

# Customers benefit from technical modernisation

More fashionable knitwear to become available from Belarusian shops

By Yelena Kopylova

Belarus' largest knitwear manufacturing company has begun technical modernisation. It's good news for customers, since domestically produced knitwear is likely to become even more fashionable, following the latest trends.

Despite Belarus having many specialised factories, Pinsk's Polesie is the most famous for Belarusian knitwear, being the largest in the CIS. Only four such firms operated in Soviet times: two based in Russia, and Latvia and Belarus having one each. However, after the USSR's collapse, only Polesie, in Belarusian Pinsk, survived, thanks to state support.

In recent years, the Polesie firm has been losing female customers, although knitwear for men and children has remained popular. Using equipment from the 1960s, it was difficult to produce garments to suit the latest fashions, inspiring women to shop elsewhere. Now, twelve new German flat-knitting machines have been installed, allowing the factory to update its designs.

"Our customers will be able to enjoy absolutely new designs, weaves and patterns of knitwear," stresses Polesie JSC's Director, Maria Dubrovskaya. The new equipment is already used by many European manufacturers. "We've purchased Italian yarn for the new machines, which



Domestic knitwear to become more modern and attractive

differs from ours in composition, softness and surface characteristics. Our new products will boast not only modern designs but will be of an absolutely different appearance."

The difference between the equipment of the past and present is huge. For example, the 1960s machines require manual adjustment for each model, which can take up

to ten days. Modern, computerised equipment takes only a few seconds to 'read' all the information from an e-carrier and adjust its programme. One and the same machine can knit simple and complicated patterns using different techniques, combining various colours and thicknesses of yarn; previously, this was impossible.

New knitwear is already being

appreciated at Russian fairs, with the factory establishing contacts with about fifty new partners, who are keen to sell its manufactures in Russian shops. Polesie plans to further update its equipment; by 2012, a new batch of 'smart' machines should be in place, including unique tools produced by a German firm especially for Polesie.

## In-depth research is of vital importance

By Anna Korobova

**Belgorkhimprom JSC conducts preliminary assessment of phosphate rock deposits at Los Monos and La Linda sections of Venezuelan Navai field**

Belgorkhimprom is implementing its first project in Venezuela, working with the Venezuelan Pequiven Company since April 2007.

In line with its contract, the Belarusian company is providing technical support, analysis and assessment of phosphate reserves in the Los Monos and La Linda sections of Navai field in Venezuela.

Scientific-methodical and technical maintenance is being conducted while Belgorkhimprom plans to elaborate the technical-economic feasibility of developing Venezuelan phosphate rock deposits — for phosphorus compounds and fertilisers. Venezuelan phosphates are of great importance to Belarus, with Gomel's Chemical Plant, specialising in manufacturing highly-efficient complex fertilisers, hoping to set up a joint venture in Venezuela to produce phosphorus acid or phosphorus fertilisers.

## Process underway in virtual reality registration

System of virtual document registration — recently launched to scepticism from enterprises — now seen as an integral part of their work

By Andrey Saveliev

"Last November, 92 percent of export deliveries were conducted with the help of electronics," explains the Acting Deputy Head of the Minsk Regional Customs for Organisation of Customs Clearance and Control, Dmitry Belousov. "Initially, this innovation was viewed with mistrust; now, its advantages are being appreciated. Firstly, it significantly reduces time taken for customs clearance; on average, the process now takes 20-30 minutes but we aim to reduce it further. This is especially convenient for companies based outside of Minsk. Secondly, it costs less, and is convenient for customs bodies. Moreover, personal contact with each applicant is no longer necessary, reducing the risk of corruption."

The first export declaration was e-registered in 2008. Among the pioneers of this technology were Minsk Motor Works and Keramin JSC. At that time, virtual customs operations were an experiment, with many questions asked on customs Internet forums. People wondered how it would operate and what the drawbacks would be. Some time lat-



Virtual customs operations prove efficient

er, the pilot zone was transformed, with a national automated system of e-declaration being launched. Soon, everyone realised that it was operating smoothly. Minsk Regional Customs alone supervises the e-process for about 2,000 enterprises and entrepreneurs, including three hundred which boast the status of authorised economic operator.

E-declaration relies on data exchange between each customs applicant and a network inspector, requiring clear lines of telecommunication. This probably embarrassed manufacturers two years ago, since not all had stable and reliable Internet access, with many having poor

software. The technical part of the declaration system is still being perfected, with the goal of covering as many products as possible (among those which can be registered in an electronic form). In the future, customs officers aim to synchronise the national automated system of e-declaration with its Russian analogue; the two systems remain unlinked so far, with some goods still registered as before — on paper. The Customs Union should help them to unite.

"Another task facing us is the expansion of e-declaration possibilities in the sphere of imports," explains Mr. Belousov, adding, "There is scope for work here."

## Future relies on settlements in national currencies

**Priorbank signs agreement on opening corresponding account in Yuans with Industrial and Commercial Bank of China**

The agreement will help economic agents of our two countries settle payments in their national currencies.

In recent years, trade and economic co-operation between China and Belarus has grown. In this respect, Priorbank's correspondent account in Yuans will boost interaction between Belarusian and Chinese companies, while reducing the number of procedures relating to mutual payments.

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China is among the leaders on the Chinese banking market in terms of volume of international payment transactions. China is one of the most important foreign trading partners of Belarus. According to our National Statistical Committee, from January-October 2010, Belarus increased its exports to China over 2.6-fold (against the same period of 2009), to reach \$381.7m.

## Everything in line with fixed route

By Anna Chistyakova

**Belmorflot ship sets off on maiden voyage to Brazil**

The Katarina is loaded with potash fertilisers, having departed from the port of Klaipeda (Lithuania), with a contract signed with the Belarusian Potash Company. The ship should arrive in the Brazilian port of Paranagua in late January, bringing back wheat, barley, sugar and other products on its return. The Karolina will next set sail, able to ship 37,000 tonnes of cargo.

## Possibilities positively assessed

By Olga Bogomazova

**Belarusian Transaviaexport receives certificate to service Russian Il-76 planes**

The air company is now certified to comply with Russian aviation technical maintenance rules, allowing it to offer operative, periodical, seasonal and calendar servicing of Russian Il-76 planes. Talks with Russian potential partners are underway.

Transaviaexport began operations on the Belarusian aviation market in 1992, being one of the largest users of Il-76 planes (able to transport special and hazardous cargoes). The company boasts rich experience of humanitarian cargo transportation. In 2009, it received certification for its quality management system, including activity in the field of technical maintenance.