

Business interests meet in Lida

How one district manages to attract almost a third of all foreign investments into the Grodno Region

By Sergey Yevmenov

This year, nine districts in the Grodno Region, representing over 100 enterprises, took part in the seventh *Lida-Region* fair, which coincided with the International Economic Forum. Government bodies, businesses, business associations and various diplomatic missions took part.

The Lida District enjoys over \$200m of investments annually, revolving around its powerful industrial complex, covering ten industry sectors. In recent years, it has attracted more than \$60m of foreign investments (29 percent of all those in the Grodno Region), with last year proving particularly successful.

In all, 39 organisations jointly founded with foreign capital operate there, including funding from Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Austria, Germany, Poland, USA, Denmark and Finland. Their profile ranges from ice cream to sophisticated equipment and optical instruments. Currently, negotiations are underway with Lithuanian investors to set up a plant to process recycled materials and to create a joint enterprise for animal waste



At opening of 7th *Lida-Region* fair

utilisation. There are a number of suggestions for modern building materials production and house-building. Meanwhile, a nearby site

is being discussed for locating a flax processing mill, making linen goods. Taking into account the increasing number of vehicles on our roads, the establishment of modern car servicing for imported cars and trucks is also a promising sphere.

During a presentation on the district, Alexander Ostrovsky, Chairman of the Lida District Executive Committee, noted that capital investments in the creation of roadside services, cultural and tourist centres, and private hotels appear promising. There is great potential for investment in the sphere of tourism: in particular, the development of farm tourism and sports. Both are open to investors.

Berezovka and Glassworks Ne-

man OJSC are keen to attract investors, explains Mr. Ostrovsky. "Creating a better environment for investors is one of the main tasks of the district's administration. We aim for open and systematic dialogue with all interested parties."

Other districts participating in the *Lida-Region* fair also presented interesting investment projects: the Novogrudok District's wind farm; the Dyatlovo District's turkey breeding complex; and a transport and logistics centre in Voronovo.

Expert opinion

Anatoly MARKEVICH, Chairman of the Novogrudok District Executive Committee:

The Novogrudok District presented its wind power project at the 'Lida-Region' fair, as our region is working hard to develop alternative energy. This autumn, our district centre plans to sign an agreement to join the 'Covenant of Mayors' — a major European movement striving to develop sustainable energy locally. About 4,000 cities are members, committing to a 20 percent fall in carbon emissions and energy consumption and a 20 percent rise in the share of renewable energy sources. Novogrudok will be the second city in Belarus to join. Naturally, building a wind farm is a huge investment in the region's economy.



Belkommunmash brand name fits in well in Moldovan capital

By Andrey Gusinsky

Belarus and Moldova have begun joint production of trolley buses, using Minsk components

The first five vehicle sets (trolley bus frames with windows and doors) have already been delivered to Chisinau from Minsk, with other components being assembled and installed on site.

In particular, engines and other units are to be installed in situ, with the interiors also completed.

Assembly is split between Minsk and Chisinau but the trolley buses will be manufactured under the Belarusian brand, in compliance with Belkommunmash technology and its guarantee of maintenance.

The completed buses are to

run in Chisinau and across other Moldovan cities; last year, Chisinau purchased 102 trolley buses from Belkommunmash, with another 150 required to replace outdated stock (being inefficient and lacking in comfort). Tiraspol (Transnistrian Region) and Beltsy (northern capital of Moldova) are to gain trolley buses while others are to be exported into the European Union.

Barbaris plays for Spartak

By Yevgeny Nezhnov

Gomel Confectionary Factory fights for right to brand name caramel

Gomel's Spartak Factory has won the exclusive right to use the name Barbaris for its caramels, having asked the Supreme Court to judge the matter. The brand name was long used by various Soviet manufacturers but the recipe used by Spartak remained un-

changed, having been registered in 1939, 1970 and 1986. Nevertheless, in April 2010, Barbaris was registered to the Ukrainian company Roshen.

The Appeal Board under the Patent Office refused to allow the Gomel firm to reclaim the name, inspiring the appeal to the Supreme Court. The decision was made in our favour following a survey which showed that the name is known

to almost 89 percent of Belarusian residents, with 20 percent naming Spartak as the original producer of Barbaris; only 5 percent of respondents believed Roshen to own the rights to the name.

The judicial board concluded that the similarity of the names Barbaris and Roshen Barbaris could mislead consumers, so the trademark has been legally protected and awarded to Spartak.

Tested for strength

Grodnopromstroy builders redirect swift waters of Nieman River



New hydro-power station on the River Nieman

By Darya Inina

June 23rd has entered the annals as a unique day for Belarusian engineers. They have dammed a 40m width of the River Nieman, redirecting water through the hydro-power station, using over 3,000 cubic metres of gravel and stone to stem the strong current. The water now turns turbines and passes through chamber gates, with the help of the latest

equipment, meticulously inspected for strength and water-tightness.

"Currently, the hydro-power plant is flooded, with generators under water, as is normal," explains the Deputy Chief Engineer of Grodnopromstroy OJSC, Yury Soloviev. "The next stage of construction will be to create an earth mound near the plant and to gradually fill a 40km long reservoir (up to 2km in width). This will take just over a month."