



Grodno Radiovolna launches seat belt production for Volkswagen Jetta

Radiovolna changes profile

Grodno enterprise launching seat belt production line for Volkswagen Jetta

By Veniamin Mikhalchenko

Since October 15th, Polish specialists have been training and a pilot batch of Jetta seat belts is to be sent for testing in Europe. Training of specialists should be complete by the end of the year, allowing steady supply to the German company in Nizhny Novgorod, where the assembly line of this model of Volkswagen is located.

An agreement on intentions has been signed with the Russian enterprise, allowing Grodno seat belts to replace those previously imported from Poland and Germany. Its seat belts will also be used in the Skoda Octavia and Skoda Yeti — assembled in Nizhny Novgorod.

Installation of necessary equipment will begin this year at the Grodno enterprise, which has experience

of working with well-known car manufacturers. Over 500 modifications are produced: for the Volkswagen Golf A5, A5+ and A6, the Transporter T5 and Audi TT.

The existing production line for electro conductive seat belts is being extended as part of an investment project worth 5 million Euros, implemented in the Grodnoinvest FEZ. Leading Japanese and Finnish com-

panies are taking part, being manufacturers of electrical equipment for auto giants Sumitomo Electric Wiring Systems (Europe) Ltd. and PKC Group.

Over 300 jobs are to be created at Nizhny Novgorod by late 2013 while the 5-year investment project involves the creation of about 1,600 jobs.

Radiovolna is a former conversion enterprise involved in a vari-

ety of production relating to radio-technical, with a closed production cycle. Until 2004, it specialised in the development, production and sale of consumer goods (radios, TV sets and garage locks) and those for industrial purposes (car and tractor batteries, ignition switches and locking devices). It then re-oriented towards seat belts and other car components.

Challenging re-consideration of economic fundamentals

By Pavel Drobov

Software developed by Gomel scientists helps save money and energy

Scientists from Gomel's State Technical University have been assessing how best to help enterprises use energy efficiently, coming to the conclusion that using energy intensive machinery during night time cheaper tariffs could actually raise financial costs and increase energy consumption.

Using their own Optima+ software, young scientists Andrey Ivaneichik, Andrey Kuzero and Alexander Kharkevich analysed the situation at Gomel's Tsentrolit Foundry and at Mozyrsalt JSC. Their recommendation enhances the efficiency of consumption by 5 percent, while reducing energy costs by 12 percent and cutting fuel consumption by over 5 percent.

"We've even developed a timetable for companies, stipulating specific times for particular equipment," explains the Director of Gomel's Pavel Sukhoi State Technical University's Institute for Qualification Improvement and Re-training, Candidate of Technical Sciences, Yuri Kolesnik. "Of course, it would be a challenge to achieve the mentioned figures under real production conditions, when



Gomel's Tsentrolit Foundry Plant introduces new technologies

many unexpected factors emerge. However, it's quite possible that we can come close — as the companies' energy and technology specialists admit. Our recommendations cover large energy intensive enterprises operating under market conditions. The transition of energy intensive processes to night time would yield fruit, assuming a steady production cycle (as seen usually). Our enterprises are working hard to fulfil orders, relying on demand, supply and availability of raw materials. However, their pace of work varies so they don't need to work 24/7. If we shift all energy intensive technologies to night time, taking advantage of lower tariffs, it may not have the

desired result. We may do better to use less powerful machines during the day. We're still considering the best strategy."

The scientists hope to make their Optima+ software more widely known, including simplifying it for less experienced users. They could teach specialists how to use it effectively, supported by the Institute, and the software could more widely go on sale. They hope that the Soviet tradition of making plans based on past results won't hamper the implementation of the innovation. A company may purchase the software, saving electricity and money, but could find its situation later changing, requiring its energy use to be reconsidered.

Investors enhance their obligations

By Semen Yevlampiev

Austrian Kronospan Holdings East Limited to invest around \$500m in Belarus over coming five years

Two years ago, the company (which boasts plants across 25 countries) signed an investment agreement to build a contemporary wood processing factory in the Grodno Region's Smorgon, occupying the derelict Smorgon Aggregate Plant; its warehouses and facilities cover 64 hectares. It is the largest investment project to date, due to be complete by 2016.

Belarus was chosen for its proximity to the Customs Union and Western Europe and the investor has been keen to kick off work quickly. Its wooden chip-board line opened within a year and its laminated flooring line will be ready in 2013. Kronospan Director Alexey Zvertovsky tells us, "We're implementing an import substitution programme. Many furniture producers from various regions of Belarus have already re-oriented towards using our produce, manufactured in Smorgon. We focus on using wood waste rather than industrial timber. Mutually beneficial supply contracts have been signed with many sawmills, where we're installing special containers to collect discarded wood chips. We're

also creating our own timber cutting line, using progressive European technologies. Kronospan has a comprehensive approach so we're building our own railway line to our new site, as well as a transformer substation."

He underlines that Smorgon is a good location from which to conduct exports, with market forces able to come into play. The huge investment in Smorgon will undoubtedly change the face of the town, bringing more infrastructure and employment. The company has vowed to raise local



New investors — new possibilities

standards of living to match those of an average European over the coming five years. The major production facility will create over 300 jobs and, taking into account the 'knock on effect' around 3,000 people could find employment locally when the whole operation is up and running.