

Services of high speed

Wide range of services and maximum comfort offered to Svetlogorsk residents and guests by Beltelecom's new service centre

By Nikolay Denisov

"This is the 24th service point in the Gomel Region, offering a whole range of telecommunication services," noted Andrey Soborov, Beltelecom's Deputy Director General, speaking at the opening ceremony in Svetlogorsk. "We currently have 138 similar sites countrywide, allowing us to consistently follow our strategy of improving social service standards for our subscribers."

A mini excursion through the district telecommunication centre assured us that the national

operator has prepared a worthy gift for the residents of Svetlogorsk, marking the town's 50th anniversary this year. One room has 12 Internet access stations, using ADSL high-speed technology, enabling clients to quickly and reliably download and transfer information. Moreover, wireless Wi-Fi Internet is available.

A second room offers a wide range of services: from receiving payments and selling telephone and Internet cards to long-distance telephony, telegraph and fax. You can connect to Beltelecom's services, gain broadband



Beltelecom's service centres offer whole range of telecommunication services

Internet access (byfly) and view interactive television (ZALA). The advantages of this broadcasting format are evident; you can consult specialists and visit ZA-

LA's demonstrational site.

"There are over 40,000 digital television subscribers in the Gomel Region," notes Victor Shamkin, Director of Beltele-

com's Gomel Branch. "Last year, we managed to almost completely eliminate waiting times for installing fixed-line telephones: a great achievement for us."

Buses soon to run from revamped platforms

In April, Minsk's Tsentralny bus station will become operational, with its new building resembling a locomotive in appearance. It is a continuation of the railway complex

By Olga Zhestova

Minsk's Tsentralny bus station opened in 1962, offering the first regular routes through Belarus and on to Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Poland and the Czech Republic. The two storey wooden building operated for 45 years but, in 2007, was demolished to build a modern multi-functional complex, including new premises.

trading companies, offices, restaurants, a multi-screen cinema and a major parking area — all under a single roof.

Architects have designed the 300m building to match the neighbouring railway station, forming a harmonious complex. Naturally, the limited space required constructive solutions: floors starting from a



Impressive new building

construction site. Moreover, the real situation didn't always coincide with documentation. As a result, this part of the work was the most complicated, lasting for eighteen months.

The construction and functional characteristics of the building have required the use of new technologies. The customer desired as few as possible supporting columns inside, to create open spaces — beautiful and convenient. Belarus had never before applied this technology and decided to use the method of French Freycinet: the load of the ceilings is distributed along cables (built in to the contour of plates and able to hold a huge weight).

Major obstacles are now in the past, with the site to open in stages: the bus station in April, and the remainder in September. The wing hosting Tsentralny is almost ready, with external work close to finishing. In the coming days, the complex will be supplied with electricity. Meanwhile, final fittings in the remainder of the building are underway. A seven-screen cinema is to be located on the upper floor, seating over 1,000 people. This is an addition to the initial project but is also due to be ready on time.



Specialists involved in final finishing works

At the time, a large entertainment complex was being planned close to Privokzalnaya Square. Moreover, the site lacked enough parking spaces. With this in mind, the city authorities decided to solve the problem by reconstructing Tsentralny, with a new object located in Bobruiskaya Street. This unites a bus station,

height of 6 metres, with platforms located beneath.

The building stands out not only for its external appearance but for its original technological approaches of construction. Specialists faced a problem at the preparatory stage, needing to remove all the old engineering communications from the con-

Serious plans outlined

Belarus intensifies efforts to improve its investment climate and attractiveness

The Council of Ministers' Foreign Investments Advisory Council's working group on developing Belarus' investment image abroad has been discussing ways in which to improve the Republic's standing with potential investors.

The working group has viewed the Foreign Ministry's proposals relating to the modernisation of national Internet resources aimed at attracting more injections into Belarus. Other issues include those relating to the analysis of factors which may negatively affect the investment

climate and the investment attractiveness of the state. An agreement has been reached to conduct work to gradually eliminate these.

The meeting was led by the co-chairmen of the working group: Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister, Alexander Gurianov, and the Chairman of the German-Belarusian Economic Club's Board, Klaus Bayer.

The Foreign Investments Advisory Council was set up in 2001, in line with the Council of Ministers' regulations. Its aim is to enhance the efficiency of work to attract foreign injections into the Republic's economy while ensuring consistent state policy in this area.

Pharmaceutical branch reaches new level



By Nadezhda Rodionova

Almost a half of all essential drugs manufactured by Belarusian firms

After the USSR's collapse, the Republic faced difficulties in ensuring steady medical supplies for the population. Accordingly, our own pharmaceutical branch was developed. At that time, only two plants were operational in Belarus: the Borisov Medical Preparations Plant and Belmedpreparaty. Jointly, they produced just over 100 varieties of drugs.

Today, 25 firms have a license to industrially manufacture medicines, with the Brest and Mogilev regions having one each. The Vitebsk Region has 3, the Grodno

Region — 2, and the Minsk Region — 7. Meanwhile, eleven enterprises are situated in the capital. Each is realising investment projects to expand production facilities and to achieve technical modernisation, allowing goods to be certified in line with GMP standards.

State sci-tech programmes play a major role in this expansion, with the *New Medications* programme resulting in the launch of 18 new generic drugs (worth over \$10m). From 2006-2010, the *Import Substitution* programme made it possible to master 65 drugs, including 44 listed as essential, saving over \$45m in foreign currency expenditure. At the moment, 6,263 drugs are registered in Belarus, including 1,186 produced domestically.