

Reliable partners

Belarusian Nuclear Power Station, with its two reactors, continues construction at rapid pace

By Mikhail Vetrov

Events in Ukraine are not affecting the rate of construction, despite some reactor components being made at Energomashspetsstal enterprise in Kramatorsk (Donetsk Region). The enterprise has promised to have them ready for delivery on schedule: 24 sections for making the cover and container of the reactor, as well as for the steam generator. The Kramatorsk's plant's components are unique and very expensive but their quality is of the highest level.

The site will soon receive delivery of another component: a 900-tonne molten core catcher for the second reactor. It is being shipped from Smolensk by water, and then by road, notes Vitaly Shishov, Director for Production at the Volgodonsk branch of CJSC AEM-Tekhnology. He promises that it will be dispatched in July. The molten core catcher for the first reactor unit has already been delivered and arranged for installation.

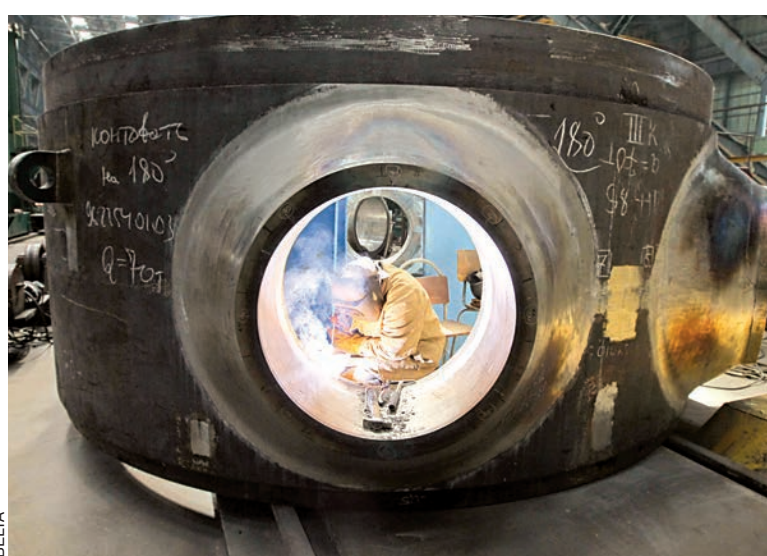
In autumn of 2015, the Volgodonsk branch intends to deliver the first reactor container. Mr. Shishov tells us, "Elements are at the final stage of production and quality control is being co-ordinated; all critical technical decisions have been made and there are no problems with production."

By the way, Belarus' model of promoting its nuclear energy programme is being hailed by the IAEA as one of the most suc-

cessful, notes the Deputy Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Alexander Bychkov. Speaking during an online conference hosted by the BelTA website, he noted, "We recommend Belarus' model to other countries, as there are various approaches to running nuclear programmes worldwide. Some build nuclear power stations on a commercial basis, with state support — such as the United Arab Emirates. Others, like Belarus, take responsibility not only for the construction of a nuclear power station but its supervision and operation. Both models are good but the second is preferential in some respects, although every country must make its own decisions. We believe that the Belarusian model is among the most efficient."

According to Mr. Bychkov, the level of Belarus-IAEA co-operation is an example to other countries launching nuclear programmes. "In promoting its own nuclear energy programme, Belarus is following the recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency," he added.

In November 2013, the Ostrovets site saw the launch of concrete pouring operations, for the first reactor of the Belarusian nuclear power station. There are to be two reactors, with a total capacity of 2,400MW (1,200MW each) daily. Following the Russian AES-2006 design, they are to be fully compliant with international standards and IAEA recom-



On the construction site near Ostrovets

mendations. The Russian United Company OJSC NIAEP, CJSC Atomstroyexport is the general designer and contractor for the site, with the first reactor due to launch in November 2018.

Prospect outlined in business relations

By Yevgenia Markova

Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Polish National Chamber of Commerce sign co-operative agreement

The document was signed by the Heads of the organisations during a working visit of the Bel-CCI Chairman, Mikhail Myatlikov, to Poland.

The agreement is designed to promote mutually beneficial business co-operation between the two countries. The parties have also agreed to hold the 'Day of Belarus' in Warsaw during spring 2015.

Moreover, in the course of the Warsaw visit, Mikhail Myatlikov also discussed the development of trade-economic collaboration between Belarus and Poland, including the organisation of the 17th Belarusian-Polish Good Neighbourliness Economic Forum, scheduled for the second half of this year.

Protective measures are not excluded

By Marina Shumilo

In trade and economic co-operation with Ukraine, Belarus will consider the interests of the Customs Union troika

According to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Valentin Velichko, the process of the realisation of economic part of the agreement on the association of Ukraine with the European Union is rather long, and on separate positions it is calculated for several years. "Therefore, when duty-free production starts flowing in and is competitive in the markets of the Customs Union, then most likely, it will be necessary to consider a question of the country of origin. While at present time there are no restrictions, the free trade zone operates," said Valentin Velichko.

Answering the question on whether the Belarusian side excludes the application of protective measures, the diplomat noted that Belarus will operate based on the interest of the countries of the Customs Union troika.

Valentin Velichko noted that, despite the difficult situation in Ukraine, trade and economic co-operation of Belarus with this country is at quite a good level and that the export of Belarusian production to Ukraine during the current year stands at about 98 percent of the level of last year. The basic export goods are oil products, agricultural machinery and foodstuffs.

Customs must be paid

Ukraine and Moldova importers most at fault in providing inaccurate information on country of origin

Alexander Valiev, Head of the Tariff Regulation and Customs Payments Department of the State Customs Committee, notes that some importers are seeking illegal exemption from duties by pretending that products (mostly vegetables and fruit) are from Moldova — rather than from their true origin of Poland or Romania.

Ukrainian importers try a similar deception with a wide range of goods.

However, Mr. Valiev admits that the number of such violations has been falling over the past decade, perhaps due to the scrutiny of border customs within the CIS.

Environmentally friendly consumer goods in vogue

By Yevgeny Nikonov

Policap enterprise, in Gomel-Raton FEZ, masters production of disposable and biodegradable tableware, as found nowhere else in the CIS

The enterprise has long been studying how best to produce tableware from recycled materials. The eco-friendly method is the result of co-operation with the largest manufacturer of tableware made from expandable polystyrene: Canadian Styrochem. Director Oleg Pashnin explains that the plan bore fruit after participation



in an international exhibition in Germany.

The Metal Polymer Research Institute has been working with Policap closely on tableware containing potato or cornstarch, with the idea that it will decompose naturally within 18-24 months and only emit harmless gases: those suitable for use in the sphere of renewed energy; and carbon dioxide, absorbed by plants during

photo-synthesis.

In March, the enterprise received its license to manufacture a new range of eco-glasses and containers, using much of its existing equipment. The first batch has been sent to wholesale companies countrywide — as well as to Belarusian Railways. Naturally, there are prospects for export deliveries.