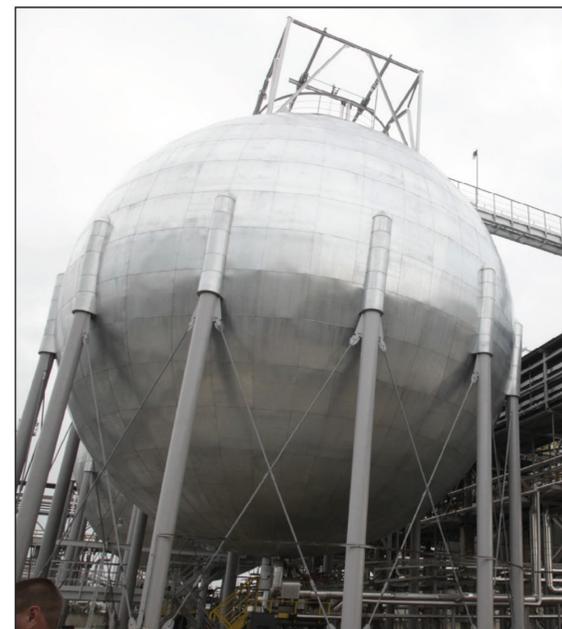




President of Shchekinoazot Boris Sokol personally led honoured guests on a tour of the company's territory.



Huge containers for liquid ammonia.

THE SECRET OF SHCHEKINOAZOT'S SUCCESS:

# Harmony of Production and Society

Marina Svetlova.  
Photos: Gennady Polyakov.

**Tula recently hosted the two-day Community Forum, which was organised by the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation and devoted to ecological problems. Valery Fadeyev, the president of the Civic Chamber, visited Shchekinoazot on the eve of the opening of the forum.**

The forum's theme, 'Nature and Society: How to Achieve Harmony', is very relevant for the Tula region. At the opening of the forum, Governor of Tula Region **Alexei Dyumin** said:



Alexei Dyumin

'There are many chemical and iron and steel enterprises in our region, which positively influences the development of the industrial potential. But at the same time, they have a significant

technogenic impact on the environment...'

In recent years, Dyumin said, there has been a steady reduction of emissions at industrial facilities in Tula Region. This is the result of cooperation between authorities and manufacturers, as well as enterprises' consistent, strict compliance with environmental requirements. A good example of this is Shchekinoazot.

Fedeyev didn't come to the enterprise alone. With him were his deputy, Alexander Tochenov, President of the Civic Chamber of Tula Region Alexander Vorontsov, and Chairwoman of the Commission on Ecology and Environmental Protection Albina Dudareva.

Boris Sokol and Vladimir Lebedev, a member of the Civic Chamber of Tula Region, welcomed the guests.

In keeping with good old Shchekinoazot tradition, the guests visited the plant's museum first to hear the story of the plant's past and present. And again, according to tradition, Valery Fadeyev left a note with warm words about the company in the Book of Honoured Guests.

Mr Fadeyev said that Shchekinoazot is worthy of respect: it did not let the base of the Soviet plant waste away, but built an even stronger enterprise on top of it, one of the best in the Russian chemical industry:

'In my opinion, this company symbolises continuity. This is a Soviet factory built more than 60 years ago. This mighty enterprise didn't collapse in the difficult nineties – it's developing, it's modern and high-tech. I would like to highlight three key points. First, the plant has high labour productivity and huge exports. Second, there's a certain feeling of social responsibility here. The work done here has an effect on veterans and urban development – for example, the renovation of facades, the organisation of sports teams. This is also a Soviet tradition that has not been abandoned, and this is also important. It's quite clear that the company works not just to make money, but also for the benefit of the people who live here. The third key point is ecology, cleanness. We always get frightened when we hear the word 'chemicals'.

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**We can see that Shchekinoazot follows the principle that a modern enterprise should harm neither people nor nature.**  
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Mr Fadeyev stressed that the public follows the environmental situation in the country closely and knows about the main environmental problems: waste disposal, air and water pollution and deforestation.

'Unfortunately, many industrialists still believe that the main things are jobs and the development of production. People don't understand that the ecological approach to production is profitable. You have to organise a business in such a way that it doesn't burden the enterprise. We see that Shchekinoazot's environ-

mental approach doesn't constrain production: there are no issues with profits or jobs here. In this respect, Shchekinoazot is one of those enterprises that can set an example for others'.

According to Sokol, it is important and necessary to discuss cooperation among the government, businesses and the public to implement social and environmental projects in Russia.

'We are partners in this work. We hold common positions, we're moving toward common goals: through the development of enterprises to an efficient economy, to the well-being of society', **Boris Sokol** said.

For a company, the key to success is not only making a profit, but working for the strategic interests of the state and society. And caring for the environment should be high on the list of any enterprise's good deeds.

The president of Shchekinoazot talked about the projects that the company will unveil in September 2018:

'This year is special for us. We've moved resolutely toward our goal of giving life to four state-of-the-art industrial complexes! And on 7 September, the M-450/A-135 methanol-ammonia complex and the sulphuric acid and perfume-quality dimethyl ether installations, as well as new treatment plants, will start their work at the Azot site, determining the development of the enterprise for years to come. We will strengthen the company's position further with the launch of Methanol-500, nitric acid and ammonium nitrate, and urea and ammonia complexes. These are Shchekinoazot's development plans. The largest of them is the combined M-450/A-135 plant for

the production of 450,000 tonnes of methanol and 135,000 tonnes of ammonia a year. Construction is practically complete. We're planning to hold the opening ceremony on 7 September. The complex was built using the technology of our long-standing strategic partner, the Danish company Haldor Topsoe, one of the world's top three leaders in gas-processing engineering. We think this'll be one of the most modern enterprises not just in Russia, but in Europe as a whole. This is a huge leap forward for Shchekinoazot. Investment in the methanol-ammonia complex totalled 18.5 billion roubles.

And the new treatment facilities at the plant will be unique. They're based on a biological method of purification in the bioreactor with the use of ultrafiltration membranes. Their capacity will be 1,200 cubic metres per hour. The water will be so clean that we'll be able to reuse it for production needs and release it into open water.

The implementation of modern technology as good as anything available in terms of the quality of treatment and energy consumption will allow the reduction of the load on existing industrial wastewater-processing plants and significant decreases in the intake of river water and the amount of substances released into bodies of water. Investment in this project totals about 800 million roubles'.

Valery Fadeyev, Alexander Tochenov and Albina Dudareva visited the company's industrial site. They were impressed by the Methanol-450 installation, as well as the new Methanol-450/Ammonia-135 production facilities and the warehouse for liquid ammonia.

The guests welcomed the company's intention in implementing its Development Strategy to become one of the country's leaders in the production of methanol and chemical products. With such an approach, the company is sure to succeed!



President of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation Valery Fadeyev left a note in the Book of Honoured Guests at the Shchekinoazot Museum.