

Road train boldly takes the lead

Unusual MAZ Perestroika-2000 road train, near major gatekeeper's office at Minsk Automobile Works, wins Grand Prix at International Paris Motor Show

By Vladimir Yakovlev

MAZ is yet again proving its recipe for success, having worked with the Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus to create a 47m long multi-link road train. It is able to transport 56 tonnes of cargo in its three cargo modules, boasting 259 cubic metres of volume. MAZ's Deputy General Director for Technical Development, Dmitry Korotkevich, is confident, "Our future is in such vehicles."

As a journalist, it was my good fortune to be among the first to see the innovation. Accordingly, I took the opportunity to quiz one of its developers, the Director of the Republican Computer Centre of Mechanical Engineering at the NAS' Joint Institute of Mechanical Engineering, Sergey Kharitonchik.

"The advantages are evident," explains Mr. Kharitonchik. "We need three times fewer drivers and use much less fuel per cargo unit, bringing considerable benefits over long-distances. Best of all, it has wide applica-

tion." He leads me to the nearest trailer and points to the 'brain' of the vehicle. Depending on the driver's command, each link can work together or independently. Soon, a single electronic control centre will be installed, boasting a monitor and

multi-media functions.

Other top level technology includes each road train having its own diesel engine, power-steering and a rotating, controllable axle. According to test driver Valery Atroshenko, this enables the three-link vehicle to easily

manoeuvre through the narrow corridors of the factory, let alone contemporary highways. Interestingly, the electronics and software, as well as the engines and other components, are made in Belarus.

"We've been long working on this idea but its embodiment in metal was possible only after Alexander Borovsky became the Head of MAZ," explains academician Mikhail V y s -

otsky — General Designer, Hero of Belarus and designer of the Perestroika-2002. "The new road train uses the achievements of 12 academic scientific research institutes — in everything from metallurgy to nano-technologies. We have a totally new looking Belarusian road train, whose design will find application in tractors and combine building."

The Government is now organising wider tests of the new road train, with changes to legislation forthcoming, to allow 47m long vehicles to be used on the country's roads.



47m long multi-link road train produced at MAZ

Environmental standards receive great extent of consideration

UNDP ready to assist Belarus in transition to 'green economy'

By Olga Belova

Speaking at the scientific-practical conference *Sustainable Development of Belarus on the Principles of 'Green Economy'*, the UN Resident Co-ordinator/UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Belarus, Antonius Broek, noted that, for several years, the UNDP has been successfully liaising with the Belarusian Government to promote eco-projects.

Projects to rehabilitate Belarusian peat lands and preserve biodiversity have been implemented in partnership with the Global Environment Facility. With assistance from the EU, energy efficient projects have been carried out, including improved waste management. International experts have also

helped Belarusian specialists in preparing a national report for the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development: *Rio +20*. "All these projects will help Belarus to move to a 'green economy', reducing production costs and developing new types of import-substitution goods," Mr. Broek says.

The First Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Vitaly Kulik, stresses that Belarus is interested in ecological

production. The country has already taken steps in this direction, allowing GDP to grow without raising environmental pollution. Belarusian companies are now working with innovative technologies to upgrade facilities and develop new products, while reducing their impact on the environment.

"Money is being invested in developing water and air purification systems, while tax concessions are a good stimulus to firms reducing harmful emissions. This promotes a more eco-oriented economy," emphasises Mr. Kulik. The Deputy Minister notes that a working group under the Ministry of the Environment has been created to promote the re-equipment of Belarusian production to meet environmental standards. He adds, "We hope that countries with advanced 'green' technologies will share their experience

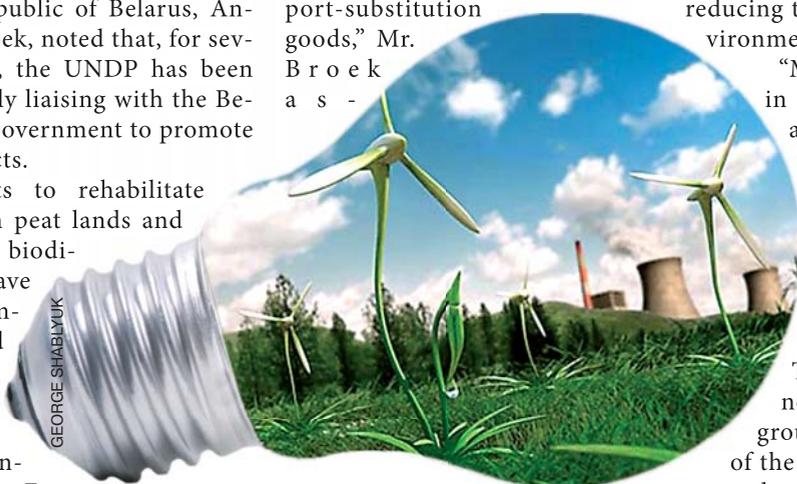
Acquaintance with economy of Belarus

The Hamburg Chamber of Commerce has hosted Belarusian Economy Day promoting the region's business possibilities and prospects for co-operation. About 30 German companies took part from the trade, banking, consulting, transport-logistic and industrial spheres, all keen to develop co-operation with Belarus.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Germany, H.E. Mr. Andrei Giro, told the German audience about trends in the national economy, the advantages of Belarus in terms of business and investment development and the liberalisation processes, alongside the country's privatisation programme.

The Head of the Gomel-Raton Free Economic Zone, Antonina Yezhova, spoke of the advantages of FEZ business areas in Belarus and the German audience was able to find out more about specific investment projects.

The event was organised by the Embassy of Belarus in Germany, the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, the Association for Co-operation with Central and Eastern European Countries, as well as the Honorary Consul of Belarus in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein Rene M. Schroder.



GEORGE SHABLYUK



Antonius Broek delivers speech with Belarus."

Belarus is also developing partnerships with international organisations in the field of nature conservation, including the Global Environment Facility; a wind-power engineering project is being prepared. Mr. Kulik explains, "We'll continue developing projects with international technical assistance."