



Future station in miniature

Taming of water

This year, the country's most powerful hydroelectric station will become operational in Grodno

Assembly of equipment has already begun at the construction site. Moreover, specialists from Grodnopromstroy JSC have reinforced the River Nieman's bed, whose water is to power the new hydroelectric station. An earthen dam, reinforced with stones extracted from Mikashevichi pits, will contain the water.

The future hydroelectric power station will receive its water-power mechanisms in June, manufactured by Czech Mavel, while three piers of the overflow dam to be complete by August. Autumn will see the redirection of the River Nieman, making Grodno's hydroelectric power station the largest renewable hydro-energy source in Belarus, annually generating over 84m KWh of electricity. This will be enough to satisfy the needs of 80,000 flats.

Dozens of years ahead

Specialists and scientists calculate that the Republic has potential for oil mining until 2080

By Valery Sidorchikov

Speaking only of the economically profitable mining of hydrocarbons, forecasts show that volumes of these strategic fuel supplies are set to gradually fall. In particular, by 2030, Belarusian wells will only be yielding about 500,000-600,000 tonnes of oil annually. "The difficulty is that the large Belarusian oil deposits discovered in the 1960-1970s are nearing their end, while newly discovered deposits, sadly, lack such potential," notes Valery Beskopylny, a doctor of geological-mineralogical sciences and assistant to the Director General of RUE Production Association Belorusneft.

Nevertheless, Belarusian and foreign scientists agree

that no more than half of all potential Belarusian oil deposits have been detected. This is confirmed by the fact that the annual growth of developed deposits remains stable, at 80 percent of the existing mining level.

Positive forecasts regarding the future of the oil industry take into account ever improving methods of searching for and developing oil deposits. "Deposits at great depths are yet to be discovered, in addition to non-traditional deposits (as yet inaccessible). Possibilities for improving oil mining technologies have not been exhausted. We are extracting 30 percent of discovered oil from wells at present, while 70-80 percent is possible; reserves have further potential," states Mr. Beskopylny.



Searching for oil in the Rechitsa District

Cargo transported without delay

State Customs Committee sets up seven transport-logistics complexes

The State Customs Committee's Deputy Chairman, Sergey Borisjuk, believes that a network of transport-logistics centres will contribute to offering top servicing of cargo flows, including transit. The branch is being developed with support from customs bodies and subordinate enterprise

Beltamozhservice. The multi-level system of transport-logistics centres will offer a full range of services in the field of customs, transport-expediting, warehouse and information logistics. This system meets such principles as 'exactly and in time' and 'from door to door'. Transport-logistics complexes are to be established in each regional centre, with the Minsk Region having two.

New opportunities should promote developments

Belarusian and Iranian scientists agree on co-operation in nano-industry

The Scientific Practical Centre for Material Engineering at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus has signed a memorandum on mutual understanding with the Institute of Nano-science and Nano-technology of the University of Kashan in Iran. The document stipulates joint efforts to develop innovations and produce new contemporary nano-materials and nano-technologies. The most promising areas appear to be the creation of new materials for utilising solar energy, with commercial application. "This is only the first step on our path to co-operation," notes Valery Gremenok, Acting Head of the Semi-conductor Physics Laboratory at the

Belarusian Scientific Practical Centre. "Soon, Belarus will welcome an Iranian delegation, planning to sign a co-operative agreement with the University of Kashan, settling our terms of collaboration and main areas for joint projects."

The Institute of Nano-science and Nano-technology of the University of Kashan boasts rich scientific experience in the production of various nano-modified compounds, elements and materials for various branches of industry. It liaises with a number of leading research centres in the sphere of nano-industry. The participation of Belarusian specialists in Iranian projects will help establish new international contacts in material engineering while opening up new opportunities to promote Belarusian products on foreign markets.

Competitive resources

Latvian Rietumu Banka to give loans to medium-sized businesses in Belarus

The bank has been giving credit to Belarusian businesses for several years and

plans to continue. Dmitry Pavlov, the Head of Rietumu's International Lending Department, explains, "Rietumu possesses great resources and our terms are rather competitive. Our

specialists boast the necessary experience of risk assessment, in Moscow and in Minsk, so I think Rietumu's proposal will be of interest to entrepreneurs from neighbouring states."

Partners think strategically



Midea-Horizont manufactures microwave ovens

By Anna Overinova

Horizont and Unihan to set up joint manufacture of Toshiba TV sets

Belarusian Horizont Holding and International Unihan Company have signed an agreement to establish a joint venture to produce Toshiba TV sets, during a visit by a Toshiba and Unihan delegation to Minsk. The signing of the

agreement is the first stage of collaboration, with companies planning not only to produce TV sets but to participate in a joint industrial park project.

Representatives from Japan share a common goal with Horizont: the desire to manufacture high quality goods for sale within the Customs Union and the CIS. Belarus' accession to the Customs Union with Russia

and Kazakhstan has opened up the markets of these countries. In the course of negotiations, it was repeatedly stressed that Horizont has been expanding across several areas, focusing primarily on producing household appliances and electronics, while creating and supporting industrial parks and development projects.

Today, Horizont is the CIS' largest producer of televisions and radio electronics, manufacturing over 50 models of tube and LCD TV sets, DVD-players, satellite and cable television systems and household appliances. Horizont is closely liaising with Midea Group — the world's largest producer and exporter of household appliances — within the Belarusian-Chinese Midea-Horizont joint venture, established in 2008. The company already has two production lines making microwave ovens, with Midea-Horizont's production capacity exceeding 2 million units per year.

Demand for employees

250,000 people receive employment with assistance from Minsk's employment service

According to the Committee for Labour, Employment and Social Protection of Minsk's City Executive Committee, in over 20 years of operation, more than 500,000 people have applied to Minsk's employment service for assistance. Over half were found jobs with help from the authorities.

In these two decades, over 60,000 unemployed people were given professional training or retraining, with course lists ever expanded to reflect the demands of the labour market. Vocational training was given to over 70 percent of the unemployed who applied for assistance.

In context of global aspirations

Systems of data processing to gain wider application as Belarusian scientists develop Informatics and Cosmos state programme

New intellectual systems of data processing are to be created for industry, medicine, the transport complex and ecology, allowing data to be processed more easily. Automation will significantly simplify data processing in many branches of the economy. In machine building, for example, it will be possible to optimise the process of modelling and design of complicated systems and objects. In medicine, modern methods for data processing are to be developed, with regular updating planned, to ensure a new level of patient service.

"The new programme opens up additional opportunities for the development of information technologies being used to solve complicated tasks in medicine, cartography, land cadastre and ecology, while detecting and preventing emergencies," explains the leading research worker at the United Institute of Informatics Problems, Boris Rozin. "Intellectual means are to be created to analyse and process signals, photo, video and audio information, and texts — including those sent from satellites. Supercomputer technologies will gain wider application across industry."

Intellectual complexes of data processing are becoming popular worldwide, used to manage energy consumption, to control transport and ecological matters, and to allow computer modelling and video monitoring. Leading global companies are battling for leadership in this branch, annually raising their level of financing.