

Statistics show positive dynamics

IMF Special Data Dissemination Standard shows rise in Belarus' gold and currency reserves by \$557.7m in June

The National Bank's Information Department has announced the national definition of gold and currency reserves to have risen by \$546.6m: standing at \$5,650,000,000 in equivalent as of July 1st, 2011. This is largely due to the arrival of the first tranche of the EurAsEC Anti-Crisis Fund loan of \$800m.

The volume of gold and currency reserves has also been influenced by the payment of internal and external liabilities in foreign currency by the National Bank and the Belarusian Government (worth about \$227m in equivalent) and the dynamics of precious metal prices on the international market.

Internally developed technology goes on sale

Scientists from National Academy of Sciences' Heat and Mass Transfer Institute plan to supply \$1m facility ensuring high precision optical processing to Saudi Arabia in August

The device is based on magnetorheological polishing technology, allowing processing of complicated forms, while ensuring the safety of the top layer and its high quality.

The specially developed magnetorheological finishing machine for polishing can process items made from optical and semiconductor materials — including all types of optical glass and ceramics, as well as solid, semiconductor and optical crystals and metal alloys. The equipment can be used to produce laser optoelectronic systems, high-energy laser devices and semiconductor elements for the electronic industry.

Magnetorheological polishing technology has been developed at the National Academy of Sciences' Heat and Mass Transfer Institute, enabling Belarusian specialists to significantly contribute to the development of global science. Over the next five years, scientists and specialists from the Republic's leading optical enterprises plan to create a production base for a new generation of unique optical and microelectronic devices. Potential markets for sales include the CIS, China and India.

Valentino, MEXX and Adidas brands sewn in Orsha

Svitanak industrial-trading company subcontracts for famous global brands

By Diana Kurilo

The Belarusian sewing company is co-operating with over 60 firms from the CIS and beyond. According to Director Lyudmila Kuznetsova, before placing orders, foreign brands have audited the company to examine its technological level, personnel qualifications and the availability of social guarantees for personnel.

Over the past three years, Svitanak has invested about \$250,000 in modernisation, technically re-equipping its facilities. New sewing machines have been bought, in addition to special software to design clothes.

From January-June 2011, industrial output growth made 163 percent, with exports of services almost doubling.



A sewing workshop at Svitanak industrial-trading company

Belkommunmash ships first trolley bus to Colombia



Machinery for customers

By Oksana Shikut

A Colombian delegation has visited Belkommun-

Minsk enterprise's 420 model trolley bus on its way to Colombia's industrial centre of Medellin

munmash, led by Alfonso Soria Mendoza, who heads the Office for Europe of the Colombian Foreign Ministry, and Diego José Tobón Echeverri, Ambassador of Colombia to Russia with concurrent accreditation in Belarus.

The guests toured the company premises, viewing 420 model new-generation 'Vitovt' trolley buses and a unique articulated tram with driver cabs at both ends. Belkommun-

chief designer, Oleg Bytsko, set out the company's future design plans, saying that Belkommunmash is intent on designing a hybrid bus able to run on 25-30 percent less fuel.

The Colombian delegation highly praised the potential of the Minsk company in developing new technologies for passenger transportation vehicles, expressing interest in enhancing bilateral relations. They believe Belkommun-

mash's products could find a real niche on Colombia's transportation market.

At present, Belarusian trolley buses are used in nearly 50 regions across CIS and non-CIS states. In addition to selling to eight Belarusian cities, the company exports to over 30 Russian regions (including Kaliningrad and Vladivostok) in addition to Ukraine, Mongolia, Latvia, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Moldova and Bulgaria.

First step made, with others to follow

Japanese NEC Corporation opens office in Minsk

"The arrival of such a company as NEC shows that Belarus is ready to assimilate and implement new technologies," stresses the Communications and Informatisation Minister, Nikolai Pantelei. Speaking at the launch of the new NEC office, he noted that this marked the first step for the company in Belarus. "Our Ministry expects to see either a joint Belarusian-Japanese venture, with the participation of NEC, soon set up in Belarus, or a completely foreign venture. This will enable us to implement more concrete projects, shifting from 'supplier-buyer' relations to partnership," Mr. Pantelei added.

Toshiyuki Mineno, NEC Executive Vice President and Chief Global Business Officer, expressed his hope that the technologies of the Japanese telecommunications company will enjoy demand on the Belarusian market. Among the potential areas of application are healthcare, education and law enforcement. According to the official, Belarus is a very important market for NEC. Accordingly, the Corporation plans to expand its representation in Belarus and develop its investment activity here, as part of a commercial structure which NEC intends to set up in Belarus.

Unique situation unlikely to be ever repeated

By Olga Krapivnaya

Record number of cars imported into Belarus in H1 2011: over 250,000

"It's a record high — not only for six months but for a year. We have never imported so many cars before," the Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee of Belarus, Sergei Poluden, tells us. The country usually annually

imports 180,000-200,000 vehicles.

Belarus' Customs Service has been working around the clock (24/7 in the final days before the new duties came into force) to ensure that imported cars passed through customs without hindrance.

On July 1st, car import duties imposed on individuals became unified across all Customs Union



Car salons wait in the wings

member states. As a result, fewer cars are now being imported into Belarus and border services are return-

ing to their previous working hours, with only a few imported vehicles registered.