

‘Smart’ fuel station serves as example

Production Association Belorusneft launches Belarus’ first fuelling station using alternative energy and energy-saving technologies

By Valery Sidorov

This fuelling station is located at the entrance to Gomel (if driving from the Russian Federation) and hardly differs from its ‘counterparts’ in appearance. However, its functions are certainly different from those in other fuelling stations countrywide.

Solar power is being used to provide electricity at the fuelling station; 44 photo panels are to generate 10-12kW/h — depending on the weather. Only 4-5kW are needed daily, so any surplus will be supplied to the city network. Heating and hot water are being supplied by an economical ‘air-water’ heat pump, which works in an opposite way to a refrigerator, using warmth from the surrounding

air — even in temperatures below zero. Its gas coolant warms water in pipes and ‘smart’ LCD lamps with motion sensors are installed, saving half the power at night, when fewer cars visit.

According to specialists, the new eco-fuelling station in Gomel is to act as a prototype model for other Belorusneft stations (over 500 in total). Belorusneft boasts the most extensive network in the country, selling over 70 percent of fuel countrywide.

Although it boasts technically advanced novelties, its staff is standard. “As everything is automated, there’s been no need for particular training,” notes Alexey Ignatovich, who heads the section. Displays show the work of equipment, so re-



Belorusneft opens fuelling station using energy saving technologies in Gomel

fuelling is even easier than at ‘traditional’ fuelling stations.

According to representatives of Belorusneft Production Association, the station is a pilot for future

sites; two similar fuelling stations are to be built either side of the M-3 Minsk-Vitebsk motorway, near the village of Silichi. Drivers are clearly pleased to see improvements. Mid-

dle-aged Vasily tells us, “Of course, it would be nice to see a fall in fuel prices too.” Sadly, it seems unlikely at present but who knows what the future holds.

Partnership and interaction don’t exclude competition

Belarusians and Russians launch major logistics project

By Nikolay Alexeyev

Within the Single Economic Space, investments are being attracted into transport and logistics infrastructure. One of the first major joint projects is Russian-Belarusian ZollBel, whose presentation recently took place in the Moscow Region.

“We are giving businessmen the opportunity to really feel the advantages of the SES,” commented the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Russia, H.E. Mr. Andrei Kobyakov. Two identical transport and logistics centres are being set up near Minsk and Moscow, with international level warehouses opening for temporary storage of goods, with a shared IT system. Those taking part in foreign sales will be able to choose the location most convenient to them for customs clearance.

The project is being implemented by Belintertrans Ltd. and Russian ZollRu Ltd. explains Alexander Maluyutin, Director General of the ZollRu Group of Companies, whose warehouse facilities are among the largest in Europe. Its forklift vehicles, like ants, skilfully bustle between shelves, easily picking up heavy pallets of goods.



Contemporary logistics centres assist business

Despite 15 Degree frosts outside, it’s warm in the warehouses, so staff don’t complain of conditions. The customs offices work alongside, processing documentation to

allow them to decide permitted quotas for the Union State market. It’s most efficient to have customs and logistics working in tandem — especially for the end customer,

since fewer problems result in lower prices in stores.

On the third floor of the Kashirsky customs point warehouse, the scale of activity is colossal. However, everything runs smoothly, with no backlog. The secret is simple.

“Several years ago, electronic data handling software was set up,” explains Galina Leontieva, who heads Kashirsky customs point. “The system now has an online presence, allowing entrepreneurs to submit documents via our website. The General Secretary of the World Customs Organisation, Kunio Mikuria, has visited us and was greatly surprised at our rate of development.”

The facility even has an innovative department, trialling new systems for commercial activity; the IntelService-M IT Company has been set up to run the operation, as Mr. Kobyakov tells us. “Belarus is actively launching high-tech electronic declaration, rivaling Russia in this respect. It’s vital for the Russians to liaise with us in all innovative areas, so that we move in parallel. New logistics centres are being built in Russia and Belarus, so it makes sense for us to co-ordinate our systems. We’ll be co-operating and competing with them simultaneously.”

Investments expand water transport opportunities

By Olga Belyavskaya

Construction of new river port in Belarus involving Turkish investments to start in spring

The Belarusian Transport and Communications Ministry hopes that the new river port in the Gomel Region’s Bragin District will launch this spring, having been funded by Turkish DMR Tekstil Sanayi Diş Ticaret.

“This year, the Turkish company has promised to invest in these works. I think, we’ll soon arrange a meeting with the investor to determine step by step co-operation, while accelerating the land survey works required to build port facilities,” notes Belarus’ Transport and Communications Minister, Ivan Shcherbo. He explains

that the new river port will aim to attract international cargo — primarily exports. He also notes that, last year, a test run was made, delivering oil to the site on a Turkish vessel. “Once navigation starts, we plan to resume this work,” he adds.

Last November, the Belarusian Transport and Communications Ministry joined Turkish DMR Tekstil Sanayi Diş Ticaret in signing an investment contract to build and operate a river terminal and port station on the River Dnieper (in the Gomel Region’s Bragin District). The document envisages the attraction of at least Br60bn in direct foreign investments from the Turkish side. The project will expand freight transportation by water between Belarusian and Ukrainian ports.

Farms occupy niche

Small scale farmers produce near third of all vegetables in Brest Region

At present, the Brest Region’s agrarian sector includes six private companies — including three using foreign investments. However, small businesses are primarily represented by 448 farms, covering

21,000 hectares of farmland.

Over the past two years, more farms have been registered. In 2011, 45 new farms were set up, receiving almost 3,000 hectares of land. Small scale farms currently account for no more than 2 percent of the total gross output manufactured by all categories of farms.