

# Testing across hot sands and snowy fields

Belarus joins over 1,000 companies from 60 countries in demonstrating latest achievements at *IDEX* International Defence Exhibition and Conference, hosted by UAE capital of Abu Dhabi

By Kirill Yevmenov

Belarus presented its launching platform and remote control device for the 'Shershen' anti-tank missile system publically for the first time in Abu Dhabi. The H.U.S.K.Y unmanned aerial vehicle system (with vertical take-off and landing) also aroused great interest (designed by Indela Design Bureau). A demolition control vehicle and an autonomous 'Skif' anti-tank missile simulator were also on show, with the public invited to try their hand. A 'Tsitrus' relay broadcast station was also demonstrated (able to replace ten radiolocation devices).

Minsk Wheeled Tractor Plant (MZKT) manufactures unique heavy-duty trailers able to cope with any terrain and the most difficult climatic conditions. The Russian 'Topol-M' strategic purpose mobile missile system oper-

ates on a MZKT chassis, as does the 'Uragan' multiple artillery rocket system and the S-300 and S-400 air defence missile systems.

The Belarusian 'Bor', 'Polyana RB', 'Neman', 'Sprut', 'Prostor', 'Rif-R' and 'Protok' automated control systems remain unrivalled worldwide, uniting combat control systems with communication and intelligence data processing and identification on the battlefield, as well as active exploration.

Belarusian enterprises have mastered the repair of S-300 air defence missile systems and improved them. Exercises on the Russian Ashuluk shooting range confirm their high quality, being able to hit even high-speed cruise missiles. Improvements to the S-300 system allow it to operate beyond the usual 30km radius of the senior command post.

Of course, the devel-

opment of the Belarusian military-industrial complex, like all aspects of military modernisation, is being conducted in close co-operation with Russian partners. Our defence strength enhances that of the Union State, with which we share common goals.

Joint strategic exercises on the Russian Ashuluk and Telemba shooting ranges allow us to assess the effectiveness of our military forces and their equipment. Last year, exercises at Ashuluk involved a Belarusian detachment equipped with the latest 'Tor-2M' air defence missile system, with exemplary results.

The system uses a MZKT chassis and can simultaneously identify over 40 targets. Moreover, its guidance efficiency and target recognition system is unrivalled worldwide. Two units are now operational in Belarus,



Optics of Belarusian Peleng draws interest from visitors

with one more launching this year.

Annually, many joint Belarusian-Russian military-technical events are organised, with 2013 being no exception. President Alexander Lukashenko has

approved the *Zapad-2013* (West-2013) strategic exercise programme, which is scheduled to take place on Belarusian territory this autumn. Such exercises are organised every other year on a rotational basis between our

two states. The forthcoming manoeuvres will include a joint Belarusian-Russian detachment for the first time, as part of the CSTO rapid response collective forces. Territorial defence troops are also taking part.

## Roaming aurochs prepare for migration to neighbouring state

Belarusian giants of the forest settling on Russian expanses

By Yelena Senokosova

The Hybrid Breeding Centre is soon to launch in the Belovezhskaya Pushcha, helping improve the aurochs genofond, drawing on Polish experience.

The Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Anatoly Lis, also tells us that the National Academy of Sciences is planning to liaise with Russia and Germany — both of which are keen to introduce aurochs herds.



Aurochs from Belovezhskaya Pushcha

### Bad heredity

There are currently four thousand aurochs worldwide: the largest population (1,100) is found in Poland and the second largest (1,036) in Belarus. About thirty percent of all aurochs live in zoos but Belarus has nine herds existing in the wild.

Why do we need the Hybrid Breeding Centre?

"Our population of Belarusian aurochs stems from just five individuals, so the genofond is depleted. This has weakened their constitution and ability to adapt," explains the General Director of the Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources,

of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Mikhail Nikiforov. "The Hybrid Breeding Centre will control the situation, monitoring the correct crossbreeding of aurochs. They'll be given genetic passports, to allow interbreeding with aurochs abroad and improve their general population."

### Wide prospects

Besides genetic problems, the size of our aurochs herds has grown beyond the capacity of their food source, leading them to seek supplement from agricultural fields. More territory is needed, so co-operation with other countries is welcome.

"The settlement of Belarusian aurochs on Russian territory will ensure the preservation of this rare species long term," notes Mr. Nikiforov. "A Union State programme is being developed, with large populations planned for the Orel and Vologda regions."

Russia released about 200 aurochs into the wild previously; sadly, fifty were poached in the first year. Clearly, a system of protection is needed. "Hunting of aurochs may be permitted at some future stage, when scientists are confident of the sustainability of the species in the wild," Mr. Nikiforov adds.

## Connections become significantly faster

**National telecommunications operator ready to offer Internet speeds of up to 50 Mbit/s**

The average data transfer speed in Belarus is currently about 1.5 Mbit/s. As the Director General of Beltelecom, Sergey Popkov, notes, this 'lags behind advanced countries in the field of information and communication technologies.' "To eliminate the digital divide, new data

transfer technologies are being developed in the country, including xPON and Ethernet; the former is more expensive but does offer lower operating costs," he emphasises.

Recently, Beltelecom has been using the xPON network across the country's major cities. Ultimately, up to 800,000 subscribers could be connected, enjoying data transfer speeds of up to 50 Mbit/s.

## Book online — and full speed ahead

**Tickets for trains to Russia available online now**

Passengers can now purchase tickets from the Belarusian Railways website: [rw.by](http://rw.by). Routes available for online ticketing are: Minsk-Moscow, Brest-Moscow, Nice-Moscow (including carriages for Brest-Moscow), Paris-Moscow (trailing cars Brest-Moscow), Brest-St. Petersburg, Polotsk-Moscow, Minsk-St. Peters-

burg, Gomel-Mogilev-Moscow (including carriages for Soligorsk-Moscow), Grodno-Moscow and Brest-Novosibirsk (not including the direct Brest-Surgut route).

Tickets issued online cannot be changed for an alternate route and no change is possible within one hour of departure. Passports must be shown for international travel — as is mentioned in the electronic registration.