



Belarusian Automobile Works known worldwide as trendsetter in developing heavy duty dump trucks

Huge dump truck designed in extremely meticulous detail

Modern information technologies enable Belarusian Automobile Works specialists to track and analyse all production, technological and business processes carefully and thoroughly

By Vladimir Velichansky

The Belarusian Automobile Works is known as a trendsetter on the global market of dump truck manufacturers. Not long ago, it announced its latest development: a vehicle able to carry 420 tonnes — placing it well ahead of rivals, to their surprise. This new 'heavy duty' development requires components which are unique worldwide, as tyres and engines used on smaller capacity vehicles cannot carry such heavy loads. BelAZ is convinced that it can solve any task and meet any stand-

ard. The first batch uses two engines, in addition to coupled wheels. It's cutting edge technology. BelAZ has clearly been working hard to set the pace in its industry, creating a new generation of wheels and engines. Of course, the project's economic feasibility must be thoroughly studied, to ensure a short return period on the investment. Thousands of external and internal factors have to be taken into consideration.

A complex information system helps BelAZ integrate all calculations, developments and projects. During the re-

cently held Belarusian Innovation Week, it even hosted a seminar entitled *BelAZ: 50 Years of Efficient Company Management with the Help of Information Technologies*.

Many Belarusian enterprises are now using IT to manage their production processes, their accounts, staff and other business processes. Naturally, to be used efficiently, software must serve a definite purpose.

BelAZ continues to develop its complex information system, using its dealer portal to promote its latest IT projects, expand the geog-

raphy of its sales and extend its fleet. Prompt communication with foreign dealers is essential to ensure quality of service, and to allow spare parts to be sent in good time. Databases are being set up to show how vehicles are being used across various regions (guiding the design of new models). Competition in our modern world is so fierce that communication is the key to success.

Prompt service certainly pays off, as we can see from a recent situation in Chile. The day after the warranty period had expired on

one dump truck, its engine failed. The local BelAZ representative quickly messaged the plant, which sent out a replacement within a few hours (supplied by a Russian producer to the Belarusian plant's assembly line). The new engine soon arrived in the remote South American continent and the repair was completed so quickly that, by the time that the head of the mine learnt of the failure, the dump truck was already operational again. The head of the Chilean company was so impressed by BelAZ's service that he soon signed another

contract (without tender) for several more dump trucks — each worth several million Dollars.

Naturally, the heads and specialists of this globally known plant would have been unable to identify a failure so quickly without their well-developed e-information system. This allowed them to promptly make a decision, choose the necessary specifications for the engine, arrange delivery and provide repairmen with the necessary technical documentation, allowing them to solve the problem in the shortest possible time.

Innovative products from university laboratories

Sphere of education could become an important source of innovations

The country's leading enterprises rely largely on their own scientific developments or the achievements proposed by the science. The First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Standardisation, Viktor Nazarenko, believes that the sphere of education should be more actively involved into the process of the innovative economic development. "Our universities sometimes underestimate the capacity of their experimental facilities and specialists," he noted recently at a conference on effective management in Grodno.

"They have greater capacities at present than many companies, so should work more actively to generate feasible and effective products."

Innovation is particularly vital for Belarus, as the country does not abound in natural resources. Even small and medium-sized companies should be focusing on innovative development. "About 900 companies are to be set up across various spheres in Belarus — in line with the 2011-2015 State Innovative Development Programme. Not all countries invest so greatly in the innovative development of their companies," Mr. Nazarenko added.

The innovative develop-

ment of the regions is a matter of particular concern, with Grodno hosting the international scientific conference entitled *Efficient Management: Experience and Prospects for Business and Education*. It gathered experts in management and quality control from Russia, Poland, Ukraine and Belarus, in addition to representatives of 30 universities and 15 companies. The forum explored best practice in developing and introducing management solutions and instruments, while discussing the integration of business and education and the innovative development of the national economy.

Retro style for Europe

By Anton Ivanov

'Minsk' motorcycle on show at European Motorcycle Show in Milan for the first time

Minsk Motorcycle and Bicycle Plant was established in November 1945; by 1999, it had transformed into an open joint stock company — called Motovelov JSC. It produces a diverse range of bicycles, road and sport motorcycles, cargo power buggies, trailers, exercise bikes, wheelchairs and spare parts for bicycles and motorcycles. Recently, Motovelov took its 'Minsk' motorcycle to



'Minsk M4 200' motorcycle

the EICMA-2011 Milan Motorcycle Show, attending for the first time. Motovelov's Italian partners hosted the stand, at which the 'Minsk M4 200' was displayed. It was the first Belarusian model chosen for joining the European

market, being designed in the style of 1950s by Belarusian Yuri Shif. It boasts a modern 13.5HP engine (produced under Honda CB license), consumes just 3 litres of fuel per 100km, weighs 115kg and would sell for almost 2,000 Euros.

Motovelov informs us that, following the Italian show, the company is planning to launch sales of this model in Europe, while producing a special version for those with a 'B' driver's license: having an engine of just 125 cubic centimetres. The 'Minsk' model was created in 1951 and, over the 60 years of the brand's existence, over 6.5 million have been manufactured.