

A Hot Summer for Shchekinoazot

The Chemist's Day is the favourite holiday of Shchekinoazot employees. On this day, chemists and their families enjoy festivities, presents, awards and concerts.



Governor Alexei DYUMIN awarded President of Shchekinoazot Boris SOKOL the Ministry of Industry and Trade medal 'For Labour Valour'.



Representative of the Russian State Duma Natalia PILYUS also congratulated the chemists on their professional holiday.



Honoured guests.

mention, is more than just a vivid metaphor. It was our reality, the reality of what was about to happen to us. Secondly, we remember that period because we managed to overcome this difficult situation very quickly, by creating an anti-crisis strategy, a major development strategy for Shchekinoazot, that we prolong and adjust even today, at every stage. In 13 years, the chemists of Shchekino have completed 16 investment and modernisation projects, and 882 million dollars has been invested in the development of Shchekinoazot. There are plans to invest a comparable sum over the next few years."

It's not just the management that remembers that crisis period well. **Vladimir Yegorochkin, a technician at the boiler-and-turbine shop**, was awarded the title of Honoured Chemist by the governor himself. Yegorochkin started working at the plant in 1989. Over the past 30 years, he's lived through a lot.



"Times have changed," he recalls. "Sometimes we didn't get our pay, not for a long time. It was hard and not everyone could deal with it. A lot of people quit. I stayed, and I don't regret it at all: the work conditions are amazing, the salary is decent. The most important thing is that the team here is great!"

This great team, it's worth noting, has never dropped the ball. The M-450 installation, launched in the autumn of 2011, was developed by Denmark's Haldor Topsoe, Shchekinoazot's permanent licensor. That installation allowed the company to move on and survive, and this year's project will guarantee its stable growth and a decent position in the global market.

"At the moment the projects are now approaching completion," says **Nurlan Bimendiyev, the general director of the Shchekinoazot Trade House**, who was awarded a certificate of appreciation from the Tula Region administration. "Commercial marketing services are ready to put them into operation and attract new customers. Everyone who works with us knows that the quality of our products sets them apart.



And new projects are on the way."

A Very Special 2018

THIS YEAR, the celebration started a little late, since the company's management took part in the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. Minister of Industry and Trade Denis Manturov, Governor of Tula Region Alexei Dyumin and President of Shchekinoazot Boris Sokol signed a memorandum envisaging the conclusion of a special investment contract. The agreement concerns the construction of two new facilities with total investment of 19 billion roubles, as the head of the region announced in his greetings to Shchekino chemists.

"It's safe to say that Shchekinoazot is one of the leaders of the chemical industry in Russia. Its products successfully compete with those from other countries on all global markets," Dyumin said.

The governor thanked the management, employees and veterans of the company for their hard work, which allows Shchekinoazot to reach new professional heights, conquer new markets and maintain their reputation as a socially responsible company through projects related to urban services, healthcare and ed-

ucation, sports, culture and support of young people.

Boris Sokol commented on the committed, well-coordinated and professional work of the company's employees.

"We've set ambitious goals for ourselves. In 2018, we'll be commissioning four new production facilities at once: an M-450/A-135 methanol-ammonia complex, a sulphuric acid installation, perfume-quality dimethyl ether production site (in association with Petro Carbo Chem) and new treatment facilities. We're now on the cusp of achieving these objectives. The new facilities will be launched in the early autumn..."

These projects mean more than highly-efficient workplaces, more tax revenue, new social projects. They're a new frontier for the company, and not only for it. The methanol and ammonium installation represents technology that's unique in both Russia and Europe. Russian companies still have to buy perfume-quality dimethyl ether abroad. Advanced production of sulphuric acid, the raw material for caprolactam, will allow us to decrease the cost of manufacturing our main product significantly. The

new treatment facilities will help boost production capacity this year and in the future.

And the company's future is bright. However, Boris Sokol emphasised that this year is special. He compared the company's plans with the revolutionary transformations that took place in the 1960 and '70s, the period of the Shchekino experiment, which later became known in production management textbooks as the Shchekino Method.

The Ghost of the Barn Lock

WHEN TALKING ABOUT Shchekinoazot's current progress, it's important to remember the period when the issue of an energy-efficient post-Soviet chemical industry was impossible to ignore.

"We all remember the 2000s," the president of Shchekinoazot told guests and colleagues. "First, because the plant was gasping for breath, on the verge of shutting down. The barn lock hanging on our doors, which I often

One Project, Then Another!

"IT'S VERY HARD to implement four major, expensive and quite original projects at the same time," says **Anatoly Surba, the director general of Shchekinoazot**. "In part because all the construction projects are being carried out without halting production. We're continuing to make and supply products to the domestic and international markets."



Everyone on the production site, from the director general and department managers to workers, understands that the new projects aren't a whim of the owner, a simple desire to make more money, but a question of the company's future development and the well-being of every



The winner of the TV project 'Talents of Russia', the festival contest 'Promotion' and the contests 'Star Academy' and 'Best Dancer of the Year' Anastasia MAKAROVA performed for everyone.



A performance by a student of the Charity Foundation of the Tolstoy, Topsoe and Sokol Families, Ivan TIMOKHIN, winner of the N. I. Beloborodov contest, People's Artist of Russia V. F. Gridin contest, the Belogoriya Cup and the festival Italian Nights in Russia.



The celebration on the central square of Shchekino ended with the best-loved hits of Denis MAYDANOV, holder of the Golden Gramophone, Song of the Year and Chanson of the Year awards.



Shchekino chemists' kids' vision of the future.

member of the team. That means free sports clubs for kids, summer vacations in the Shakhter centre on the Oka River, family vacations in Anapa sponsored by Shchekinoazot. It means continuously increasing salaries and the prospect of stable careers for our children and grandchildren. The company has always been famous for its working dynasties, some of which have worked a total of 300-400 years at this 63-year-old factory. And judging by the variety of projects that the development strategy includes, these dynasties will keep going on and on.

"At the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, a memorandum of understanding on a special investment contract was signed by the Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade, the administration of the Tula Region and Shchekinoazot," says Boris Sokol about plans for the future. "The prospective conclusion of a special investment contract providing particular working conditions will guarantee the success of the M-500 project and construction of the nitric acid production site, with a capacity of 270,000 tonnes a year, and the ammonia nitrate production site, with a capacity of 340,000 tonnes a year. This complex will also be built on Shchekinoazot's production platform. The third methanol production facility, combined with our other methanol centres, will make the company one of the leaders in the manufacturing of this product in Russia.

We are planning to begin producing carbamide and ammonium, too. When that happens, Shchekinoazot will become the leader of the Russian chemical industry."

Of course, such fast growth creates the need for a special HR policy. The quality development of staff potential is more than just training, although the company devotes very close attention to that. It involves career orientation for students, the experience of dual education in association with Shchekino Polytechnic throughout the whole region, collaboration with the best technical and chemical universities in the country... It also includes immense respect for working people, friendly support from colleagues and virtually unlimited possibilities for professional growth and career development, which are all parts of Shchekinoazot's legacy.

On the holiday, partners and friends congratulated the company's employees. Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Sergei Tsyb sent greetings, and **Speaker of the Tula Region Duma Sergei KHARITONOV** addressed the team:

"Hard work, professionalism and commitment to tradition are what allow the chemists of Shchekino to achieve amazing results in their work. Proof of that is the famous Shchekino Method, born here in your company and now famous across the country. Today, Shchekinoazot occupies top positions in the industry, explores new opportunities and actively participates in the life of the region, supporting various social projects..."

Many others congratulated the chemists: State Duma Deputies Nataliya Pilyus and Vladimir Afonsky; Tula Region Minister of Industry and Energy Dmitry Lomovtsev (who, by the way, started his career at Shchekinoazot); the heads of the Shchekino District Elena Rybalchenko and Oleg Fedosov; President of the Association of Russian Chemists Viktor Ivanov; Chairman of the Russian Professional Union of Chemists Alexander Sitnov; Managing Director of Haldor Topsoe Peter Vang Christensen; and many others. Almost every speech ended with the presentation of an award. Certificates of appreciation, letters of gratitude, presents and bonuses – the work of many employees of Shchekinoazot was justly rewarded.

Between the speeches, chemists and their guests enjoyed brilliant performances by the students of Charity Foundation of the Tolstoy, Topsoe and Sokol Families.

On Saturday night, the festivities continued on Shchekino's central square, where the most talented groups and performers of Tula performed. The celebration ended with a concert by Denis Maidanov, the winner of Golden Gramophone, Song of the Year and Chanson of the Year awards.

Fun is fun, but to reach your goals, you have to work hard, too. The president of the company warned the team that it was too early to sit back and relax; regardless of the weather, the summer would be hot. Very hot! And apparently, it won't be the last hot and busy summer for Shchekinoazot.

Natalia ZELINSKA.
Photos by **Alexander KOLESNIK,**
Andrei TETERIN
and the press service of the
Tula Region administration.



The Chemist's Day is one of the best-loved holidays in Shchekino.



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No One Will Be Forgotten

In Tula Region, the region with the oldest population, a pilot project to create a long-term care system for retired and disabled citizens is being implemented.

THE PROCESS was discussed on 4 June at a meeting called by Governor Alexei Dyumin.

Marina Levina, the deputy chairman of the regional administration, said that a system of long-term care will require the joint efforts of doctors, social workers, volunteers, the media and families of people who need help. She said that out of 17,000 citizens of Tula Region who receive social services at home, approximately 10% need permanent care, while of the 3,000 who reside in in-patient facilities, about half need such treatment. Regional healthcare organisations report that another 5,770 people are cared for by their relatives on a permanent basis.

The project will be implemented in stages over three years. This year it will cover Tula, Shchekino and Bogoroditsk. To that end, Levina said, there will need to be professional examinations of retired and disabled citizens in order to determine what services they require and how urgently. The functions and workload of employees tasked with caring for them will be reviewed, and trainings will be organised. Right now, four teachers are undergoing training in Moscow with the support of the charity

fund "Starost v Radost." After returning, they will train 600 care specialists by the end of the year.

Another important aspect of the project is attracting volunteers. According to Yulia Verprintseva, deputy chairman of the Tula Region administration and minister of youth policy, volunteers regularly visit social institutions, talk to old people, read books to them, walk together and lead workshops involving fine motor skills, themed sessions and creative classes. At the moment, eight volunteer organisations are working with the state social institutions that are participating in the project. They plan to continue this collaboration.

Minister of Labour and Social Protection Andrei Filippov talked about the construction of a new building for the Krasivsky Psychoneurological Hospital. The project documentation and results of engineering surveys are currently under review by the Tula Region State Construction Committee. It will make its decision by the end of June.

Discussing new forms of at-home social services, Filippov said that in 2015, all social service centres organised the Nurse Service jointly. Since then, around 200 people have sought their assistance. This year, they are planning to introduce a new service, Family Assistance for Retired and Disabled Citizens.

When asked about medical assistance for residents of remote villages, the minister said that there are 21 mobile teams in the region. In the first four months of this year, they made 159 visits to 209 towns and villages and provided medical assistance to 1,558 retired and disabled persons.

Summing up the discussion, Alexei Dyumin said: "We are constantly working to improve living conditions at in-patient facilities. We introduce new forms of social assistance. It's important for everyone who needs help to know about the possibilities we offer and how to use them."



Above All, Warmth And Care

The Pervomaisky home for elderly and disabled persons is a pilot venue for testing new models of social services as part of the developing system of long-term care.

LAST WEEK, Governor Alexei Dyumin visited the home, reports the press service of the Tula Region administration. In the room for mental relaxation, the psychologist Tatiana Zamyatina talked about her classes and said that the facility needs equipment for a specialised sensor room. The governor promised to have it purchased in the near future.

At the moment, the residential space in the facility is being renovated, with 3.5 million roubles allotted for that purpose from the regional budget. The governor emphasised that the living conditions must be as close as possible to what the residents would have at home and that the repair work must be high quality and completed on time.

"Monitoring quality at social facilities is a task assigned by the government of the Rus-



sian Federation," said Dyumin. "It is important that people here feel as comfortable as possible. That they have everything they need. And above all, warmth and care."

According to the governor, there are plans to renovate the outdated boiler room next year, and the funds for that have already been allocated.

Dyumin also talked to volunteers at the Pervomaisky home. "I'm glad to see that volunteers are actively helping the people who live here. Any help makes a difference," he said.