

'Black gold' unites professionals

Over 20 companies from Belarus and Russia take part in Oil Extraction-2013 conference

Such well-known oil companies such as Lukoil, Zarubezhneft and Surgutneftegaz joined scientific centres and producers of oilfield equipment and chemicals at the forum, hosted by the Gomel Region's Rechitsa District in late May.

The conference focused on analysis of modern oil production methods, looking at how to most efficiently extract 'black gold' from existing and potential wells, enhancing the capacity of technologies and equipment.

Belarusian potential was also explored. Belorusneft presented a report on its activities and gave a tour of facilities before leading an exchange of opinions and suggesting paths of co-operation.

Oncoming traffic from Balkan direction

By Vladimir Khromov

Belarus and Serbia agree to create two large machine-building holdings

The Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus, Piotr Prokopovich, recently met his Serbian counterpart, Alexander Vučić, declaring, "It's promising for our countries to create joint ventures. Today, we've agreed to jointly establish two major machine-building holdings in Serbia, as well as a number of projects in Belarus, creating new jobs in Serbia and Belarus." He added that our countries have good opportunities for economic collaboration, with hopes to considerably raise our 2012 turnover of \$150m. "Results from the first quarter of this year show that this is possible," he emphasised, adding that, from January-March, turnover between Belarus and Serbia increased by almost 40 percent (on the same period of 2012).

"Our relationship is promising and profitable. We view Serbia as a route to promoting our products not only on the Serbian market, but across the entire Balkan Region. At the same time, we're ready to provide everything necessary for Serbian businessmen to enter not only our market, but those of the Eurasian Economic Space through Belarus," said Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr. Vučić agreed, saying, "We already have good examples of co-operation and experience: such as the Amkodor Holding Company's work with Serbian businesses. Other factories could create new jobs and meet certain needs in the future." He stressed the need for enhancing co-operation in the field of construction, attracting more Serbian experts into investments in Belarus. Mr. Vučić also believes that mechanical engineering is a promising sphere for current and future projects. He noted, "We've agreed on co-operation between BMZ and our Serbian Steel Works." Further detailed negotiations continue.



Yarn from natural flax fibre enjoys demand on domestic market of Belarus, as well as far beyond borders

Flax is the staff of life

Flax holding may appear in Belarus next year

By Yury Pinchuk

The Agriculture and Food Ministry may soon set up a holding company, with its proposal being studied by Government. "It should be considered within a month," notes Belarus' Deputy Agriculture and Food Minister, Vasiliy Pavlovsky. "The establishing of the holding company will bring only benefits for agricultural enterprises and linen mills — including that in Orsha." The factory is destined to become the parent enterprise of the holding.

The Ministry proposes to combine the ten top flax mills within the holding initially, later joined by others — including foreign companies. Mr. Pavlovsky even speaks of the possibility of a Belarusian-Russian flax holding company, noting, "After creating the holding company in Belarus, I think we'll have to unite our efforts and set up a holding company with the Russian Federation — as part of our Union State programme. We should

share common manufacturing and processing facilities. Since we have the Customs Union and the Union State, why can't we have joint ventures, holding companies and other companies to direct the operation of certain industries?"

He adds that several Belarusian light industry enterprises are in favour of delaying the creation of the holding company, due to the need to retool flax mills. However, the Deputy Agriculture and Food Minister believes that the two projects can be accomplished without

interfering with each other.

Mr. Pavlovsky expects the latest engineering tools to soon appear in Belarus, commenting, "Our task is to install new equipment at six flax mills this year, alongside technology for flax growing in agricultural enterprises." Modernisation is complete at four major flax mills and, within two years, reconstruction of 18 such enterprises should be achieved.

According to Vladimir Konovalov, the Head of the Agency for the Production and Primary Processing of Flax at the Agriculture Ministry of the Russian Federation, the Union State programme for integrated development of flax growing is likely to start functioning within two years.

"It's planned that we prepare the concept of the programme by September-October, allowing us to receive approvals from ministries and departments by the end of 2013. Another year will be needed for its development and the Union State budgetary funds have been already distributed. So, the programme will begin operating in 2015," notes Mr. Konovalov.

The Union State programme for integrated development of the flax industry in Russia and Belarus will cover the entire chain: from flax cultivation and primary processing to the release of ready-made goods. It will also include details on the level of state influence and support of manufacturers, addressing problems across the industry in a comprehensive manner, helping it become cost-efficient. The Agriculture Ministry of Belarus and the Ministries for Industry and Trade is joined by those of Russia in helping shape the document, alongside other interested departments.



From nuclear power station to pilotless aircraft



Grodno hydroelectric power station reaches its estimated capacity

Last year, Belarus tripled exports of high-tech goods, tipping \$10bn

In line with the 2011-2015 state innovative development programme, last year, 458 projects were implemented, with 79 production facilities opening. New technologies and types of produce were launched in the spheres of industry, power engineering, construction, chemistry, petro-chemistry and medicine. Exports of Belarusian science-intensive

and high-tech goods tripled against 2011 last year, exceeding \$10bn.

Grodno hydroelectric power station has reached its designed capacity of 84m kWh of electricity per annum, bringing a saving of over 20m cubic metres of natural gas each year. Meanwhile, construction has begun on the Belarusian nuclear power station — using Russian credit.

The Belarusian Cement Plant JSC and Krasnoselskstroymaterialy JSC have commissioned two mod-

ern resource-saving lines, with an output of almost 2m tonnes of cement per annum at each. In addition, BelAZ JSC has designed a mining dump truck able to carry loads of 450 tonnes: ready by summer 2013 for sale to Kazakhstan, Siberia, the Far East and Asia.

The ICT sphere sees the United Informatics Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus creating a modern system of remote Earth sensing via satellite. Meanwhile, the NAS' Physics and Technology Institute is now manufacturing multipurpose unmanned aerial vehicles.

Major projects in the spheres of medicine, pharmaceuticals and biotechnologies have helped Belarus improve its ranking in the World Bank's Knowledge Economy Index by 11 positions (59th position out of 146 countries). Belarus has also considerably improved its economic and institutional regime rankings and that for ICT (up 21 places), as well as for knowledge and innovations.

Investors sought at summit

Belarusian business circles to visit Turkey and China

The Turkish capital is soon to host the *Foreign Trade Bridge — Countries of the World 2013* international summit, focusing on construction machinery and materials, fittings and furniture.

As is traditional, the programme will comprise business talks, exhibitions of various products and familiarisation tours of Turkish companies and industrial zones. The Belarusian delegation will be visiting the exhibition stands of Turkish producers and conducting business talks with Turkish companies, as well as touring several Turkish plants, seeing the latest industrial achievements, finding business partners and potential investors and holding talks on mutually beneficial co-operation.

The Belarusian delegation is also expected to attend the Harbin International Trade and Economic Fair: China's biggest expo focusing on collaboration with CIS states.