

# Professional wood choppers 'go wild' in centre of Minsk

International *Lesdrevtech-2013* Specialised Exhibition gathers largest manufacturers from sphere of forestry

By Yury Chernyakevich

Those who tried their hand on the simulator at the *Lesdrevtech-2013* trade fair, recently hosted by Minsk's BelExpo Exhibition Centre, are likely to feel that they too could be foresters; it's surely not so difficult to fell a tree or cut logs! Belarusian Amkodor's simulator invited guests to 'operate' a harvester or a forwarder — used to cut, fell and sort timber.

Naturally, the simulator aroused great interest and a small queue waited patiently 'to clear the forest of old trees'. Having tried the harvester myself, I can vouch for its realism; even a child could drive it successfully. In fact, Andrey, 11, from Minsk gymnasium, was next in line behind me, joined by his grandfather. He

did well and, who knows, may find himself in the profession in ten years or so.

Master classes from woodchoppers were another highlight, drawing crowds to see the professionals in action. Their technique is something to behold: even the splinters fly in a different way. They demonstrated some of the exercises with power chain saws used at the World Logging Championship.

The exhibition brought together forestry enterprises and manufacturers of forest machinery from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Italy, Latvia, Slovenia and Germany. Everyone was keen to show off their latest innovations: timber loaders and shredding machines, mowers and power chain saws, tillers and tractors, solid fuel boiler

ers and machines for collecting logs. There was an embarrassment of riches, since each exhibit deserved attention.

Our Belarusian companies brought samples of machinery and timber goods, with Tolochin forestry presenting its beautiful arbours: graceful in form and worthy of any garden. Colleagues from Kopyl installed a whole wooden 'estate' made from high-class timber. Means of protecting forests from pests and fire were also exhibited, as were clothes and equipment for forest workers.

The Belarusian State Technological University stand particularly drew my attention, with its satellite navigation innovation: the 'Forest Resources' geo-information system. University student Yevgeny told me



Logging technologies arouse interest among ordinary Minskites and serious buyers

that it processes cartographic information for use by Belarusian forestries in planning timber harvesting. It can also warn of fire. Volkovysk forestry has launched the new system, which is likely to be applied across other districts in time.

*Lesdrevtech-2013* inspired interest among ordinary Minskites and serious buyers; 'sold' signs went up throughout the event, while negotiations were conducted behind companies' stands between business partners. The forum aroused serious interest among Belarusian and foreign representatives of the forestry industry, providing a great site for product presentation, as well as a venue for preliminary agreements which may result in new contracts.



## The merging of two companies is definitely much better than sale of one

By Anatoly Shevelev

**MAZ and KamAZ are to integrate through the establishment of a Belarusian-Russian holding, with no sale or change of ownership necessary, explained Belarus' First Deputy Prime Minister, Vladimir Semashko, at the closing of the Belarusian Industrial Forum-2013**

Mr. Semashko referred to agreements reached during his negotiations with the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Arkady Dvorkovich. Belarus' First Deputy Prime Minister mentioned President Lukashenko's annual State of the Nation Address to the Belarusian People and the National Assembly, in which he expressed his desire to see MAZ and KamAZ join forces, under careful conditions. Mr. Semashko noted that Belarus has no desire to sell MAZ — a vital company — preferring to create a holding to reinforce the

potential of these two giants of the automobile industry, especially their export potential. By merging their design, production and marketing capacities, costs will be reduced at the Minsk Automobile Works and at Kama Automobile Works. This will enable them to more successfully compete against world leaders within the Single

Economic Space of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia.

"Within five years, we should see both MAZ and KamAZ having increased their production and sales, allowing us to return to talks on the transfer of shares into property or some other form of integration for the two enterprises," added Mr. Semashko.

He views

MAZ as a dynamic enterprise with good management and sales figures and an excellent future. The Single Economic Space and Russia's joining of the WTO will support MAZ/KamAZ integration — particularly on the Russian market. Mr. Semashko expects to see details elaborated within a month, developing a statute for the holding and an agreement on the transfer of MAZ and KamAZ shares, under fiduciary management, to a new structure.



New MAZ road-train wins recognition on foreign markets

## Latest technologies bring maximum effect

**World Bank allocating \$90m to Belarus for energy saving project**

One way to save energy resources in Belarus is to use local biomass fuels, explains Sergey Semashko, the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Standardisation (Gosstandart) and the Director of the Energy Efficiency Department, at a press conference in Minsk. "We need to modernise boilers to maximise their efficiency at burning biomass."

Mr. Semashko added that the World Bank is offering major financial support,

"The implementation of one project is already underway and we've agreed on another — estimated at \$90 million. This envisages the reconstruction of boilers burning biomass fuels."

Belarus' Economy Minister, Nikolai Snopkov, stressed at a recent meeting of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers that the Department for Energy Efficiency is working to improve industrial energy efficiency by modernising technology and equipment, mainstreaming heat supplies and increasing the use of local fuels.

## China-made locomotives for our heavyweights

**Next batch of Chinese locomotives arrives at Baranovichi locomotive depot**

Belarusian Railways continues its investment in the acquisition of freight locomotives from the People's Republic of China, with the

engines currently passing through customs clearance at Baranovichi. Destined to join the electrified railway, they'll be accompanied by two more in early June, eventually comprising a fleet of 12, costing nearly \$100m.