern equipment.

Extreme contract in focus

Scientists from National Academy of Sciences fulfil order for South Korean company

The National Academy of Sciences' United Institute of Machine Building has signed a contract with South Korean Daewha Alloytech to develop an experimental facility producing lubricants for mechanisms operating under extreme conditions. The lubricants are to be suitable for cars, agricultural machinery and metallurgy equipment. "South Korean specialists are interested in increasing lubricants' burden capabilities, extending their temperature range," explains the Head of the Institute's laboratory, Victor Zhornik. The development of the technology for South Korea began in September 2009 and is due to finish in 2012.

British style to soon appear in suburbs of the Belarusian capital

Construction of Nottingham housing estate to start in Minsk district next year

By Oksana Shikut

Minsk and Nottingham are twin cities, on friendly terms for over 50 years, implementing joint projects. The British style housing estate is to bear the name of Nottingham, as permitted by Nottingham City Council. A leading enterprise of the Uninvest-M group of companies — Uninvest-StroyInvest Ltd. — is to oversee this major Belarusian project.

A member of the Executive Board of Nottingham City Council, Alan Clark, visited Minsk to discuss the details of the venture. He notes that British contractors will be sharing their experience of project management, alongside general design. "We've perused some sketches depicting Nottingham style and will be working together to agree the final design. We'll share experience on exterior appearance," explains Mr. Clark, adding that the delegation comprises engineers, design experts, architects and, even, a specialist in financing. Several sources are to be at-



Nottingham housing estate layout

tracted into the project, including foreign investments.

The Nottingham housing estate is to be situated in a picturesque location — near the Stiklevo Biological Reserve (of republican significance), 2km from the Minsk ring road. The project is major in terms of size and expected capacity: over 850,000 square metres of ac-

commodation housing 21,000 people on the 290 hectare site. The architecture is to embrace the traditions of Belarusian and European city planning, with primarily low- and medium-rise buildings, in addition to several blocks. The estate will be divided into six functional zones — providing accommodation, sports and public centres, social serv-

ices, parkland and shops. Streets and roads are to be carefully designed, with houses placed around courtyards for parking. Transport links with Minsk are being well-thought-out, with a new highway planned for the near future. The nearest metro station will be 15 minutes away — enabling residents to reach any Minsk location quickly.

The project envisages access to sports and physical training, with stadiums, ice rinks, pools, tennis courts, a ski-and-roller track and open-air grounds planned. Hotels, offices, shopping centres, cafés and restaurants, and entertainment centres, will create convenience and a lively atmosphere. A monument to Robin Hood — a hero of English legend — is to grace the new British-style estate, overseen by Nottingham Council.

Nottingham should become a centre of culture, tourism and sporting life as well as a venue for festivals and programmes. Another page is to be added to the history of our twin cities.

Electronic form adds convenience

Legal entities can register via Internet

"The republican *Electronic Belarus* state programme for 2010 envisages the creation of a website where legal entities can apply for registration in electronic form," explains the Departmental Head of the Single State Register of Legal Entities and Individual Entrepreneurs, Galina Podrezenok. She adds that, in the near future, details of companies and individual entrepreneurs will be available from the register for universal access.

In 2009, registration was possible online — shortening processing times for start-up businesses. Meanwhile, the volume of information provided by the state register increased. The trend has been observed for over five years, proving the state register to be a valuable source of information in the country.