

Almost no personnel required

First automated fuelling station launched in Brest Region

By Veronica Kovaleva

Deciding to top up on fuel on my way to Brest, I turned into a fuelling station in the suburbs of Bereza town. By force of habit, I took out my money and went to try and find an operator window to prepay — to no avail. There were no signs of life anywhere and I wondered whether there was no more petrol or if the station was undergoing repairs. I was about to leave when I saw two other vehicles pull up and the drivers begin fuelling themselves. Being automated, no personnel are required at all. Customers simply pay for fuel with cash through a payment terminal or use their electronic or bank card. If questions arise, you can contact the nearest fuelling station via an intercom.

"It's very convenient, as people aren't distracted by visiting a shop or having long conversations," believes Alexander Strizh, a driver from Bereza, who showed me how to use the new set up. He admits that he too

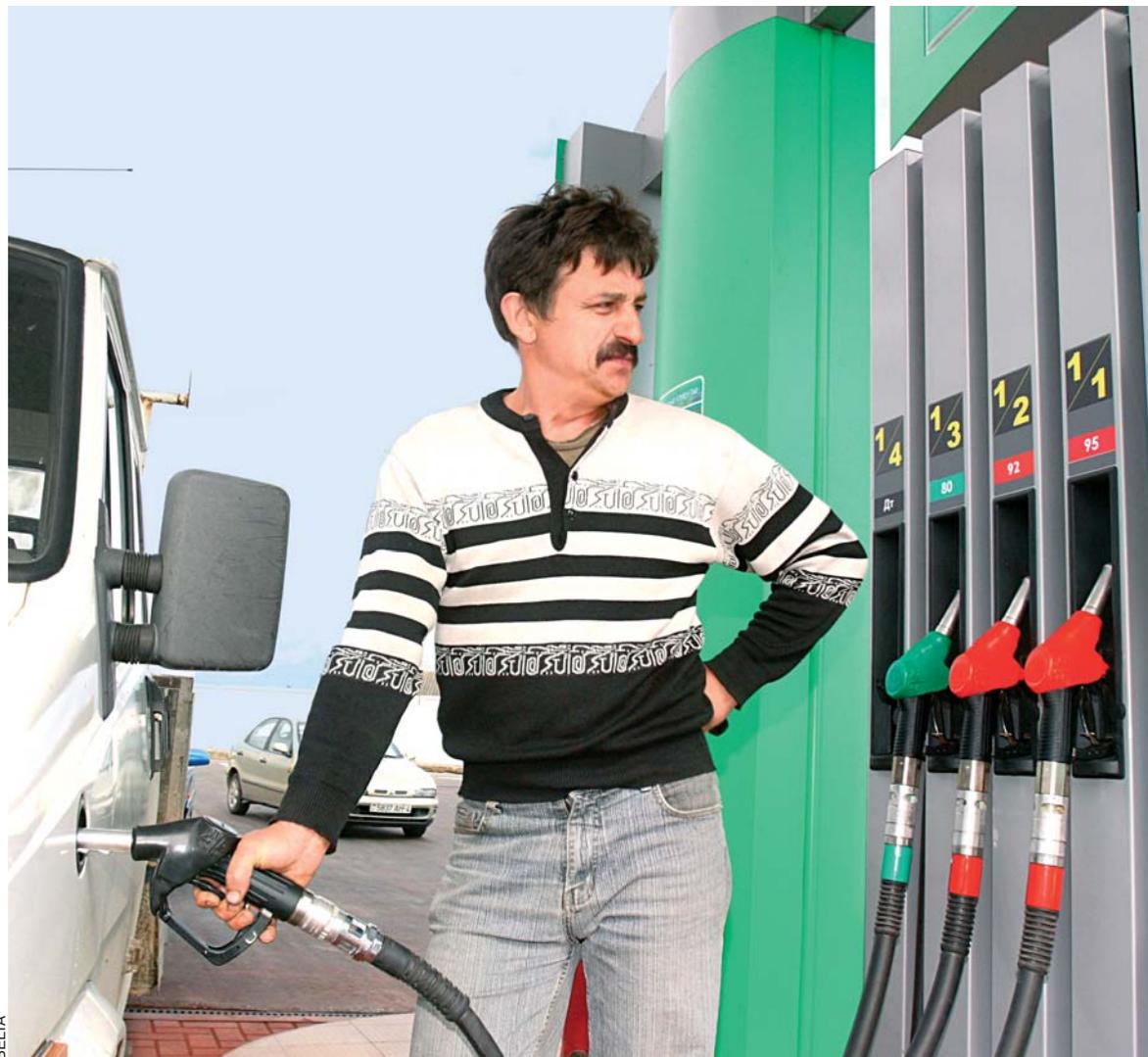
made the same mistake initially.

Vasily Kozodoy, Director of Belorusneft-Brestoblnfteprodukt, tells me how the automated station came to appear in Bereza, "A container fuelling station was situated here and needed reconstruction, so we decided to construct an automated fuelling station on the site."

It is the first of its kind in the Brest Region and has brought double savings, needing no money spent on construction or maintenance. Some might worry that vandals could break something but there is a full surveillance system to deter such actions.

Mr. Kozodoy explains, "The fuelling process is controlled by the nearest fuelling station via the surveillance system, with customers able to speak to employees there via the intercom. Moreover, everything is insured."

A similar station is to open in the Baranovichi District within a few months, with others planned for the Kamenets and Malorita districts.



First fuelling station in Brest Region needing no personnel at all

Brest residents aren't reinventing the wheel, as similar services are common across Europe and Russia, built along roads where traffic is sparse or where space is restricted (a small urban corner is all that's needed for the installation of the latest fuelling station). The Brest Region is to gain several, replacing the old, out of date truck fuelling stations. One

in the Gomel Region even uses solar power to generate its own electricity.

Fuelling stations are part of roadside services in Belarus, offering a range of other facilities: car repair and wash, alongside shops and cafes. Recently, the country's first dispenser panel selling reagents to clean diesel engine exhausts opened

at a fuelling station in Fedkovichi, near Brest — near the toll booth along the Brest-Moscow international motorway. Soon, a fuelling station with a fast food hall is to appear in Brest, while a café offering national cuisine is to be built by Belorusneft-Brestoblnfteprodukt, in the Kamenets District, near the Peschatka border crossing point.

Raiffeisen Bank has definitely found its place



Raiffeisen Bank arrived in Belarus a decade ago and is satisfied with its work here

By Yekaterina Anikeeva

Priorbank's major shareholder — Raiffeisen Bank International AG — highly praises measures undertaken by Belarusian Government to stabilise and stimulate economy

According to Sergei Kostyuchenko, the Chairman of Priorbank's Board of Directors, Raiffeisen Bank recognises Belarus' efforts to stimulate its economy while maintaining employment. Working in various countries worldwide, it can comment with authority. Mr. Kostyuchenko notes that, from

the beginning of the crisis, in 2008, to its end, Belarus took measures to counteract its problems. "Of course, levels of devaluation and inflation were of concern but we monitored the situation closely. Two or three times, Raiffeisen Bank analysed events, assessing their development in each quarter. Each time, we agreed that nothing terrible had occurred," he emphasises.

Mr. Kostyuchenko tells us that Raiffeisen Bank arrived in Belarus a decade ago, as a conscious investor, taking definite steps to help develop society and private business. He is certain that this has reaped results and asserts that

Raiffeisen Bank will never leave Belarus. "The country has potential, so we need to be here; the issue of leaving isn't even discussed," he adds.

Speaking of enhancing Priorbank's finances in 2012, Mr. Kostyuchenko notes, "We're fully provided with financing as part of the budget." In 2011, Priorbank attracted resources from Raiffeisen Bank and international financial organisations to finance credit projects by large state enterprises, as well as small and medium-sized businesses. Last year, \$645m of foreign resources was attracted into the Belarusian economy from various sources.

Belarusian products to go on show at Jakarta international exhibition

By Tatiana Leitovskaya

Belarus and Indonesia agree to expand co-operation in various areas of bilateral relations

The agreement was reached during a visit by a Belarusian delegation to Indonesia, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Aleinik. They met the heads of the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Trade, the Min-

istry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Ministry of Research and Technology of Indonesia, alongside the heads of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Security and Defence of the Indonesian Parliament and heads of major Indonesian companies. Meanwhile, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Indonesian Farmers' Association held negotiations on ways to intensify co-operation

between Belarusian and Indonesian businesses.

Following the talks, the parties agreed to further develop bilateral co-operation and defined areas of mutual interest in trade, economics, and scientific and technical co-operation. They also discussed the organisation of a Belarusian exposition at the International Heavy Duty Vehicle and Equipment Fair, which is scheduled for late March in Jakarta.

Solving double task

Belarusian-Chinese Industrial Park to secure inflow of foreign investment into Belarus, believes Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Guryanov

On meeting journalists, Mr. Guryanov stressed that the project should not be viewed as solely Belarusian-Chinese, as it aims to attract global companies to set up modern export-oriented facilities.

Evidently, China is one of the most important trading and investment partners



Silhouettes of the park

for Belarus. "We've always stressed that Belarus could become a platform for China

to expand its presence in the Customs Union and within the European market," Mr. Guryanov notes.

In this respect, the launch of the Belarusian-Chinese Industrial Park meets two challenges: raising bilateral trade; and attracting foreign investments into new export-oriented enterprises in Belarus, giving access to the Customs Union market. As Mr. Guryanov stresses, the project meets the interests of Chinese companies in the European region.