

Convenient payment for transportation

Belarus and Austrian Kapsch TrafficCom AG sign investment agreement to set up national e-system of tolls for Belarusian roads

By Olga Belyavskaya

On the Belarusian side, the document was signed by the Minister of Transport and Communications, Ivan Shcherbo; Austria was represented by Erwin Toplak, the company's Executive Director. The agreement envisages tolls over 2,700km of roads. The project is worth 267m Euros, including 158m Euros within the first two years. The initial stage will be launched on July 1st, 2013.

Transport vehicles (over

3.5 tonnes) and passenger cars (except those from the Customs Union) will need to pay tolls when using certain roads in Belarus. The system sets no restrictions on speed, number of lanes or lane changes, easing movement, with no unnecessary queues.

Compact devices are to be installed in vehicles, registering use of toll roads. These are expected to be distributed free of charge, with users transferring their refund value. Each will record fees charged,

with pre-payment loaded onto the device at special service points.

Each stage of the system will become Belarusian property after coming into operation. "We badly need to introduce this system," asserts Mr. Shcherbo, who notes the ever growing number of vehicles through Belarus. So far, only one motorway charges payment: the M-1/E30. "We are planning to charge tolls for all reconstructed roads (of the first category)," the Minister explains.



Minsk ring road always filled with busy traffic

Belshina marketing strategy targets African continent

Belarusian tyres presented at international Tyrexpo Africa-2012 exhibition in Johannesburg

The stand was organised by Belshina's trading house in South Africa — Beltyre Africa Ltd, with the opening ceremony attended by Belshina's Deputy Director General, Alexander Zakharchenko, and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to South Africa, H.E. Mr. Andrei Molchan.

Belarusian tyres attracted great interest among visitors, with the Belshina delegation chatting to companies from the Middle East and South Africa, discussing prospects for the supply of tyres.

Belshina is among the world's top 20 tyre producers, manufacturing over 290 sizes and models of tyres for passenger cars,



Belshina's range able to satisfy most sophisticated orders

trucks, heavy haulers, road and hoisting equipment, buses, tractors and agricultural vehicles. The company co-operates with over 60 countries, while oper-

ating 15 trading houses abroad — including in the South African Republic (Durban). In 2011, over \$10m of tyres were supplied to the SAR.

Challenges and opportunities enhance degree of openness

Belarus interested in developing domestic financial market and integration with world and regional financial centres

Speaking at the *International Capital Market of the Republic of Belarus. Challenges and Opportunities* Forum, the Deputy Economic Minister, Dmitry Golukhov, stressed that the Belarusian economy adapted to the macroeconomic shocks of 2011 (devaluation, stringent do-

mestic demand, foreign currency exchange restrictions and multiple exchange rates, alongside new terms for energy delivery and the launch of the Customs Union). The country's economy has now re-oriented to foreign markets.

In view of pessimistic forecasts for the global economy, the main problem for Belarus is restricted access to capital. Investors are wary of risky assets, while lending terms are harsh, and there is reduced capacity

on the Belarusian sales market.

Taking into account these factors, in January 2012, the Belarusian Government adopted a three year strategy to attract investments into the structural rebuilding of the economy and into innovative development. "The challenges which Belarus faces require a larger degree of openness on the capital market; this undoubtedly opens great opportunities for investors," asserts Mr. Golukhov.

Creating new jobs

Last year, small businesses created around 30,000 jobs in Minsk

"The structure of new employment reflects the structure of the capital's small businesses," notes Alexander Kalinovsky, the Head of the Entrepreneurship Department at the Minsk City Executive Committee.

"Half of all small businesses in Minsk work in the sphere of trade and public catering. Only 10 percent are involved in manu-

facturing industrial goods."

According to Mr. Kalinovsky, the Minsk City Executive Committee's Economic Committee is stimulating initiatives by the capital's entrepreneurs to become involved in production and services.

Investment into such production is being supported with loans on privileged terms, to allow the purchase of modern equipment and to build production facilities.

New manufactures to meet European requirements

By Vladimir Vasiliev

Belarusian-Chinese Industrial Park to be constructed on free territories near Minsk

The new manufactures will have to meet existing European environmental standards and, in some cases, will surpass these. "There is no question of pollution or damage to the environment," asserts the Deputy Prime Minister, Anatoly Tozik.

Some rumours have circulated that the new industrial park in the Smolevichi District will lead to homes being demolished, but Mr. Tozik denies this utterly, emphasising that there is plenty of space for decades to come. "We have outlined the allotted land area, with some villages, countryside and summer cottages being protected; they will all remain," he stresses, adding that only vacant areas are to be built upon. The same conditions



Huge construction planned

are detailed in a decree now being prepared. In all, 8,000 hectares of land are being allocated for the park, with only 400 hectares being developed at the first stage. A definite business plan for site development will appear after the decree is signed.

Belarus is currently implementing investment projects in China, with \$5.5bn of contracts and loan agreements signed. In total, China is ready to inject around \$16bn into the Belarusian economy.