

# International airport gains weighty advantage

Investment project to set up international transport and logistics centre proposed by Grodno region

By Olga Novikova

The proposal by the Grodno region is truly attractive, with a land lot of over 25 hectares allocated for the construction of a transport and logistics centre within Grodnoinvest FEZ. It is to be located not far from the regional centre, within the Belarusian-Polish-Lithuanian border area.

"The logistics centre is to boast intensive infrastructure," notes the Head of Grodnoinvest FEZ's Foreign Economic Activity Department, Semen Sergeichik. "The project envisages truck and container terminals, with access automobile and rail roads, as well as a truck automobile transport centre and a whole range of other service facilities. These will cover parking areas for trucks, buses and service vehicles, maintenance stations, filling stations, a hotel com-



plex, a first-aid post, cafés, shops and a communications centre."

The clear advantage is the location of the centre within the currently operational airport. Crossed by international air routes connecting Northern and Western European countries with those from Central and South-

**Regional airport to become an important element of transport and logistics centre**

Eastern Asia, the airport possesses customs, border and sanitary control services. Direct flights to the Russian Federation open up additional prospects in view of the newly created Customs Union.

Grodno Airport (jointly with Grodno State University and Grodno City Executive

Committee) is an associated partner of the *Baltic Sea Region* programme. Comprehensive analysis of the air cargo transportation market is to be conducted, studying infrastructure and operational requirements for the regional airport, as well as its role within the system of international carriage. A

specialised information network is to be developed and launched, involving the efforts of educational and scientific institutions and airports from nine countries.

Clearly, the opportunity to use all the advantages of being a resident of Grodnoinvest FEZ is very attractive to investors.

## Heineken pursues responsible business

**Heineken to double sales of kvass in 2010 — to reach 150,000 hectolitres**

At present, sales of Heineken's 'Khatni' kvass cover 30 percent of the domestic market. In addition, about 10 percent of production is exported to Russia and the Baltic States. According to Heineken's Managing Director, Alexey Chernyaev, in 2011, the company plans to push kvass production further, to accommodate growing sales. He stresses that the company aims to substitute imports of kvass and beer with those made in Belarus. Jointly with Belgospushcheprom Concern, it is now preparing contracts with suppliers of raw materials used in the production of these beverages.

Heineken has already launched its social charity project: *Let's Give Children a Holiday!* For two months, it will donate 7 percent of the price of each bottle of kvass to its fund, with money going to six orphanages: in Minsk, Mozyr, Kobrin, Novogrudok, Bobruisk and Novopolotsk. Kvass consumers will thus be able to support children who lack parental care. Mr. Chernyaev notes that this is the first such action of its kind organised by producers in Belarus.

## When interests meet

Draft law on state-private partnership in Belarus to appear in December

By Michail Viazynski

Following its neighbours, Belarus plans to soon adopt a law on state-private partnership; a second draft is now being prepared, to be offered to parliamentarians for discussion in a few weeks' time.

Eastern European countries are gradually realising the importance of this partnership; recently, a similar document was adopted in Latvia, as it was this summer in Moldova and last month in Ukraine.

Yevgeny Borushko, of the Belarusian Economy Ministry's Scientific-Research Economic Institute, is helping draft legislation governing state-private partnership in Belarus. He explains that it aims to help production industries which cannot be privatised but still require private investment funding. The issue covers the distribution of authority and responsibility between the state and business in such areas



**Partnership should bring mutual benefits**

as housing-and-communal facilities, construction and transport.

The law 'On State-Private Partnership' is due to be adopted in 2011, although its mechanism will only fully come into force in 2012. "Nevertheless, we'd recommend that branch ministries trial projects without waiting for the law to come into full effect; we refer to all branches without exception," notes Mr. Borushko.

Some partnerships could soon become operational, although the 'start button' for the first state-private projects is being overseen

not only by ministries but also by local authorities. "We're ready to contribute to the realisation of such partnerships in the Minsk region," the Deputy Chairman of the Minsk Regional Executive Committee, Valery Skakun, stresses.

It's now evident that the state is treating foreign investors with loyalty. However, our authorities stress that they have no plans to pander to excessively ambitious foreign companies. It's clear that benefits from such partnerships must be mutual.

## Efficient configuration

By Yelena Overianova

**Belarusian scientists develop new, high-speed supercomputer**

Scientists from the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences' United Institute of Informatics Problems have developed a 'SKIF-GRID' supercomputer, based on 12-nuclei AMD Opteron processors and graphic processor-accelerators. This is now the most productive configuration in the family of Belarusian supercomputer 'SKIF' models, within the 'SKIF-GRID' cluster. Tests were successfully passed in November.

The maximum speed of the 'SKIF-GRID' cluster is eight teraflops (eight

trillion operations per second) — without taking into consideration the acceleration possible with the use of graphic processors. The cluster's coefficient of efficiency is 82.15 percent, while its computational nodes and other modules are placed in a single 19-inch stand (giving a height of about 2m).

The computational resources of this new computer ensure a significant increase in the power of Belarus' national GRID-segment. For example, Belarusian clusters with graphic processors are ranked first worldwide for points earned in calculations over a single day (over 2 million). This was recorded as part of an international project in the field of bio-informatics: GPUGRID.

## New car called Ę-mobile

**In December, car lovers will be presented with the prototype of a new hybrid, fuel-efficient vehicle, boasting 70HP capacity**

The joint development by Russian Onexin and Belarus' Yarovit Motors is officially called the Ę-mobile, as suggested by Minsk artist Vladimir Tsesler. The developers eagerly accepted the idea. The company plans to manufacture a compact urban hatchback for family use, in addition to an off-road sports coupe for younger drivers. The bodies of

the cars are to come in two colours, with serial batch production scheduled to start in late 2012. The expected price is \$10,000-15,000.

The General Director of the joint venture, Andrey Biryukov, is convinced that the brand will be a success. He explains that the letter 'ę' is the seventh in the Russian alphabet and is usually associated with luck and success. Moreover, it exists only in Russian, so is our response to those western goods which are named with the Latin 'i' (e.g., iPad or iPhone).