

Real life sci-fi

Belarusian agrarians use space technologies

By Nikolay Golovanov

A tractor seeds a field with wheat, guided by a remote operator, who 'drives' from a comfortable cabin. He watches a display screen, making corrections where obstacles appear, turning the tractor as needed. The control panel shows the location of the tractor by GPS; the co-ordinate is updated twenty times per second, while a gyroscope and special sensors ensure all is accurate. The auto-pilot drives the tractor in a straight line, taking into account the width of the seeder.

The operator follows the process from his office, his computer recording all data: fuel consumption and the period of operation of all machinery in the field. Sometimes, weather conditions demand that fields be ploughed, seeded or harvested in short periods of time, necessitating 24 hour working days. The technology ensures that tractors can continue working safely



Navigation systems already help grain harvest on Minsk region farms

even at night.

It might seem futuristic but automated machinery is growing in popularity. The technology is relatively new to Belarus though, explains Oleg Upenik, the chief agronomist at Belorussky Farm (in the Minsk region). "At our farm, we initially bought the necessary software," he tells us. "After mastering it, we purchased mineral fertiliser spreaders and sprayers able to operate under the GPS system and an

electronic map. Later, we bought tractors and seeders to work with this technology. It's great when machinery operates automatically, without the need for a driver. A mechanical operator simply controls its work, while the machinery itself follows a set programme of spraying the necessary volume of fertilisers. It also works at a regular speed, ensuring consistency."

According to Mr. Upenik, the novelty has improved labour ef-

iciency. A man can seed only 35 hectares per shift, compared to the automated device covering 60 hectares. As a result, workers are less tired, operations are conducted efficiently and costs are falling.

Over the next five years, space technologies should become more common on farms, with applied space technologies, information and satellite navigation systems and other 'sci-fi' technology widespread by 2015.

'Belarus' assembled in the Heavenly Empire

Chinese Ili Yun Chen purchases 100 tractor assembly sets

The company is assembling 'Belarus' tractors in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China. Ili Yun Chen has also requested that the Belarusian plant send specialists to China to help with the assembly process, quality control, run-in tests and adjustment of new tractors. China also needs specialists to help train local staff.

The Chinese side hopes for further mutually beneficial co-operation with the Belarusian enterprise. 'Belarus' tractors, assembled in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, are eligible for government agricultural subsidy in China, encouraging farmers to buy them. In 2011, around 1,000 tractors are due to be sold in the Heavenly Empire.

Major deal

By Anna Kotova

Belarusbank signs \$145m syndicated loan agreement

The Chair of Belarusbank's Board, Nadezhda Yermakova, tells us that the loan is to be used to finance the Belarusian economy — covering construction, technical upgrades and circulating assets of companies. Belarusbank is currently taking part in almost 50 state programmes on technical upgrading and construction of companies.

Business dimension of real partnership

By Anna Polushtena

Belarusian transport and logistics centres invited to join East-West Transport Corridor Association

The proposal was made recently in Vilnius, during negotiations between Belarus' Transport and

Communications Minister, Ivan Shcherbo, and the Lithuanian Minister for Transport and Communications, Eligijus Masiulis. "The Lithuanians have invited private and state transport and logistics companies and organisations from Belarus to become members of the East-West Transport Corridor Association, which

unites transport and logistics enterprises and state organisations," notes the Transport and Communications Ministry's Press Service. Belarusian Railways is already a member, with Belintertrans — Transport and Logistics Centre expected to join soon.

The two ministers discussed issues of collaboration as part of the

Northern Dimension partnership, regarding automobile transport and logistics, as well as information sharing on road tolls during road passenger and cargo transportations. The heads of transport ministries are satisfied with the constructive and successful co-operation of Belarus and Lithuania in this sphere.

Wires to be exported

By Nikolay Zdanovsky

Gomelcable launches two, new highly efficient enamel-aggregates by famous Italian New Tech company

The firm has invested 1.4m euros in the purchase of this new equipment, able to enamel not only the usual wires with circular cross-section, but the latest rectangular cross-section wires; these are becoming more popular, having particular useful features. According to the company's engineering service, its range of sizes of ready-made products varies from 4 to 64mm.

Foreign specialists consider that this new equipment (able to make 1,500-2,000 tonnes of enameled wire a year) will enable the company to expand its export-oriented products, while gaining the image of a successful supplier of electro-technical goods within the CIS.



Gomelcable's new products

Neighbours view business seriously

By Lyudmila Stepanovich

Industrially developed Belarus and Ukraine determined to make more use of existing and new joint ventures' potential

Our two countries boast complementary economies: Ukraine's heavy energy- and machine-building, and Belarus' microelectronics, instrument-making, agricultural machine-building and tractor making. Joint ventures are advantageous on the territories of both states. Meanwhile, Belarus can use the potential of the Customs Union, while Ukraine has potential for co-operation within the WTO.

According to Vladimir Semashko, Belarus' First Deputy Prime Minister, the establishment of joint ventures in the Customs Union and their manufacture of products which enjoy demand will enable our two countries to significantly boost sales on for-

eign markets. Speaking to Ukraine's First Deputy Prime Minister, Andrei Kluyev, in Kiev, Mr. Semashko expressed confidence that the traditional exports of Belarus and Ukraine should grow.

In turn, Mr. Kluyev voiced Ukraine's interest in promoting mutually beneficial co-operation with Belarus across a variety of spheres. "Our plans are optimistic and our countries are ready for their implementation," he said.

The agenda of bilateral co-operation includes 67 points within a previously signed intergovernmental protocol. Priority is being given to co-operation in energy, machine-building and agricultural industry. These issues, among others, were discussed during the Kiev meeting and are now included in a joint action plan to promote Belarus-Ukraine bilateral trade and economic co-operation in 2011.



Belarusbank replenishes its resources

This is Belarusbank's seventh large deal on the international market of syndicated lending, having debuted in 2006. The deal is the largest syndicated loan project in the history of the Belarusian banking system.

Prototype model is ready

Belarusian Railways to assemble locomotives in Lida

In 2011, Belarusian Railways is to begin construction of a workshop to assemble locomotives at Lida locomotive depot. Twelve locomotives are to be built annually, destined for use by Belarusian Railways and by domestic industrial enterprises who need locomotives for their approach roads. Some will also be exported within the CIS.

The first Belarusian maneuverable locomotive has been presented at a meeting of railways engine drivers, hosted by Lida, part of a project implemented jointly with Czech CZ LOKO a.s.