

Bold new product to improve logistics

Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio-electronics develops software to manage warehouse stocks

By Galina Kononova

Several years ago, enterprise managers had no idea that IT might be used to reduce costs and make long-term sales forecasts. These days, the software is already in use. Once logged in, those in charge can see how best to organise their warehouses, to save money and time, and use personnel to best effect.

The *Supporting Decision-Making on Management of Warehouse Stocks* programme was developed by the pro-rector of the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio-electronics, Yelena Zhivitskaya. Using

her own ideas, supported by students, postgraduates and advanced students, she created a fundamentally new logistical product, without equal in Belarus. The program is designed to aid five work positions: warehouse workers, logisticians, managers, system administrators and buyers. The software presents all information in an easily accessible manner, giving information on price, quantity and expiration date in warehouses, as well as data about manufacturers and buyers. Logisticians can see sales volumes for specific periods while managers have access to system analysis of



Students' software to help keep track of warehouse stock

warehouse stocks. Projection software allows them to plan sales in the short and long-term: for 1 month or up to a year, taking into account seasonal trends.

Innovative and hi-tech, the software allows enterprise heads to really see the value of their warehouse stock (helping with insurance) and schedules to allow them to make the best logis-

tical decisions. Ms. Zhivitskaya says, "The elements of the system are already being implemented at several enterprises countrywide, while the program itself has received approval from two industrial sites."

The software is being extended all the time, to take into account the needs of individual enterprises. Of course, some will find it more

useful than others but the developers emphasise that it should pay for itself within a year. Those at the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radio-electronics are yet to comment on the price of this development, noting that all depends on the particular company. However, Ms. Zhivitskaya anticipates graduates of the BSUIR being involved with the new speci-

ality of 'information systems and technologies in logistics' for several coming years, believing that such specialists will be in demand.

Ms. Zhivitskaya took her project to a fair of innovative ideas at the end of November, where the motto was 'Innovations serving the national economy': a notion fully reflecting the aim of the new software.

Linen mills advance to bring new level of high quality

Paying a working visit to the Vitebsk Region, Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikov sets landmark task for 2015: modernisation of six linen mills for higher level processing

By Olga Filatova

Flax is a major agricultural crop for the Vitebsk Region, which occupies a leading position countrywide for flax-fibre production. Moreover, it's home to most of Belarus' flax processing enterprises. Sadly, their equipment is out of date, with no money injected into their modernisation since their establishment.

The existing 40 facilities are to be cut to 25, allowing modernisation to be carried out, explains the PM. He tells us, "Four mills are already operating [with new equipment] and, by the end of 2013 and early 2014, another six will be launched — including two in the Vitebsk Region's Postavy and Orekhovsk." Postavy Linen Mill — which the Prime Minis-

ter visited recently — produces flax-fibre of a fine quality, even using its old equipment, so its new workshop should easily enhance the competitiveness of its produce.

Regarding financing, the PM notes, "We've studied financing issues and the Development Bank has prepared a financial scheme for these six mills. Initial sums have been transferred to their accounts. Modernisation is now decided upon but we need economic measures to generate interest in growing good quality retted straw." The Prime Minister believes that the latter problem was partially solved at a recent session of the Council of Ministers' Presidium, explaining, "We've taken the decision to level economic conditions of retted straw production for farms and



Modernisation underway at Orsha Linen Mill

linen mills. In addition, we've decided to stop importing equipment: our companies are able to produce the necessary equipment and machinery for the linen industry." At present,

around half of such machinery is produced domestically, but Mr. Myasnikov is eager to see this rise to 70 percent. By 2015, all flax harvests should be processed by new facilities.

Delivery in line with schedule and order

By Vladimir Samsonov

BelAZ to deliver first 450 tonne vehicle to Russian Kemerovo Region this year, with two more delivered in 2014

The BelAZ-75710 heavy-duty dump truck, boasting a load capacity of 450 tonnes, is known to be the biggest in the world, following its presentation earlier this year at the Belarusian Automobile Works (BelAZ) testing site.

Naturally, it's quite an

expensive model, so will only be made to order, but the current samples have already found a customer: the Siberian Business Union, in Kemerovo. The trucks are likely to begin their life at Chernigovets pit.

Oleg Stepuk, BelAZ's First Deputy Director General, tells us, "The first heavy-duty dump truck has already been dispatched this year while another two will be delivered next year, as soon as they're assembled."

The geography of deliveries ever wider

By Sergey Ivanov

Belarusian Potash Company, Belaruskali, fully recovered from Uralkali's scandalous exit

We can say with confidence that the transition period endured after the company's rupture with Uralkali has ended. Konstantin Deduk, the Deputy Director General of the Belarusian Potash Company tells us, "We are moving forward. In October, we fulfilled our planned volumes of deliveries, selling

over 400,000 tonnes of potash fertiliser. This exceeds the sales volume of Belaruskali last year, while working with our Russian partners."

The enterprise's new top managers have held onto their geography of deliveries, despite tough competition and, next year, are likely to acquire new markets. Deliveries to India have resumed recently, while the share of Belarusian potash fertilisers to Myanmar has increased significantly over recent months.