

Domestic timber proving popular

Walking along 'wooden street', visitors to *Lesdrevtech-2011* see that forestries are responding to public demand

The International *Lesdrevtech-2011* Exhibition in Minsk displayed a wide range of frames for guesthouses, bath-houses and wells, as well as a selection of arbours, swings and small decorative architectural structures. They weren't prototypes, manufactured especially for the exposition, but constructions which forestries can produce in significant volumes.

Gennady Shutro, chief engineer at Starye Dorogi experimental forestry, tells us that frameworks from rounded timber enjoy great demand, as people realise that plastic isn't as beautiful, or ecologically friendly, as wood. In fact, plastic lasts only a little longer than timber, with many people becoming converted to the idea of using natural materials. With production re-organisation and the timely installation of new drying lines and machine-tools, forestries countrywide have quickly adjusted to clients' wishes. Today, anyone can purchase finishing materials, such as floor and glazing mouldings, floor and exterior boards, alongside frameworks from rounded timber, directly from Starye Dorogi forestry. Many other forestries are following suit,



Lesdrevtech-2011 exhibition demonstrates modern opportunities of wood processing

with orders tailored to meet individual needs.

The range of exhibited timber consumer goods was impressive, with plenty of spade and axe handles, spoons, rolling pins and cutting boards on display. Pre-

viously, people might have had to visit several shops to find a new axe handle; although the range was worthy, prices were very high. This year, forestries have started to manufacture these types of goods at affordable

prices, due to the deepening of wood processing.

Ostrovets forestry, alongside others, uses every offcut to produce useful, good quality, cheap goods, enjoying great popularity. Igor Kurochkin, the Head of Produc-

tion and Sales Department, explains, "When commercial structures began to occupy this niche, forestry workers were embarrassed, because they couldn't produce simple items for people although they did have timber. From

the point of view of spending on materials, there are almost no costs."

As a result of advanced wood processing, forestries have almost no waste to dispose of; even sawdust and shavings are used — made into fuel briquettes. Much has been spoken about these in recent years, although they are yet to be seen on the market. Leonid Demyanik, who heads the Belarusian Forestry Ministry's Department for Production and Sales, tells us, "At present, people don't have boilers able to use fuel briquettes, so most are exported. However, the manufacture of this type of fuel in Belarus is expanding. When people begin to shift to new boilers, with high efficiency, they'll finally understand that it's much quicker and more feasible to heat houses with briquettes than firewood. By that time, we'll be ready for enhanced demand. We're keen to remind potential customers that briquettes are produced in our country and are awaiting buyers."

Our forestries have made great progress, with this year's *Lesdrevtech-2011* being interesting and useful for specialists and ordinary citizens alike.

Convenient location for investments

By Ivan Antonov

Group of Finnish companies keen to set up three manufactures at Grodnoinvest FEZ

The total amount of Finnish investments will stand at around 5m Euros. Metalliset Grodno was the

first Finnish company to set up at Grodnoinvest FEZ, registered as a resident by the famous chain Finnish Metalliset Group. Recently, another enterprise with Finnish investments — Makron Grodno — was also registered at the FEZ.

Soon, a group of Finnish companies, having five plants in Europe,

plans to register its third enterprise in the Grodno Region. New resident companies will create completely export-oriented manufactures in machine building and metal processing. These will produce steel constructions and components, as well as industrial equipment for international companies.

Innovations to bring benefits



Experimental workshop to produce aircraft

By Olga Belyaeva

Belarus to launch serial manufacture and export of pilotless aircraft

A new state programme for innovative development includes the creation of multi-functional pilotless aircraft; the applications

are wide notes Sergey Rakhmanov, the Deputy Chairman of the Belarusian National Academy of Sciences' Presidium. He adds that such equipment has never before been produced in Belarus.

Pilotless aircraft are low in cost, while allowing territories to be monitored for various pur-

poses: to prevent fires, observe agricultural lands, conduct ecological monitoring and control transport flow. They will be equipped with the most modern optical equipment, worthily rivaling foreign analogues. "The production of these planes gives us an additional mechanism to efficiently realise serious economic projects," notes Mr. Rakhmanov. "Such projects arouse great interest among our foreign colleagues."

In the coming five years, the National Academy of Sciences is to realise 11 major innovative projects, including production of light-emitting diodes (jointly with German investors) and the opening of a Republican Centre for Genetic Marking and Pass-transportation of Animals, Plants, Micro-organisms and People. In addition, dairy animal breeding is to receive genetic help and a new plant is to be built to protect metals against corrosion through hot galvanising.



Belshina tyres impress in range of size

'Footwear' offered for passenger cars and larger vehicles

By Alexander Timofeev

Belarusian car drivers can buy Bobruisk-made Belshina tyres — manufactured using Dutch VMI equipment — knowing that they rival any worldwide

The *Technical Re-equipment of Passenger Car Flow* project is now included among the most important investment projects approved by the Government this year. The total capital costs exceed 32m Euros, with the programme focusing on the production of 13-17 inch tyres. The new line is to manufac-

ture over 2m annually, with 15 sizes to be available. The most popular 16 inch model is being tested, while 18 inch tyre production is soon to be launched.

Belshina also produces tyres for large trucks — a growing market. Its production of steel-cord tyres is, accordingly, being modernised.

Over the past five years, the total volume of investments into Belshina's capital stock has been \$100m, with the figure likely to rise 1.5-fold in the coming five years.