



BelAZ adopts business plan for 2012, envisaging production volumes rising by 120 percent on 2011

Grounds exist for looking forward with optimism

Belarus' industry launched 2012 with positive economic figures — as First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Semashko noted, awarding Belarusian Government Award laureates for their achievements in the sphere of quality

By Lidia Kravtsova

As Mr. Semashko notes, the country's industry faces many challenges, although the year has begun well. In the first month, industrial growth was up 106.6 percent on the same period of 2011 — as forecast. Agricultural yield rose by 6.3 percent (more than forecast) but GDP is yet to meet

its target rise of 105-105.5 percent (being up 103.6 percent this January compared to last). "Overall, we've begun the year as expected, despite various problems. We're advancing in our stimulation of industrial production, allowing us to manufacture competitive and high quality products," Mr. Semashko stresses.

The First Deputy Prime Minister

adds that about 600 enterprises applied for Governmental quality awards over the time of its existence, with about a third granted. "This award is prestigious as it pushes enterprises towards concrete results, while contributing to high financial and economic figures," Mr. Semashko notes. Winners receive the right to place an emblem of quality award logo on

their manufacture for five years, which helps sales and allows higher prices to be commanded. Accordingly, the number of those wishing to take part is growing rapidly. Of course, quality remains the major criterion of the award, as products must meet world technical standards and boast worthy design and packaging. Firms' financial and economic activity within the year

is also taken into consideration. "It would never occur that a company might win while demonstrating low sales figures; it would be paradoxical. If a manufacturer produces international level goods, they must boast sustainable financial and economic figures. With this in mind, we take such criteria into account in our contest," Mr. Semashko emphasises.

Polytechnic and Pardis ready to become partners

By Olga Belova

Iran keen to use Belarusian laser technologies

A memorandum on partnership intentions in technologies and innovations, signed recently between the Belarusian National Technical University's Polytechnic and Iran's Pardis Technology Park, is to promote joint projects. The agreement envisages collaboration in innovative and sci-tech areas, as well as in training of scientific staff. Direct contacts are planned between scientific institutions and companies from our two states, while creating conditions for the development of joint scientific-research projects. The memorandum will also promote the formation of joint manufactures and output of sci-tech goods.

The Deputy Director General of the Polytechnic Technopark on International Co-operation, Gennady Pyatigor, notes that Belarus is keen to develop partnerships with Iranian scientists in all mutually beneficial spheres. He explains that our colleagues are showing interest in our laser technologies but admits that 'we haven't yet outlined definite projects'. However, he hopes that interaction in this sphere will be 'real and mutually beneficial'.

The Polytechnic is now studying how best to create a joint centre of sci-tech co-operation with Iranian scientists, promoting Belarusian-Iranian sci-tech projects and allowing new technologies and ideas to be shared. It would work to attract international financing and to promote Belarusian developments to new sales markets.

Meetings in South Wales

Mogilev Branch of Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry organises business visit for Belarusian companies to Cardiff (UK)

The main purpose of the visit has been to introduce Belarusian companies and organisations to potential business partners and to find business contacts, while exploring trade opportunities and establishing

various forms of mutually beneficial co-operation.

The Belarusian delegation plans to hold business negotiations and a matchmaking session with representatives of leading Welsh companies.

The Embassy of Belarus to the UK and the South Wales Chamber of Commerce are providing assistance in organising the visit.

On the wave of practical popularity and demand

Last year, Smilovichi Felting Factory increased exports of felt boots by almost a third

By Nadezhda Radivonova

Smilovichi Felting Factory has recently expanded its sales market, having previously sold 70 percent of its goods to Russia. Last year, Russia accounted

serious co-operation is planned with Polish partners and new footwear models are being developed jointly with Polish specialists especially for this market.

Felt boots are also popular in Belarus. The facto-

physical terms. Meanwhile, there was a 16 percent rise in January 2012 compared to the same period of the previous year," explains Director Vasily Saban.

Smilovichi Felting Factory (part of Bellegprom Concern) is Belarus' only producer of felt boots, and one of a handful within the CIS. It makes 28 designs of boot, in addition to manufacturing technical felt, woollen blankets and pillows, and sauna sets. It is capable of manufacturing 250,000 pairs of felt boots annually, using 500 tonnes of sheep wool — imported from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Kazakhstan and Mongolia are also to supply wool in future.

Felt boots are thought to originate from the early

18th century, becoming widely popular in the first half of the 19th century, when industrial production grew. They are worn largely by rural residents, constructors, ice fishermen and, even, those with an eye to eccentric fashion trends.



Around 15,000 pairs of felt boots are monthly manufactured in Smilovichi

for only around 30 percent of sales, with other foreign countries rising in significance. The enterprise's felt boots enjoy great popularity in the Baltic States, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany and Canada. Moreover,

ry store in Smilovichi sells boots worth around Br70m daily while average production output is worth around Br120m each day. "Demand for our goods is rising annually. In 2011, production volumes rose by 15 percent in