

Professionals are always in demand

State ready to finance personnel training to suit enterprises' needs

By Svetlana Lomonosova

Around 25,000 unemployed people annually undergo professional training in Belarus. However, in our contemporary times, it isn't enough to be well trained; it's also vital to find a corresponding vacancy. The most efficient solution is to train people at enterprises' request. At present, 45 percent of unemployed people are receiving training this way. Meanwhile, the Labour and Social Protection Ministry believes that the best guarantee of employment is to train people for specific jobs requiring filling. Many employers are deterred by the expense of training but the situation should soon change, with the state hoping to finance such activities.

"Previously, employment services compensated employers' for the expense of personnel training where employees were under threat of dismissal, had been redundant or were in

their first job," explains Nikolay Kokhonov, the Head of the Main Department of Employment and Population Policy at the Labour and Social Protection Ministry. "However, payment was made afterwards. We now want to expand the list of training opportunities while allocating funds for professional training in advance."

For example, tool-makers are universally in demand at factories but few emerge from Belarusian vocational schools. In fact, no one under the age of 31 is among the profession. The situation could be improved by training people directly at enterprises but appropriate vocational training facilities need to be restored.

Many enterprises are now ready to rise to the challenge, however. Maxim Gubsky, Belintertrans' Deputy General Director, notes that they'd happily train international drivers if the expense of purchasing several training vehicles was covered.



Gomel Multipack operator Alexander Chaplygin masters new equipment

Moreover, they'd need compensation for the payment of each driver accompanying trainees on their first foreign trip.

"The next step is to encourage experienced workers to help train novices," believes Sergey Sorokin, the Head of the Belarusian Federation of Trade Unions' Chief Department of Industrial and Socio-Economic Work. "We

can envisage some extra payment for them — at least 50 percent of the minimum wage."

Undoubtedly, the interests of trainees cannot be ignored and it's no secret that they only receive the minimum wage during their period of study. Consequently, not everyone wants to become a 'pupil'. A training 'allowance' could be added to this minimum

wage to encourage workers.

Production modernisation is high on the agenda at many enterprises. However, the issue arises on who will operate these new modern tools. We could send our domestic machine workers abroad for training; certainly, any enterprise choosing this step should be guaranteed certain tax privileges.

Natural quality among priorities

By Yuri Bestuzhev

Belarusian Government approves Republican Children's Food Programme for 2011-2015, aiming to create top quality domestic food

The Government is confident that the present financial difficulties in the economy won't negatively impact the reconstruction and technical modernisation of children's food producing facilities. It is vital to provide our growing generation with natural ingredients and high quality food meeting dietary needs. Moreover, products must worthily rival imported analogues.

Children's food produced by food processing companies is to be primarily exported to the CIS: Russia and Kazakhstan in particular. Belgospishcheprom Concern is injecting Br147.5bn for this purpose, with bank loans comprising over half the sum; the remainder is to come from local budgets and the food



Line producing children's juices in Bobruisk

producers' innovative fund.

Foreign technological equipment is to be purchased to modernise enterprises making children's food, with about Br50bn set aside for the imports, which must be paid for in foreign currency. However, all construction and assembly works will use domestically produced materials.

The *Children's Food* programme takes into account consumer demand and the need for high quality products, supporting new processing facilities in raising production of liquid milk

products for children. Among the largest enterprises wishing to join the programme is Mogilev's Babushkina Krynka JSC, which plans to double its production of liquid milk products.

The programme also envisages the creation of ecologically friendly zones for the production of raw ingredients. These are to specialise in producing crops and meat for children's food, with processing enterprises using safe, high quality ingredients meeting the highest standards.

Engineering ideas assisted by contemporary equipment

By Yekaterina Babkova

Belstankoinstrument Holding to be set up by end 2011

According to Victor Butko, Director General of Minsk's October Revolution Plant (MZOR), the Government has adopted a decision to establish a holding uniting 22 enterprises. MZOR has been appointed as the managing company, with a corresponding draft Presidential Decree already prepared. It is now undergoing approval. "We plan that the holding will be set up by the end of this year," notes Mr. Butko.

All 22 enterprises will

undergo a technical audit to determine the economic efficiency of their manufacturing and the technical opportunities open to them, allowing future expenditure to be minimised. "Use of existing dealer networks is a great advantage of the new holding. We can and should use the commodity distribution network of each enterprise," adds Mr. Butko. He notes that representative offices of the holding will be set up across Russia through a dealer network, allowing distribution there. "At present, there are difficulties with the Russian market, as certain legislation prevents Russian companies from pur-

chasing our goods," underlines MZOR's Director General.

Mr. Butko believes that, alongside the production of machine-tool equipment, Belstankoinstrument Holding could take part in the modernisation of Belarusian enterprises. "The holding's companies should help with the technical modernisation of such companies as the Minsk Tractor Works and the Belarusian Automobile Works. Anything can be solved at these factories via the use of advanced technological equipment; the design and engineering potential of our enterprises is at hand for this task."

New proposals for innovative project

By Olga Belonogova

Belarus studies possibility of assembling e-mobiles

The Chairman of the State Committee on Science and Technology, Igor Voitov, explains that Belarus hopes to attract Russian experts to realise this innovative project. The Committee has already sent a proposal to Russia to study the

possibility of launching a Belarusian assembly branch for Russian e-mobiles. Mr. Voitov adds that talks with other countries regarding possible production of passenger cars in the Republic are underway. "We view China as a potential partner, also planning to propose a joint venture with the Republic of Korea," he notes.

E-mobile is a Russian designed city hybrid car, which



e-mobile attracts

can run its engine on either petrol or gas. It is equipped with both an electric engine and an internal combustion engine. Its design cuts fuel consumption, increases the engine's coefficient of performance and reduces harmful emissions. It is expected that the industrial production of e-mobiles in Russia will launch in 2012.