



At Ostrovets construction site, in Grodno Region, works are in full swing at initial stage of building first Belarusian power plant

# Bright working contours are well-defined

Today, Ostrovets is a town of contrasts, with birds singing in its cosy and well-cared-for centre and mothers unhurriedly walking with prams in the public garden, among wonderful sculptures. This calm and well-regulated life contrasts utterly with that of the suburbs, where a roar of activity has replaced empty wasteland. Housing for builders and personnel of the nuclear power station is being constructed at full speed.

By Piotr Iosifov

Three houses are already occupied, with the frame of the fourth now complete. There isn't a single free land lot in micro-district #1, where almost 5,000 people will reside, as each square metre is spoken for to lay infrastructure. A sewage system, alongside water and gas pipes, is now being laid to the neighbouring micro-district, while a wide, illuminated asphalt avenue is ready for

use. A fuelling station has also opened nearby.

The outline of the future nuclear power station is yet to be seen, so I set off to the first 'nuclear' site: the 'pioneer base'. It is located just a few kilometres from Ostrovets, housing production facilities built by Grodnopromstroy JSC.

The nuclear power station site is situated within 20km of the town. A large brick building is already apparent on the horizon: the first of the construction

base sites, housing facilities making concrete, steel and other materials. There's also an administrative building. Despite rain, work never stops. Cranes rotate, heavy trucks carry their loads and excavators' buckets sink into the ground.

The Deputy Chief Engineer of the Directorate of Nuclear Power Plant Construction, Vladimir Gorin, tells me, "Several weeks ago, we began to dig the foundations, which will be as deep as a five storey



New residential district in Ostrovets takes shape

building. We'll have to take out 1.5m cubic metres of soil. We've only completed a tenth of the works, but we're on schedule; there's no rush. We have over 300 workers, rising to 1,000 by the end of the year. Over 8,000 people will be involved in building the nuclear station."

No one doubts that the nuclear power station will be built on time. However, questions remain. Will the town cope with its population rising from 8,000 to

33,000? Investors are ready to fund the building of shops and hotels but whose funds will pay for contemporary social infrastructure in the town.

**Semen SHAPIRO, the Chairman of the Grodno Regional Executive Committee:**

*Ostrovets' investment attractiveness matches that of a regional centre. This is especially noticeable at auctions for land lots. Recently, one hectare of land (where the trade centre is*

*to be located) sold at almost the same price as a similar site for a supermarket in Grodno. Of course, the town will develop. Alongside housing, four schools and 13 kindergartens are to be built in the new micro-districts. The first will open next year. We'll construct enough medical, cultural, sporting and other facilities. Works are on schedule for the construction of the nuclear power station and for creating everything needed for comfortable living.*

# Museum diorama manages to fully reflect courage, great tragedy and true heroism

By Karina Kurskaya

**First battle diorama of defence of Minsk opens at Belarusian State Museum of Great Patriotic War History**

The Defence of Minsk on June 25th-28th 1941 diorama, created by the Moscow Studio of Military Artists, shows one of the most dramatic pages in the defence of Minsk: fighting near the town of Zaslavl. Action takes place on the earth and in the sky, with Soviet soldiers accurately portrayed as having a very limited number of tanks and artillery and little am-



Moment of Minsk's defence, shown on museum's battle diorama

munition, yet destroying enemy armoured vehicles with Molotov cocktails.

Meanwhile, pilots from the 207th bomber aviation regiment turn themselves

into fire rams. In the foreground, refugees look out directly from the canvas.

The accompanying soundtrack brings the scene to life, with the roar of planes and tank engines, the sound of exploding shells and heroes speaking.

The museum's Director, Sergey Azaronok, believes that it manages to fully reflect the tragedy and heroism of the Soviet people in defending the city. He tells us, "It absolutely corresponds to the time, having been discussed not only by the artistic council (which met here) but with veterans, whose opinions are vital."

At the opening of the exhibition, the State Sec-

retary of the Union State of Belarus and Russia, Grigory Rapota, praised the diorama and the work of the museum in general. He noted, "The exhibition leaves strong impressions and the museum does well in achieving its educational role. The diorama fully reflects events from that difficult time, describing many interesting episodes."

The diorama has been commissioned for the new museum building (opening in 2014) with 70 other smaller installations also planned. The aim is to give visitors a feeling of being immersed back in time.