

Water and wind power in tide of high technologies

Presidium of the Council of Ministers of Belarus considers draft State Belarusian Energy System Development Programme

By Yuri Bestuzhev

The draft state programme envisages raising the efficiency of Belarus' energy system while enhancing security via the application of advanced technologies. In particular, the use of local fuels and renewable energy sources should help reduce the consumption of natural gas (used to generate electricity and heat).

Several electric power stations are to be modernised with the latest high technologies. Large combined cycle power units, with a capacity of 800MW, are to be constructed at Lukoml and Bereza hydroelectric power stations. Fuel is to be diversified by 2015, with a new coal electric power station to be launched in Zelva, boasting a total capacity of 900MW. Meanwhile, mini electric power stations running on local fuels are



Vitaly Ostrovsky, engine driver at Lukoml power station (in Vitebsk Region), by control panel

planned, alongside hydro- and wind-driven electric power stations. Work also continues on the Belarusian

nuclear power plant.

Market relations envisage the reform of the energy system from 2011-2015,

with the state programme governing all aspects of power, from generation to export sales to neighbour-

ing states. Capital injections into the development of our energy system should total \$5.9bn.

Export potential calculated

By Tatiana Lobanova

Belgospishcheprom Concern and German company sign investment agreement

A yeast plant is to be built in the Slutsk District, costing 25m Euros. Direct foreign investments are being supplied by Uniform, partnered by Belarus' Slutsk Sugar Refinery. A joint venture — Interferm — has been set up to construct the plant, which is expected to annually produce about 20,000 tonnes of bakery yeast. The capacity of the facility could rise in future, making it possible to supply the domestic market and abroad. The first batch is to be ready in late 2012.

The new facility is to open at the Slutsk Sugar Refinery site, as molasses are the basis for yeast production (being a by-product of sugar beet processing). A whole range of yeast is planned, including dry, granulated and compacted. The investment project was presented at the Belarus Investment Forum last November, in Frankfurt am Main.

From stem cells to supercomputers

By Dmitry Patolichev

Of 380 projects included in the CIS Interstate Programme of Innovative Co-operation (running until 2020), over 60 are proposed by Belarus

The Interstate Council on Co-operation in the Sci-Tech and Innovative Spheres has met in Minsk to discuss the programme. Representa-

tives of Armenia, Belarus, Moldova, Tajikistan, Russia, Ukraine and the CIS Executive Council also studied other topical integration issues, such as the possibility of establishing a Centre of Nanotechnology at the Russian Research Centre Kurchatov Institute. If the latter is established, then the CIS states, while jointly financing previously inaccessible high-

tech projects, would gain the chance to fully realise and strengthen their intellectual potential, while solving major scientific problems (upon which authoritative Russian partners are working as part of international programmes).

The Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology of Belarus, Igor Voitov, is also the

Chairman of the Interstate Council on Co-operation in Sci-Tech and Innovative Spheres. He notes that CIS states aim to strengthen links between scientists and co-ordinate research and innovative activity, enhancing their global competitiveness. The programme aims to raise GDP over 2.5-fold while reducing energy consumption at factories by 70 percent.

Enjoying great demand abroad



Popular produce

From January to February, Mogilev Metallurgical Works more than doubled its exports

The enterprise's goods are enjoying enhanced demand on CIS and EU markets, with new markets acquired early this year for its iron split shot in Italy, Switzerland and France. In March, the first batch of steel precision pipes was delivered to Finland. Its share of goods sold beyond the CIS is gradually rising, now accounting for more than a third of total exports.

The company exports over 80 percent of its manufactures, with steel pipes and iron shot being the biggest earners. In fact, current capacities aren't meeting demand from abroad; accordingly, last year, a new factory was planned. Now, the hook-up and commissioning of new equipment is finished, with the first batch of goods to be released in April. The new production line, working at full capacity, will allow the plant to almost double its shot production.

Closer to European market

'Belarus' tractor arouses interest at SIMA-2011 in Paris — the largest European international exhibition of agricultural machinery

Leading world companies demonstrated their agricultural machinery innovations at the forum, with Minsk Tractor Works being the only tractor producer from the post-Soviet space. The Belarusian enterprise notes that MTZ's participation in SIMA-2011 aimed to maintain the company's image worldwide and to further promote 'Belarus' tractors to foreign markets. Additionally, MTZ is eager to renew collaboration with the French; routes onto the French market were high on the agenda during negotiations with potential partners.

Definite prospects have



Consumers attracted by 'Belarus' tractors' good value for money

been outlined for the prestigious French market, which ranks alongside the UK as a desirable export avenue for MTZ. The company's Marketing Centre notes that our existing presence on this market is already a great

achievement. Up to 45,000 tractors are sold here annually. MTZ asserts that it expects to renew its co-operation with France, focusing on offering value for money.

The quality of 'Belarus' tractors was evident at the ex-

position in Paris, with several African states (who traditionally attend SIMA) showing interest in MTZ innovations during negotiations. Senegal is keen to purchase a batch of Belarus-made agricultural machinery.

Experts to give recommendations

Belarus and World Bank prepare list of pilot privatisation projects with assistance from international financial consultants

Five Belarusian companies are likely to be listed, with three suggested by the World Bank and agreed by the State Property Committee back in September 2010, after a visit by a WB delegation. Talks regarding two more companies are underway.

The latest visit by international financial experts to Minsk was organised as part of a privatisation programme financed by the Austrian Trust Fund. The WB team was headed by senior economist Andrea Mario Dall'Olio and the delegation included the WB Resident Representative in Belarus, Ivan Velev. The Trust Fund of the Austrian Finance Ministry has allocated a \$5m grant to Belarus to support the privatisation process.