

Electric transport is promising

2013 to see production of passenger rail and urban electric transport

By Ivan ntonov

Currently, Minsk Regional Executive Committee is preparing an investment agreement on Belarusian-Swiss production of passenger rail and urban electric transport, with a statutory fund being formed. Construction of the enterprise will begin by the end of 2012 and, next year, the first launch of passenger electric transport is expected.

The Swiss company of Stadler Rail AG is investing in the construction of the enterprise. "According to preliminary data, the amount of investment is about 10m Euros. Later, loans from foreign banks will be attracted," explains the Chairman of the Economic Committee of Minsk Regional Executive Committee, Alexander Turchin.

On the Belarusian side, Holding Management Company

Belkommunmash JSC is providing four production buildings as its non-cash contribution to the statutory fund.

The project follows the Presidential Decree of July 20th, 2012: #322 'On the Organisation of Production of Passenger Rail and Urban Electric Transport'; it is to run from 2012 to 2016, being implemented through a phased plan of design, exploration, construction and operation. Stadler Rail AG is acquiring a 60 percent share in the statutory fund while acting as a customer for the plant and providing its engineering and transport infrastructure.

Belarusian-Swiss joint venture Electric Transport will create 200 jobs and is to occupy 18.9 hectares in Fanipol (Dzerzhinsky District) — allocated without auction. It will manufacture goods for the domestic market and for export to the CIS.



New electric train popular with passengers

For all types of payments

September 27th sees National Bank of Belarus introducing silver and copper-nickel commemorative coins: '1812 War: 200th Anniversary'

The silver commemorative coin, with a face value of Br10, weighs 16.81g, and is 37mm in diameter, while being made from 925 alloy silver. The copper-nickel coin has a face value of Br1, weighs 20g and is also 37mm in diameter. For both, the rim is raised on both sides and is corrugated.

The obverse of each depicts a relief image of the State Emblem of the Republic of Belarus in the centre of a circle, surrounded by geometrical ornamentation and an inscription above, which reads 'РЭСПУБЛІКА БЕЛАРУСЬ' (Republic of Belarus). Below, you can read '10 РУБЛЁЎ' (Ten Roubles on the silver coin) or '1 РУБЕЛЬ' (One Rouble on the copper-nickel coin). The year of minting (2012) is placed in the centre below and the alloy is on the left on the silver coin.

The reverse has a relief image in the form of a cross showing a map on which Belarusian battlefields are marked. A banner covers the upper part of the map, at its brow, while a cannon, balls, sabre and broadsword are shown at the bottom. The inscription above reads 'ВАЙНА 1812 ГОДА' (The War of 1812); below is written, on a heraldic ribbon, '200 ГАДОЎ' (200th Anniversary).

They are legal tender according to their face value in the Republic of Belarus, for all payments without restriction.

Unique cars are on the way

By Lilia Krapko

Belarusian Automobile Works develops dump truck with capacity of 450 tonnes, announces Industry Minister Dmitry Katerinich on Mechanics' Day

The design for the new dump truck should be ready by the end of this year, allowing a prototype to be built in 2013, notes Mr. Katerinich. BelAZ has also made a unique, remotely operated tipper-robot which recently received an award at an international exhibition in Yekaterinburg. Alongside other Belarusian companies, such as MAZ, the enterprise is focusing on innovative technologies, launching

high-tech competitive products: new models of buses, cars and cranes are all being created.

Minsk Tractor Works is now testing its latest high power tractor with electromechanical transmission. Mr. Katerinich stresses, "To date, no other world producer has anything similar." He notes that the nation's mechanical engineering goals for 2012 are being met, allowing a sufficient supply of agricultural machinery for the domestic market, and allowing 60 percent of goods to be exported. In addition, the President's task of modernising machine-building in Belarus is being fulfilled. "I hope we can handle this task,

save our position and expand," notes the minister.

Congratulating the mechanical engineers, the Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, Andrey Tur, noted that their work is vital to the nation's economy. "Machine-building is at the core of our economy, relying not only on giants but on small enterprises; co-operative ties are helping create these amazing pieces of machinery," Mr. Tur asserted. He is confident that our mechanical engineers are meeting the challenges set by the head of state to upgrade enterprises. "Mechanical engineering deals with more than just cars; you have the intellectual potential to design any new machinery, creating the foundations not only of the economy but of society."



BelAZ designs new dump truck with capacity of 360 tonnes

Operator hopes to receive banking powers

By Andrey Andreev

Velcom keen to use credit histories in addition to other authorities of commercial banks

At present, Velcom Company is negotiating with the National Bank of Belarus to gain some of the authority due to commercial banks. It aims to simplify its terms of purchase of handsets by instalment, reducing the number of 'bad loans' by receiving access to clients' credit history. This will ease its path to reclaiming debts from non-payers and will allow the formation of a single database of buyers under loan conditions.

Each month, Velcom JV sells 22,000 mobile devices, with two thirds sold via instalments. At present, the total sum of credit resources given to subscribers amounts to Br137bn. The company plans to further develop this area but has no plans to create a commercial bank in Belarus — despite other international examples (such as Austrian A1 mobile operator).

Velcom was established in July 1998 as a joint Belarusian-Cypriot company: Mobile Digital Communications. On August 22nd, 2007, it changed its name to Mobile Digital Communications, becoming a foreign private unitary enterprise after Cyprus' SB Telecom Ltd. acquired the state share in Velcom. In October 2007, Telekom Austria Group reached an agreement to purchase 70 percent of SB Telecom Ltd. — for about 730m Euros. Mobilkom Austria (a subdivision of Telecom Austria) acted as the buyer. On May 15th, 2008, the operator changed its name to Velcom JV and, in October 2010, Telekom Austria Group purchased the remaining 30 percent of the Belarusian mobile operator.

Open structures are essential

Tanning footwear holding to be created in Belarus

"The holding will be a good idea, taking into account Russia's accession to the WTO and the creation of new working conditions. Consolidation of structures does not bring monopolies; rather, it reduces costs for the entire process chain. Tanning enterprises can focus on the specific needs of footwear companies, supplying them at cost price," notes Lyudmila Tyaglova, Deputy Chair of Bellegprom Concern.

She tells us that the holding will include such enterprises as the tannery in Gatovo (Minsk Region), as well as Gomeltrud, Belwest and Footwear Holding Ray. "All are successful, operating at a profit. The aim of creating a holding is to raise efficiency," she stresses, adding that the structure will be open to other enterprises.