

Innovative market expected to face significant changes

It's likely that a major project comparable to nuclear power station construction or High-Tech Park — in terms of investment volume and scale — will soon be launched in Belarus

By Aleksander Bogomazov

Another 'Silicon Valley' is planned for the country, called BelBiograd and uniting companies operating in the fields of pharmaceuticals, nano- and bio-technologies. At least 2bn Euros are to be injected into its establishment and the creation of necessary infrastructure. However, specialists are convinced that it will quickly pay for itself.

The Head of the Science and Innovative Policy Department at the Economy Ministry, Dmitry Krupsky, confirms that BelBiograd is already included on Belarus' 2011-2015 State Social-Economic Development Programme. The project's initial draft has received approval from all key agencies and is expected to be studied by the Government by late summer.

"Initially, we thought of naming our sci-tech park Biograd but later learnt that Croatia has a city of a similar name: Biograd Na Moru. So, we added a prefix and slightly 'nationalised' the name," says Mr. Krupsky. "So far, several scientific-research institutions operate in Belarus covering the sphere of BelBiograd's major focus; among them is the Institute of Microbiology at the National Academy of Sciences — whose developments are

the basis for various production enterprises in the real sector of the economy."

The Economy Ministry hopes that western pharmaceutical companies will be attracted by the profit-

around 165m consumers," explains Mr. Krupsky.

It's expected that the establishment of a sci-tech park in the country will help

ture administrative blocks and infrastructure, in addition to residential accom-

on pharmaceutical production and industrial biotechnologies; the second is to tackle bio-technologies in the agro-industrial sphere and the third will oversee nano-products. It's already known that two industrial zones are to border regional cities.

the park's establishment will positively influence the development of innovative infrastructure in the country.

At present, Belarus — known for its rich science intensive potential within the post-Soviet space — lacks innovatively active enterprises: only 381 were registered in 2010. Meanwhile, in line with the recently signed 2011-2015 State Innovative Development Programme, no less than a thousand of them should operate. According to the document, the number of scientific-production centres and holdings are to rise from 40 to 60. Ten more technology transfer centres are to be set up (reaching a total of 45). Three venture organisations, 15 engineering companies (instead of the present 10) and 30 design bureaus are to appear. Mr. Krupsky considers that a new law on the development of the country's intellectual property market shall also contribute to the growth of Belarus' innovative potential. In particular, investors will gain the right to own part of the scientific-research and design works they have financed. Later, they'll have the right to buy the firm from whichever state organisation has also participated in financing. This move should seriously change the situation on the intellectual property market.



Gomel's Medplast JSC — which produces single use high-tech syringes — sets innovative example

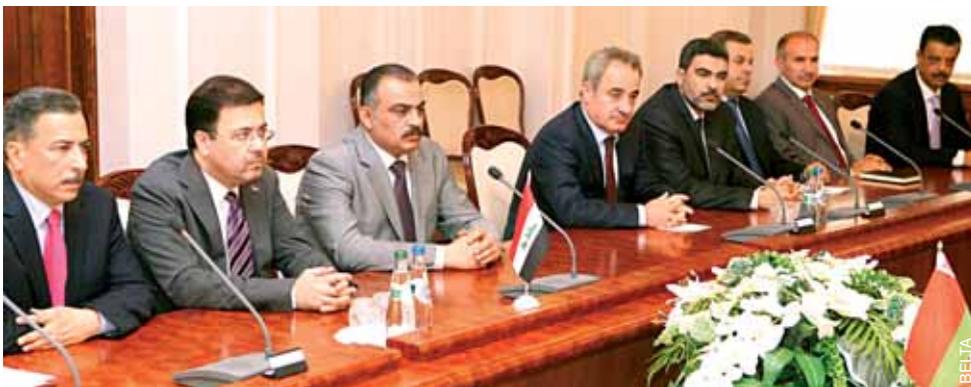
able legal conditions granted to investors — similar to those given to High-Tech Park residents; moreover, privileged tax rates may be an incentive. Belarus' joining of the Customs Union is another attraction. "Investors well understand that the project will enable them to join a market boasting

Belarus if not double its GDP then significantly advance in supplying science intensive and competitive products to global markets. BelBiograd is to include the construction of office and scientific-research buildings in Minsk, integrated into the Belarusian-Chinese Industrial Park. It will fea-

modation. A centre for the collective use of equipment will also operate.

Importantly, Minsk won't be the only venue for the project. As Mr. Krupsky explains, three regional industrial zones are to be established in the country, each boasting its own specialisation. One is to focus

Talks are currently underway with Russian companies who are keen to work at BelBiograd. Agreements of intentions are expected to be signed soon and, according to estimations, each BelBiograd project will be worth at least \$100m. The Economy Ministry is convinced that



Iraqi delegation attends meeting with Belarusian Government

Agreements reached to jointly produce tractors

By Nina Overianova

Assembly of Belarusian tractors could be launched in Iraq

The Minister for Industry and Minerals of Iraq, Ahmed al-Karboli, has announced that Belarus and Iraq are now discussing the possibility of setting up an assembly facility for Belarusian tractors in Iraq.

"According to preliminary agreements, a tractor assembly enterprise could be set up in Iraq in future," he tells us, adding that Belarusian and Iraqi experts are to discuss conditions and prospects of co-operation as part of the project.

The Iraqi delegation visited the Minsk Tractor Works, viewing its operation and conditions for trac-

tor making. "This is the first step towards co-operation," stressed Ahmed al-Karboli, expressing his hope that the visit would inspire other ministries from Iraq to come to Belarus, while promoting bilateral collaboration. Mr. al-Karboli notes that Belarus and Iraq have agreed to set up a commission for trade and economic co-operation.

MAZ supplies first batch of its buses to Colombia

By Tatiana Chumakova

"We've designed a special bus for Colombia which is now being tested. We hope to see large supplies to this country next year," explains MAZ's Acting Commercial Director, Vladimir Lyusikov.

The plant has also manufactured special chassis for Ecuador — to be shipped there in the final quarter of this year. Mr. Lyusikov notes that an assembly facility is currently being built in Venezuela, ready for launch in October or November 2011. The enterprise will annually

assemble up to 5,000 vehicles.

MAZ also plans to raise delivery volumes to Africa, Latin America and the Arab states. Mr. Lyusikov remarks that the devalued Belarusian Rouble has helped the company raise exports and national currency proceeds. In H1, it nearly doubled its exports.

Master class taught to farm machinery drivers

By Nikolay Bestemianov

Russian farm machinery operators learn from Gomselmash specialists

During this year's harvest season, Gomselmash Production Association has helped its consumers in Russia, where it has many

dealerships offering technical maintenance. These hosted master classes, held by the famous Belarusian company's specialists; over 1,000 Russians operating Belarus-made agricultural vehicles attended. Similar assistance is to be offered to Russians and other CIS cus-

tomers launching Gomselmash's 'Palesse' machinery.

All Gomselmash dealer and technical centres operate under a single corporate standard, which places strict demands on their equipment, personal qualifications and quality of client service.