

## Large-scale development

### Henkel Bautechnik Company to build liquid construction material factory in Zaslavl

The 1st Republican *Industry of Construction Materials of the Republic of Belarus: Competitiveness, Efficient Management and Innovations* forum was attended by the Director General of Henkel Bautechnik, Sergey Novitsky. He stresses, "Over the next two years, we plan to invest around 5m Euros in building another factory manufacturing liquid construction materials. The estimated capacity of the new enterprise is 20,000 tonnes per year."

Mr. Novitsky underlines that the enterprise is constantly injecting funds into modernisation, while expanding its produced volumes and market presence, replacing the need for imported construction materials.

## Project to face positive development

### Minsk Tractor Works and Vietnamese Mekong Machinery Co. Ltd. negotiate joint centre for tractor production and sale in Vietnam

Prospects and terms for the project have been discussed during a meeting between Belarus' Prime Minister, Mikhail Myasnikov, and Mekong Machinery's Director General, Tran Minh Tri.

"We've agreed to create a regional centre to assemble and sell tractors," Mr. Myasnikov told journalists after the meeting. "We're considering the details in order to start major, long-term co-operation with the Southeast Asian market. Accordingly, we're looking at issues closely — from sales and aftersales service, including supply of spare parts, to personnel training and the production of tractors in the region."



The new centre is expected to sell tractors in Vietnam, as well as in Cambodia, Myanmar and other Southeast Asian countries. "In principle, we need to have the capacity to make about 3,000 tractors per annum," notes Mr. Myasnikov. "It's a real market in which we can gain a strong foothold, able to withstand tough competition from other countries — particularly China, Japan, and India."

A Belarusian business plan is to be agreed by the end of the year notes the PM, adding, "The project will be discussed by the Vietnamese Government in order to gain possible assistance with its implementation."

In turn, Mr. Tran Minh Tri positively assessed the project's prospects, noting friendly and productive ties between Mekong Machinery and MTZ and expressing readiness to expand collaboration.

# Innovations need impetus to achieve implementation

## Germany ready to share its experience of promoting innovative ideas



Endoprosthesis replacement systems made by Altimed in demand at home and abroad

By Roman Stoletov

A round table discussion, entitled *Problems and Practice: Commercialising Sci-Tech Developments and Innovative Ideas in Belarus and Germany*, has been attended by Peter Dettmar, the Consul Ambassador of the German Embassy to Belarus. He notes, "Germany's experience isn't the only example to possibly follow but offers an idea of how innovative projects can be supported."

Naturally, all states rely on innovations for successful development, since these allow production to move with the times, reflecting market demand. Sci-tech application to business is essential, so the state's major task is to create favourable conditions

for such work.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Business Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers, Georgy Badei, believes that market relations need to be developed, while interesting innovations require promotion and support to achieve full implementation.

Sergey Novitsky, the Deputy Chairman of the Business Promotion Council of Belarus and Director General of Henkel Bautechnik JLLC, asserts that major economic modernisation is needed, using innovative technologies. He believes that Belarus has much to learn from other states regarding the application of sci-tech developments into production.

Germany is known for its effi-

cient, multi-level support of innovative development, with considerable budgetary and external funds earmarked for such purposes annually. These are distributed via federal and regional programmes by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, facilitating the commercial launch of entrepreneurial innovations. Programmes in the Federal Land of Saxony rely solely on the banking system.

The 2011-2015 State Programme of Innovative Development of Belarus currently uses a system of tax relief to support innovative and high-tech production, applied across its free economic zones, at the High-Tech Park, and in small, rural settle-

ments.

The round table session concluded that the successful development of the innovative sector requires adequate, up-to-date legislation and the support of private-public partnership, alongside efficient financial mechanisms and corresponding infrastructure.

Belarus plans a nationwide system to promote the commercialisation of innovations, including regional programmes. Commercial banks are to fund small and medium-sized enterprises by up to 50 percent of their costs. Meanwhile, consultative and marketing services will be offered and a system may be established to promote long-term sharing and exchange of innovative solutions.

## Advanced technologies are priority

### Time capsule is laid in foundations of high-strength iron casting factory, in Stolbtsy

By Vladimir Khromov

The project is estimated to cost 110m Euros, being implemented in two phases. The first is scheduled to become operational in 2014, with the second ready by 2017. Annually, the factory should produce 50,000 tonnes of iron castings, from high-durability iron.

The PM notes that the project will be a landmark for Belarusian production, using the world's latest technologies. "Three quarters of the cost of this remarkable, high-tech enterprise is spent on cutting-edge equipment," he underlines. "This means new tech-



During the ceremony of capsule laying

nologies, highly qualified personnel and high salaries for those working there."

The new enterprise will be significant in focusing on import-substitution, saving about \$25m per annum and satisfying the needs of Minsk Motor Plant and

its allied industries. The PM adds that the Minsk satellite of Stolbtsy has been chosen because of its 'good communications and labour force'.

The project is set to improve the quality of Belarus-made engines while expanding their export.

## Voucher privatisation to continue

By Alexey Pimenov

### Vouchers still held by public remain valid

Vouchers issued following privatisation are still valid, as confirmed by the Council of Ministers: until July 2016. The State Property Committee has initiated the decision, with Government support.

Vouchers can still be exchanged for shares in open joint stock companies (created from privatised state enterprises) but, according to current legislation, this won't apply to enterprises converted into joint stock companies from 2011 onwards. The list of about 150 eligible enterprises is available from Belarusbank; ownership is transferrable and can be inherited.