

Diverse variety of attractive offers made

14th International Investment Forum in Grodno sees over 40 projects offered to potential investors

By Nikolay Efimov

The event is being held within the framework of the 14th Republican Universal Fair Euroregion Neman-2012. Held for the fourth time, it aims to enhance co-operation between Grodno enterprises and foreign countries, raising export sales and the investment potential of the city, while promoting the implementation of investment projects — concluding agreements and creating joint ventures.

According to the Chairman of the Grodno City Executive Committee, Boris Kozelkov, this year, about 200 guests from 20 countries

will take part in the forum, as well as representatives of Neman business circles. The economic event in Grodno will be attended by ministries and departments and by the diplomatic corps in Belarus (from Armenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kazakhstan, China, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia and elsewhere). Businessmen and officials will arrive from eight twin cities and cities which enjoy friendly relations, as well as businessmen from Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Finland and France.

This year, the forum provides online presentations of investment sites and projects



At 14th Republican Universal Fair Euroregion Neman-2012

around Grodno, including those at the free economic zone of Grodnoinvest and the tourist-recreational park of the Avgustovsky Canal. According to Boris Kozelkov, nine of over 40 investment proposals for the regional centre will be presented in industrial sphere. These in-

clude reconstruction of air separators for methanol plant Grodno Azot JSC, production of cardan shafts for Belcard, reconstruction of cheese production at Milky World and construction of a tannery in Grodno. Retail and tourism facilities are also planned, such as the con-

struction of a river station on the Neman and a river port reconstruction. Potential investors are sought to develop the tourist and recreational park of the Avgustovsky Canal, part of which is located in the Grodno.

The last three forums resulted in the signing of six

agreements on economic, trade and cross-border co-operation, business development and the attraction of foreign investments into the regional centre. Three companies with foreign capital are already registered in the free economic zone of Grodnoinvest.

High quality contributes to successful promotion

Belkommunmash new trolley-buses appear on streets of Transnistria's two largest cities



New Belarusian trolley-buses recommended themselves at home and abroad

Belkommunmash's twelve new trolley-buses are running on the streets of the two largest cities in Transnistria — the 220th anniversary of Tiraspol and Bendery. Eight will service routes in Tiraspol, with the remainder driving between Tiraspol and Bendery.

Yevgeny Shevchuk, President of Transnistria, took part in the solemn launch of the new vehicles of public transport. With Prime Minister Piotr Stepanov and members of the Government, he personally tested their level of com-

fort. The event coincided with the foundation of the largest cities in Transnistria — the 220th anniversary of Tiraspol and the 604th anniversary of Bendery.

Mr. Shevchuk underlines that Transnistria residents deserve to travel in comfort and notes the good quality of Belarusian trolley-buses, which Transnistria people have called '21st century' trolley-buses.

New transport vehicles manufactured by Belkom-

munmash boast large capacity, seating 26 people, with 75 standing. Their low floor gives ease of access, while air-conditioning, electronic panels with the date, a record keeping system of stops and passengers, as well as a descending platform for those with less mobility (or with prams), enhance comfort. In future, Wi-Fi is to be installed.

It was stressed during the solemn ceremony that this is only the first step on the way to renewing the park.

Dialogue of business circles

German companies are very much interested in working with small businesses in Belarus, notes the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Germany to Belarus, H.E. Mr. Wolfram Maas, on the Day of German Economy in Minsk

The theme of the event was *Small and Medium-Sized Business — Challenges and Opportunities for the Belarusian Economy*. According to the Ambassador, the support of economic relations between Belarus and Germany will play a key role in his activities in Be-

larus as a diplomat. He stressed the importance of further development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Belarus, which have great potential.

German companies are ready to share experience and knowledge with Belarusian entrepreneurs. The Ambassador asserted that, in Germany, SMEs account for over 95 percent of the economy, with their flexibility allowing them to adjust to market conditions more easily, overcoming the crisis. "It is important for us to have a strong foundation for the favourable development of SMEs, using this for new discoveries

and opportunities," he emphasized.

The Head of the German Economic Representation in Belarus, Vladimir Avgustinsky, mentioned that meetings and discussions in Minsk will drive forward business dialogue between our two countries. He believes that SMEs are an engine for progress in investment co-operation and creation of GDP. He noted that, in Germany, small businesses account for half of GDP (just 22 percent in Belarus, although the trend is growing steadily). He believes that it is vital to see a true change, in order to raise SMEs' contribution to the economy.

Having mutual interest

Azerbaijan to buy Belarusian scientific equipment

According to the Executive Director of the Science Development Fund under the President of Azerbaijan, Elchin Babayev, Azerbaijan plans to purchase various Belarusian scientific equipment — including for use in archaeology: gamma spectrometers, lidar systems and devices for cleaning archaeological findings.

In addition, the Science Development Fund under the President of Azerbaijan is to liaise with Belarusian scientists

in the fields of physics, mathematics, engineering and human sciences. A joint committee has been created to co-ordinate Belarusian-Azerbaijani projects explains Mr. Babayev. He adds, "One day, co-operation between Belarus and Azerbaijan will cover all areas of science."

He admires the fact that Belarusian scientists have extensive experience in basic and applied research, noting, "It's very important that we strengthen the relationship between the scientists of Belarus and Azerbaijan."

The Science Development

Fund under the President of Azerbaijan recently signed a co-operative agreement with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus and the Belarusian Republican Fund of Fundamental Research, in Minsk.

Of course, Belarus and Azerbaijan have been co-operating in the sphere of science for several years already, implementing about two dozen joint projects. In the near future, 10-15 new projects are to launch — relating to basic and applied research. Some are connected with creating absorbents and water purification systems.