

Focusing on Investment and Social Responsibility

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Both domestic and foreign companies have always wanted to learn from the experience of Shchekinoazot, a giant of the chemical industry with a rich history. Shchekino chemists, for their part, have always been happy to have guests. In the seventies alone, Shchekinoazot was visited by more than 140 foreign delegations. This time around, Valery Fadeyev, the president of the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation, came to the enterprise as part of Tula Region's Community Forum.

The purpose of his visit was to learn about the company's activity, including with respect to ensuring environmental safety. The enterprise has taken a leading position in the industrial chemistry, producing methanol, caprolactam, urea formaldehyde concentrate, sulphuric acid, liquid technical ammonia, engineering plastics, nonwoven thermally bonded fabric, spunbond, linoleum... It sells its products not only in Russia, but also in Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, the United States and Latin America. About 70% of the company's total sales comes from exports.

Valery Aleksandrovich's first stop was the Hall of Labour Glory. After examining the exposition, Mr Fadeyev concluded that the 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', he said. 'I would like to highlight three key points. First, the plant has high labour productivity and huge exports. It's wonderful that the Soviet plant wasn't just left to flop, but that they built an even more impressive enterprise on top of it. Second, there's a certain feeling of social responsibility here. The work done here has an effect on veterans



An excursion around the enterprise. Valery Fadeyev praises the work of Shchekinoazot

and urban development – for example, the renovation of facades, the organisation of sports teams. That, generally speaking, is another 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 can see that Shchekinoazot follows the principle that a modern enterprise should harm neither people nor nature.'

According to Mr Fadeyev, the public is paying close attention to various environmental problems around the country, including waste management, air and water pollution in cities 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 en-

terprise', Valery Aleksandrovich declared. 'We see that Shchekinoazot's environmental 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.'

President of Shchekinoazot Boris Sokol told the guests about the company in detail. According to him, this year is very important for Shchekinoazot: the company is implementing four new projects at once.

'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', Sokol said. '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.

The second project has to do with the production of sulphuric acid, and the company's implementing it with Chinese partners. The new plant will use improved sulphuric-acid production technology that's more effective in terms of both automated process control and ecology. For instance, in addition to the use of high-class catalysts, there'll be a two-stage gas-cleaning unit with an electrostatic precipitator, which will reduce the environmental impact by a factor of ten. Investment in this project totals about 2 billion roubles. Work is now nearing completion; we're planning to launch in the autumn.'

'We have another project that's a first in Russia: a plant producing 20,000 tonnes of perfume-quality dimethyl ether a year. We're implementing this project together with

German Petro Carbo Chem', Sokol told Valery Fadeyev. 'It's connected to import substitution, since this product isn't produced in Russia but is in great demand. It's imported from abroad. Investment in this project has grown to more than 21 million roubles.'

It will also be launched in the autumn. The fourth project is directly connected to the environmental programme. It involves brand-new treatment facilities, built with an emphasis on the latest scientific developments. They'll service both the existing facilities and those that will be launched in the future. We have a reserve of energy for the future, as the company does not intend to stop developing and is ready to implement new projects.'

According to experts, facilities with a capacity of more than 24,000 cubic metres per day are designed for cleaning industrial wastewater. What is expected from the implementation of such a significant project? 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.

Boris Sokol organised a tour of the Company for Valery Fadeyev. The president of the Russian Civic Chamber was shown the M-450 methanol production unit launched in 2011, the liquid ammonia warehouse and the combined methanol-ammonia complex.

'Mr Fadeyev's visit to Shchekinoazot and his evaluation of our production activities is a great honour for the whole team', said Boris Sokol, the president of the United Chemical Company.



New treatment facilities



Production of perfume-quality dimethyl ether



Combined methanol-ammonia complex