

## Science-intensive technology proves in demand

By Olga Biserova

### Gomel's State Technical University develops resource-saving technology to produce ceramic items

Ceramic ware is now being manufactured using waste from chinaware production. The range spans electrotechnical and refractory ceramics to coarse-porous ceramic filters and diamond abrasive elements. The method can even be used to make optical glass and glass-ceramic and ceramic foam materials.

The highest quality is ensured while using fewer resources and solving problems of waste recycling, fulfilling the criteria of the 2011-2015 State Innovation Development Programme of Belarus. This aims to modernise the national economy, involving structural reorganisation and bringing enhanced competitiveness of Belarusian goods at home and abroad. The programme's major tasks are to create competitive, innovative, high-tech, science-intensive manufactures and to promote resource- and energy-saving technologies.

## Indonesia keen on Belarusian innovations

**The country is ready to expand sci-tech co-operation with Belarus, notes the Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Anatoly Rusetsky**

A Belarusian scientific delegation has visited the country to discuss opportunities for partnership between the National Academy of Sciences and Indonesian scientific institutions. Both sides are eager to liaise across several scientific spheres, with Indonesian specialists especially keen on Belarusian medical and biotechnology innovations. Scientists from both states are planning joint projects and look set to sign documents on co-operation.

In recent times, the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus has been extending its supply of goods and services to other countries, while expanding the geography of its exports. This year, the NAS plans to increase its exports by 30-40 percent (compared to 2011) — with revenues of about \$40m.

# Operating powerful vehicle with two fingers

Foresters study how to cut timber without axes or electric saws



Minsk's Amkodor produces multi-operational tree harvesting machines

By Vasily Bestuzhev

Traditionally, timber preparation has always been dangerous, since electric saws are used, requiring human operation. Even now, large volumes of timber are prepared this way. However,

recent growing demand for timber internationally has inspired newly mechanised methods.

"Domestic machine builders are supporting the forestry industry," explains the Chief Engineer of Mogilev's Forestry, Mikhail Grig-

orovich. "Minsk's Amkodor has launched production of multi-purpose timber machinery — similar to imported harvesters and forwarders. The machine cuts trees, then loads them onto transport vehicles, before sorting them at an intermediate storage site.

The process is automated, with a human operator able to sit safely in a cabin, operating a panel board."

Alexander Kozlov, who operates the multi-purpose Amkodor-2551 harvester, takes me to a wood cutting area, near the village of

Nikolaevka. The manipulator grasps a tree near its roots, in order to cut and pull it down. Then, its branches are sawn off and the trunk is sliced into pieces, before being piled. It even gathers the remaining branches from the ground, placing them in a neat pile. The young driver operates the vehicle with two fingers, using a joystick. His cabin has no steering wheel or levers. He tells me, "This vehicle is powerful, obedient and easily operated, while having reliable controls."

Planning to purchase more highly efficient multi-purpose machines, the heads of forestries are worried that 'drivers' can only be trained in the capital. At present, only four men can operate Amkodor's harvester and forwarder; the vehicles are used two shifts a day, but 24 hour operation would be possible were there enough 'drivers'.

Meanwhile, the Mogilev Forestry is successfully fulfilling its targets. Last year, it even surpassed some of its planned figures and enjoyed profitability of almost 40 percent (over double that forecast). This has placed the enterprise among the most profitable in the Mogilev Region and among the top ten nationwide.

## Latest spring motifs from fashion designers and tailors

By Olga Olkhovskaya

**Over 130 textile enterprises from Belarus, Russia, Poland, Latvia, the Czech Republic and Romania gather for 30th International BelTexlegprom. Spring-2012 Trade Fair**

New collections of clothes and footwear, as well as favourite domestic brands, held their heads high against those of foreign manufacturers. Orsha Linen Mill presented its new 'home' collection using upholstery weight linens in various colours. Meanwhile, its new 'northern silk' fabric, using unique 'enzymic' processing, drew great attention, being as soft and comfortable as a blanket to the touch.

Footwear from natural felt enjoyed great popularity among visitors to the Lida Footwear Factory stand, which presented its warm boots for next autumn-win-



30th International BelTexlegprom. Spring Trade Fair in Minsk

ter, as well as linen espadrille sandals for adults and children.

Komintern JSC presented its traditional wear, including smart men's business suits in natural fabrics and stylish knitwear, designed for 'stretch

and comfort'. This allows easy movement while giving a good fit, explains Irina Labaznikova, Komintern's artist and designer, and is suitable for all ages.

Belfa's JSC superb artificial fur coats and jackets were

of such high quality that it's quite impossible to distinguish them from natural fur — even on close inspection. Their designs are available in various natural fur colours: the result of the latest technologies.

## Field changing its face

By Yevgenia Levitskaya

**Vitebsk Region still snow covered while ploughs in operation on farms in southern Minsk Region, and in Brest, Gomel and Grodno regions**

The structure of agriculture is to change this year, with the planting of sunflowers rising to 25,000 hectares (from 1,500) and soya planting rising five-fold. The crops are to be primarily grown in the Gomel and Brest regions, to ensure fodder for cattle and promote milk yields by raising the weight of the animals.

Last year, the country imported 780,000 tonnes of sunflower and soya, worth \$280m. "Naturally, it makes more sense to spend this money on developing our own farming, rather than importing," notes Vasily Pavlovsky, Belarus' Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food.