

Good Deeds

Caring About People

The Shchekino District is a lucky one. Here, you can find large enterprises that can afford to make serious financial investments in the social sphere, assist the district and its people, and implement charitable projects.

Shchekinoazot is one of such enterprises.

Its tax payments, social partnership with the district and Pervomaysky worker settlement, and a large-scale program of good deeds implemented by the company give confidence and stability to the people of Shchekino District as well as the municipal entity in general.

In 2016 alone, the company invested about 95 million roubles in social and charitable programs.

Transformations in the Settlement of Pervomaysky

Pervomaysky, a settlement of chemical industry workers, is changing before our very eyes. The company spent 30 million roubles on a charity program to renovate the facades of residential buildings in the settlement; as a result, the facades of 31 multi-unit apartment buildings were put in order. The enterprise used its own funds to purchase decorative lightning equipment for the settlement, and now it looks bright and beautiful on days of festivities!

The company participates in the People's Budget, a regional programme aimed at addressing urgent local problems. The project has three sources of financing, including regional and local budgets, and funds from residents and sponsors.

The settlement's pond, which used to be a favourite leisure spot for local people, but in recent years was becoming increasingly shallow, got a second lease of life. Following a set of measures, this body of water has regained its initial look.

Renovated Jubilee House of Sports

The Jubilee House of Sports in the Pervomaysky worker settlement, which was built in the 1970's, has undergone a fundamental reconstruction. Today, this is a remarkably equipped sports center that meets all requirements. One can say with confidence that it is one of the most advanced and comfortable sports facilities in the region. The renovated Jubilee center retained all sports that have been cultivated here for many years, including swimming. It has a wonderful swimming pool open to both athletes and district residents. The pricing policy is flexible, as there are special "social prices" for children and pensioners. There is also Vityaz, a boxing club where children can train

free of charge, as these costs are assumed by the enterprise.

The company acts as a sponsor and partner for many sports and cultural events in the district.

Excellent Leisure and Recreation

The enterprise provides partial or complete financing for summer health improvement and leisure vacations for employees and their children.

Every year, Shchekinoazot provides its employees with the opportunity to send their children to health-improvement camps. This year, the company decided to organise the children's leisure activities in Shakhtyor, a countryside recreation and retreat center. This time, the opportunity was provided to even more people than usual. As a result, young athletes from Vityaz club also had a chance to improve their health.

The vacations for the children were financed by the enterprise, which allocated about 2.5 million roubles for this purpose during the summer season of 2017.

The camp was first visited by young boxers, followed by another group of children in July.

Overall, during the summer health-improvement activities, 120 young people from Shchekino District will visit this place with vacation vouchers



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provided by the company. The holiday is arranged as part of the large-scale social program aimed at supporting the people of our region.

For the employees of Shchekinoazot, it is a good tradition to organise mass cultural and educational events in the Shchekino and Pervomaysky worker settlements.

Respect for the Past

For any company, a caring attitude to traditions and care for the Second World War and labour veterans represent one of the main approaches to building a social policy.

Significant funds are invested in preserving and properly maintaining memorials in honour of World War II heroes, and in projects to create new memorial places.

The company provided about 10 million roubles for a comprehensive improvement of the Tolstoy Family Cemetery at Kochaki. The place is now well-maintained, and garbage is regularly removed from its territory.

For Victory Day on May 9 and other holidays, the company presents gifts to all World War II veterans living in the Shchekino District. As part of this initiative, veterans receive financial assistance or food packages.

In 2017, the company started implementing a new programme for World War II veterans and similar categories of former employees of the plant. They receive additional monthly payments referred to by the people as "supplementary pensions."

Mikhail KOPANITSA.

Shchekinoazot: Steps to Leadership

Shchekinoazot is the flagship enterprise of the chemical industry not only in the Tula region, but also in Russia

The enterprise began its history in 1946, when the decision was taken to build a gas plant in the Shchekino District. The area was used to mine brown coal intended for the production of natural gas supplied to Tula and Moscow.

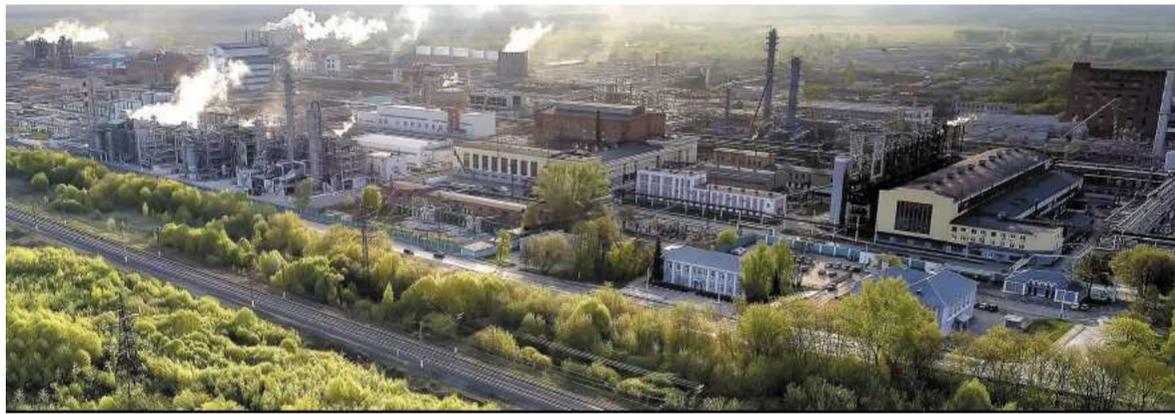
It was a difficult time. People from all over the country were coming to the Pervomaysky settlement. Despite post-war hardships, the construction site was boiling with energy.

May 17, 1955 is the date of establishment of the enterprise. On this day, the Shchekino Gas Plant was put into industrial operation.

Beginning of Chemical Manufacturing

Soon, there was no longer any need to obtain natural gas from brown coal mined in the Moscow region. In 1958, Shchekino Gas Plant changed its specialisation. A decree adopted in June 1959 transformed Shchekino Gas Plant into a Chemical Combine.

The 1960's were marked by a commissioning of new facilities at the enterprise, including the carbamide workshops No. 1 and No. 2, formalin and carbamide resins workshop, ion exchange membrane workshop, caprolactam production facility, and Stage 1 of methanol production facility. This was also accompanied by the construction of infrastructure for workers of the enterprise, including housing,



For Shchekinoazot, the secret to success is continuous development and a high level of employee professionalism.

and social and cultural infrastructure facilities.

The Soviet period is associated with the "Shchekino Method," the famous economic experiment during which the enterprise worked under a "Less Staff, More Output" scheme that was ahead of its time.

The new method was elaborated under the leadership of Pyotr M. Sharov, the Director of Shchekino Chemical Combine, who was awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labour for his contribution to the development of the plant.

In 1971, for its high achievements, Shchekino Chemical Combine was awarded the Order of Lenin, and 8 employees of the enterprise received the State Prize.

The Epoch of Success

A significant stage in the development of the company began in 2000. It is associated with a new approach to manufacturing,

marketing, and personnel policies. In this critical period, the company was headed by Boris A. Sokol. This marked the beginning of a new stage in the development of Russian and foreign markets, elaboration of the program for the development of the enterprise, and construction of new production facilities.

Today, the close-knit team of Shchekinoazot is working on projects from its Strategic Development Program with investments totalling 882 million dollars for the period until 2018. The current surface area of the plant is 260 hectares.

2006 marked the commissioning of a new urea formaldehyde concentrate (UFC) workshop, which heralded a number of new investment projects implemented by Shchekinoazot. In 2012, the reconstruction of the urotropine production facility allowed for the operation of concentrated low-methanol formalin (CMMF-60) unit. Today, the company is upgrading its equipment and

improving its technology.

The site of Shchekinoazot hosts Hexion-Shchekinoazot, a joint venture with Hexion, an American company, to manufacture phenol-formaldehyde resins. In 2010, the company completed the construction of its new methanol storage facility. In 2011, Pervomayskaya CHPP became a part of Shchekinoazot, and a new methanol (M-450) production facility was put into operation with the technology provided by Haldor Topsoe, a Danish company. 2012 marked the start of the operation of the V-26 hydrogen unit. DME Aerosol, a joint venture, was established together with Petro Carbo Chem (PCC SE, a European holding company) to organise the manufacturing of aerosol-grade dimethyl ether at the Shchekinoazot industrial site. 2013 was the year for the comprehensive reconstruction of the caprolactam production facility; 2014

NEWS OF THE COMPANIES

marked a large-scale reconstruction in the ammonium sulphate workshop.

Prospects

Shchekinoazot has new large-scale projects in the pipeline. The company is building a set of production facilities with an annual capacity of 450,000 tonnes of methanol and 135,000 tonnes of ammonia (by using Haldor Topsoe technology). The works are scheduled for completion as early as 2018. There is an ongoing construction of sulfuric acid and aerosol-grade dimethyl ether production facilities, as well as treatment facilities. The company is studying projects geared toward building its third production facility for manufacturing M-500 methanol, ammonia, and carbamide.

A new line of ammonium sulfate granulation is at the stage of equipment fine-tuning.

Today, the company is one of the largest manufacturers of industrial chemical products, including methanol, caprolactam, ammonia, carbamide-formaldehyde concentrate, and cyclohexane. The enterprise produces household chemical products and spunbond.

But it aims for even more ambitious goals – to be the leader of chemical products in Russia and the largest producer of methanol!

The secret to success is not to rest on achievements, but to apply the latest technology, respond to market needs, and always work with professionalism.

Mikhail KOPANITSA.