

'Golden' bearing confidently competes

Minsk Bearing Plant (MPZ) is one of Belarus' top ten enterprises and is among top three similar enterprises within the CIS in terms of overall production

By Alexander Lesnichenko

Rolling bearings comprise the major share of manufactures at the factory. Reliable and affordable, they enjoy enhanced demand at steel, mining and other industrial enterprises, primarily those located in Russia. They also sell well across the CIS and further abroad. In fact, the plant lacks the capacity to keep up with demand, necessitating large-scale technical modernisation.

Russia, accounting for around 45 percent of export supplies, is the company's major trading partner, with Belarusian bearings being used in many Russian industrial enterprises. Goods are sold through a distribution network — from Vologda to Vladi-

vostok. Naturally, the plant seeks to continue confidently improving competitiveness but the main selling point of Belarusian bearings is their durability. There was a time when Russian enterprises were lured by cheap Chinese bearings, paying no heed to their quality. They sometimes lasted not even a third of the length of time of their Belarusian counterparts. Since their replacement necessitates the disassembly of half of the rolling mill, it is not an undertaking to be entered into lightly. Clearly, the cheapest path is not always the most efficient. Belarusian bearings are both affordable in price and boast the highest reliability.

Orders come from almost every corner of the world. Alex-



Minsk Bearing Plant's produce highly appreciated in CIS and beyond

ander Labusov, MPZ's Director General, notes that a contract has been signed to set up an assembly line of Belarusian bearings in India. However, Russia has been and remains the major vector of collaboration, with Russian bearing plants having ties with MPZ which date from Soviet times — although in a different form.

MPZ has made a true breakthrough in its development. Its recent production of Br8.5bn goods per month has risen to an impressive Br30bn. However, major goals still lie ahead. "We'd like to see Minsk's Bearing Plant become a world leader," continues

Mr. Labusov.

The factory received a powerful impulse to revival after a visit by President Alexander Lukashenko. In line with his instructions, major modernisation has been launched at MPZ. This should lead to the enterprise rivalling the world's best producers. Experts from the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the State Committee for Science and Technology and the Economy Ministry have worked on the modernisation plan, which has also been approved by the Council of Ministers. Practical works are now underway, with equipment being

bought from the best Belarusian and world manufacturers.

Its technical modernisation will primarily tackle the manufacture of rolling bearings, which account for about 20 percent of total output and over 70 percent of the factory's earnings. Around \$70m is to be invested into the plant's technical re-equipment, which will pay for itself within seven years. Moreover, MPZ has developed and implemented its own programme of technical modernisation, involving its turning, thermal, moulding and grinding lines. Minsk will effectively acquire a new plant.

Penetrating greater well depths proves possible

By Valery Sidorenko

Belorusneft's structural subdivision — Seismotekhnika JSC — joins Italian Drillmec S.p.A. to produce first drill unit with lifting capacity of 345 tonnes

The drill unit has been tested at a Rechitsa deposit well, demonstrating that its advanced technical characteristics can improve labour performance and help avoid emergency situations while drilling. Additionally, the new device can drill down up to five kilometres, which is crucial in developing Belarusian deposits. Those at a depth of 4.5km have already been mined, so exploration at greater depths is now essential.

Joint production of drill rigs of increased capacity, working with the Italian company, is the next step in Seismotekhnika's development. It should bring in new technologies, technical upgrading and improved export potential. By the end of 2011, the company plans to produce and install another drill



New drilling unit presented

rig at the Novo-Korenevsky oil deposit. From 2012, Seismotekhnika will annually

produce two drill units for Belorusneft, with further export supplies established.

Accessibility of services as a priority for railways

By Olga Belyavskaya

Belarusian Railways and Deutsche Bahn agree co-operation

The Head of Belarusian Railways, Anatoly Sivak, recently discussed partnership with Rüdiger Grube, the CEO and Chairman of the Management Board of Deutsche Bahn (the German national railway company). They focused on issues of joint collaboration in the field of cargo and passenger transportation.

The Press Service tells us that 'the heads of the Belarusian and German railway administrations have defined priorities of further partnership in the field of cargo



transportation: preserving existing routes to serve leading European concerns (from and towards Kaluga) and the organisation of new projects dealing with container shipment by speedy trains'.

As regards passenger transportation, Belarusian Railways aims to further improve the quality and accessibility of its services. According to its staff, 'this issue is

topical — taking into consideration Belarus and Russia's hosting of global level sporting events in the near future, which will inspire increased passenger flow from Europe'. With this in mind, Belarus has invited Deutsche Bahn to jointly organise a Brest-Berlin-Brest interchange route, using the German railway's trains.

The Germans are keen to establish closer ties with Belarusian railway workers, inviting Belarus to participate in a new European Commission project regarding co-operation along the EU's external borders. Mr. Sivak has backed the initiative, expressing his hope that such co-operation will become more regular.

Economy plus ecology

By Nikolay Pyatnitsky

Energy saving project — unrivalled within the CIS — implemented at Gomelglass JSC

Gas cleaning and furnace gas utilisation facilities have been created with help from German

SCHIRM, considerably improving the ecological situation in Kostyukovka, while enabling the enterprise to significantly reduce its electricity costs.

Furnace gases pass through a recovery boiler, heating water to generate steam, which drives the

turbine of a steam generator. According to specialists, at full capacity, it can generate over 2.5MW of electricity, while providing heat to technological lines in winter.

The project is part of the Republican energy-saving programme.