

Birth of a whole new generation

For a long time, Minsk engine builders have harboured ambitious plans to raise horsepower from 20 to 1,000, aiming to satisfy all the needs of the engineering sector. At present, Minsk Motor Plant produces engines of 50 to 450HP but recently took a large step forward, creating a three-cylinder diesel engine, now being prepared for mass production.

By Vladimir Kharitonov

Despite being small, the engine is a major domestic breakthrough, being the first in a new generation of small-displacement engines. The central model boasts 36HP, with displacement of 1.6 litres. However, by the end of the year, it should be joined by two, three and four-cylinder engines (20 to 90HP).

Notably, the development has been brought to life in a very short period of time. About a year ago, Minsk Tractor Works complained to the Ministry of Industry that the range of engines produced domestically was inadequate for its mini-tractors, which have recently become very popular with small farms.

Annoyingly, the domestic tractor producer was obliged to import expensive Lamborghini engines. Minsk Motor Plant then received

an order to mass produce a new generation of engines. They not only met their deadline but set a personal record, taking just one year from design to implementation of a prototype. In fact, the engine's main characteristics can rival those of Western models, while being a little cheaper.

In future, the new 'fiery hearts' will be installed not only in tractors, but in other small machines produced in Belarus. Potential customers include Gomselmash Production Association, Minsk Automobile Works, Amkodor (road construction and municipal equipment) and other enterprises producing mini-power units and diesel generator sets.

Minsk Motor Plant has recently presented its other new developments, meeting EURO-4, EURO-5 and Tier 3B environmental standards. Over the last year,

it has launched mass production of engines meeting EURO-4 environmental standards and is almost ready to launch EURO-5. Its range of engines includes those with 600 horsepower — being tested with MAZ, BELAZ and Gomselmash machinery. New engines have also been created for Minsk Tractor Works, with 300HP (and meeting Stage 3B international standards). According to the Director General of the Minsk Motor Plant, Nikolay Lobach, mass-production of EURO-5 engines is around the corner. Annual production has already reached over 100,000 units, all meeting European standards.

"Until now, on reaching these volumes, most European manufacturers have paid us little attention, as we seemed insignificant; now, they're treating Minsk Motor Plant as an equal," emphasises Mr. Lobach.



At a Minsk Motor Plant department

Partners gradually accelerate integration

Eurasian Economic Commission believes Belarus and Kazakhstan will join World Trade Organisation in near future

Tatiana Valovaya, the Minister for the Main Areas of Integration and Macroeconomics of the EEC has told a press-conference that the Customs Union of Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan is following the same legislation as Russia in its bid to join the WTO. "If, in the process of joining the WTO, Belarus and Kazakhstan are given additional terms to meet,

this will be a sign that no economic basis is evident; rather, they will be of a different character," she asserts. "However, we are looking positively at the process of Belarus and Kazakhstan joining the WTO."

Ms. Valovaya believes that Russia's membership of the WTO, which should be formally completed in early August, will not hinder Eurasian integration. On the contrary, she considers that the acceleration of integration with its partners has allowed Russia to join the WTO more rapidly.

Exports become priority

By Valery Sidorov

Gomel's 8 Marta JSC sets up trading house in Kazakhstan



At 8 Marta JSC

The joint Belarusian-Kazakh trade enterprise is located in Uralsk. "It is an important foundation from which we'll be moving into this capacious market (mostly dominated

by Asian manufacturers)," notes Director Vasily Shitikov. Marketing strategies will reflect demand, with even small orders catered to. "There may be large one-off orders, small wholesale purchases, especially prepared batches or semi-finished goods. Certainly, our commodities will enjoy demand, as proven by much market research," believes Mr. Shitikov.

The development of a commodity distribution network abroad is a priority for the enterprise. In 2011, Megam trade house began operating in Moscow while, this March, Promin trade house opened in Kiev. Over the last two years, exports have accounted for around 40 percent of sales (more than doubling).

Economic ideas aren't born without meetings

Molodechno hosts First Belarusian-Lithuanian Regional Cooperation Forum



Forum in Molodechno was representative

By Mikhail Belsky

The forum coincided with the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Belarus and Lithuania, with 54 co-operative agreements signed between the regions and cities of our two states.

According to experts, direct collaboration between the regions accounts for up to 30 percent of turnover growth between Belarus and Lithuania annually,

creating the foundation for the Belarusian-Lithuanian forum.

Lithuania is traditionally Belarus' most important economic partner, with trade-economic relations developing sustainably and positively. According to Andrey Krutalevich, the First Secretary of the Belarusian Embassy to Lithuania, if these trends continue, total turnover in goods and services between Belarus and Lithuania may reach \$2bn this year.

Lithuania and the Minsk Region are long connected. In 2011, foreign trade turnover totalled \$124m — up 40 percent on last year. According to Alexander Yermak, Deputy Chairman of the Minsk Regional Executive Committee, Lithuania is ranked second after Russia for the number of established enterprises in the Minsk Region involving foreign capital.

Lithuanian investments have allowed two transport and logistics centres to be constructed, alongside a seafood processing plant and a BMW automobile centre — not to mention an ice cream factory. Moreover, a forest harvesting and wood chip manufacturing enterprise is being modernised and a rapeseed processing plant is successfully operating. Soon, a chain of small universal stores will appear across the region, placed within suburbs for easy access.

The organisers of the forum are confident that the number of projects will rise considerably following the event. In total, the forum in Molodechno brought together over 200 participants, 14 Lithuanian delegations.