

# Capital's authorities ready to support private initiative

## Year of Enterprise to promote compromise between authorities and entrepreneurs

Minsk's Mayoral Office is ready to support private initiative. "Entrepreneurial spirit and entrepreneurship are similar words. We want all regional administrations to re-think their relations with small, medium-sized and large businesses," notes Alexander Kalinovsky, the Deputy Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee's Economic Committee and Head of the Entrepreneurship Department. "Entrepreneurial spirit isn't a tangible notion, but refers primarily to reforming the work of all services, to support private initiative."

A serious programme is being launched to create business incubators in the capital's districts, as well as establishing infrastructure to support young people keen to open their own business. A favourable environment for entrepreneurs is needed, allowing medium-sized businesses to create or expand their manufactures. Such firms producing export-oriented, import-substitution and

innovation-oriented goods are to be most encouraged, receiving loans on beneficial terms.

Allocating land lots to construct buildings is another promising area, supporting private initiative. Mr. Kalinovsky notes that, in late 2010, a Consultative Council to Support Entrepreneurship was set up at Minsk's City Executive Committee, comprising officials and representatives from Minsk's business community.

"The task of an official is to remove obstacles hindering entrepreneurial spirit," emphasises Vladimir Koltovich, the Deputy Chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee. "We should not envy entrepreneurs; rather, we should assist them. Meanwhile, entrepreneurs should respect officials and follow the law."

According to Mr. Koltovich, in 2010, there were 89,000 small businesses in the Belarusian capital, accounting for 25 percent of tax revenue.



Minsk's entrepreneurs more actively operate in service sphere

## Ahead of other districts

By Nadezhda Radivonova

### Minsk, Soligorsk and Nesvizh districts lead in socio-economic development

The top three economic leaders in the Minsk Region see the Minsk District occupying first place, followed by Soligorsk and Nesvizh. District activities were assessed by various criteria, including figures per person employed in the economy and fulfilment of targets.

New assessment methods are being developed for 2011, with targets altered to focus on entrepreneurial spirit and initiatives. Proposals are being prepared to implement the Year of Enterprise in the Minsk Region. "The boldest and most advanced ideas have been given the green light," notes Alexander Turchin, the Chairman of the Minsk Regional Executive Committee's Economic Committee.

The last five years have been rather tense for the Minsk Region, but it has managed to amply fulfil several targets. A true breakthrough was seen in 2010. Over four years, industrial goods manufacture has risen 97.2 percent (up 145.9 percent over five years) bringing growth of more than 50 percent over a year. A similar situation is observed in the manufacture of consumer goods, investments into capital stock and the export of goods and services.

## Advantages of new series evident in comparison to past efforts

By Olga Belyavskaya

### Belarusian Railways constructing special workshop to manufacture locomotives

Belzheldorproekt enterprise has already launched design works, with Lida's locomotive depot planning to produce 12 shunting diesel locomotives this year. The first Belarusian locomotive was created here in late 2010, involving Czech CZ LOKO. In February, all necessary tests to produce a prototype will be complete, with trial exploitation planned at Minsk's locomotive depot.

The advantages of the new locomotive are its contemporary design, improved technical characteristics, enhanced security and comfortable working conditions for staff. With around 30 percent less fuel and up to 80 percent less oil used, the 'green' engines will have lower running costs; technical maintenance



and repair will also considerably fall in price. It costs 60-70 percent less to produce a locomotive in Belarus, compared to leading European manufacturers' similar models. Belarusian Railways is considering assembly manufacture of two-

## Shot from Mogilev spreads worldwide

By Vladimir Yakovlevsky

### Belarus is hardly known for its metallurgy, since we don't extract iron ore or black coal. However, we do occupy a specialised technological niche in metal processing

Mogilev's Metallurgical Works recently dispatched its first container of 21 tonnes of cast-iron shot to New Zealand, with a trial lot of split shot previously delivered to France. The customer is pleased with the price and quality; four heavy vehicles of such produce are already dispatched and an order for 300 more tonnes has been received. The company's clients include firms from the UK, Poland, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Holland. Canada is next in line, in addition to other markets where iron shot is used to purify cast and black forging and to strengthen the components of concrete.

In 2010, Mogilev's Metallurgical Works more than doubled its export supplies of metal shot. It has already outstripped its pre-crisis sales levels. Several years ago, the enterprise certified its produce in Germany in line with the European DIN standard. Secondly, it launched shot size grading, with ten types of split shot — varying in size from 0.1mm to 2.2mm and in surface characteristics. According to European classification, there are 12 types of split and 12 types of round shot. Previously, shot was packed into one tonne packages; now, comfortable 25kg bags are used, laid on trays. Equip-



Company's products

ment has also been purchased to manufacture steel shot: round and split, which is popular domestically and abroad. This year, MMZ plans to increase its export supplies of shot by more than a third.

The enterprise is also known for its iron hatches, used to lay street service lines. From these, it manufactures dozens of types of welded steel pipes and goods, with around 80 percent exported worldwide (to 17 countries). Last year, there was a 40 percent rise in such supplies. Currently, rolled steel is imported to produce such goods but Belarus plans to attract foreign investments to extract and process iron ore from recently discovered deposits. The second project is to create a flat rolled products line. These two plans will raise the factory's export potential, so no one will be able to deny our country's right to be called a major metallurgical power.