

Shchekinoazot:

The Goal is to Become Leader of the Russian Chemical Industry

On May 26, we attended a gala event devoted to the Day of the Chemist and 67th Anniversary of Shchekinoazot.

The Gala Event

Representatives from Tula Region Government, State Duma and Federal Assembly deputies, Tula Region Duma deputies, Tula Mayor Yuri Tskipuri and heads of Shchekino District arrived to congratulate chemists from Shchekino on their professional holiday.

The event started with an excursion through the history of Shchekinoazot's development from a gas plant to the flagship of the Russian chemistry industry. The company was founded in 1946, when a decision was made to build a gas plant 20 km to the south of Tula. Shchekinoazot issued its first products in 1955.



The gala event was opened by **Yuri Andrianov, Chair of Tula Region Government.**

In his speech, as well as congratulating the company's management and workers, he stated that

Shchekinoazot was not just a leader of our region's industry, but also a leader of socially oriented business, with Tula region appreciating the fruits of the company's work both in the social sphere and in raising the next generation. Yuri Andrianov awarded distinguished workers with acknowledgment and recognition letters from the Governor Alexey Dyumin and honorary certificates from the Tula Region Government.

The welcome speech was delivered by the **President of Shchekinoazot Boris Sokol.** His address included not only congratulations for the Day of the Chemist but also the results of the company's activities for the last year:

"Dear colleagues and friends, with all my heart I congratulate you on our holiday! Looking around this hall, I can't help but notice that the professional holiday has become a real family holiday for us. Almost every Shchekino family includes someone who works or has worked in our company.

There are veterans in this hall who are the source of pride and honor for our decorated chemistry plant whose history stretches over 60 years. There is the next generation, too, graduates from colleges, institutes and universities who have recently come to the factory and who are going to build and develop the enterprise in future. I am sure that you will honorably continue the working tradition of your fathers and grandfathers. You have everything you need for this: talent, creative aspiration, inquiring minds and energy. And experience... Given the company's mentoring and professional training system, you will acquire it in no time. In 2016, 33 young specialists under 30 came to work at the factory!



Presentation ceremony. The President of Shchekinoazot presented awards to company employees.

In the years to come, after the launch of new production facilities, Shchekinoazot will welcome 350 more workers in hi-tech jobs who will become part of three-thousand-strong team of Shchekino chemists.

We are implementing a consistent, calibrated HR policy. We have neither a turnover nor deficit of employees. But we have dynasties whose combined employed service amounts to nearly four hundred years. They are the gold reserves of our work team! The company employs many young people, and we place a special emphasis on them. There are currently 820 Shchekinoazot employees under 35. The average age of the company's employees is 42".

Summing Up

According to Boris Sokolov, the most important result of the company's work over the last year is the progressive implementation of the Shchekinoazot development strategy. The program is proceeding as rapidly as before, despite all the difficulties, both on the Russian and international chemical markets.

When the program started in 2005, it was crucial to save the company and the team. Commissioned in 2011 in cooperation with the Danish world-famous licensor Haldor Topsoe, the M-450 methanol production plant was cutting edge not only for Russia but for Europe as well. And it remains so to this day. The importance of this plant for the enterprise is hard to overestimate: Shchekinoazot was given a second chance, as well as the Efimovo branch and Khimvolokno Factory. They managed to save jobs, a stable salary and social benefits for the employees.

The second unique project is the combined complex for the production of methanol and ammonia with a capacity of 450 and 135 thousand tons of product per year respectively, which is currently under construction. This will guarantee the company's financial stability in high market volatility conditions.

Trends and Challenges

...After commissioning combined production facilities of methanol and ammonia in 2018, the next methanol-related project follows, simultaneously to which we are planning to accomplish

by 2020 and acquire all the construction permits for our largest investment project, ammonia and carbamide production facilities.

By 2024, having built ammonia and carbamide production facilities, we are planning to triple our gas processing – up to three billion cubic meters – and quadruple the volume of production. Investment will eventually exceed 2 billion dollars. We will become the leaders of chemical production in Russia!

We are also currently building sulfuric acid and dimethyl ether production plants, new treatment facilities. We are launching a new ammonium sulfate compacting plant.

Of course, these are challenging and crucial times for us. In 2017, we will finish construction, and launch and prepare for launching several production facilities.

Our specialists, engineers and workers are making great efforts to maintain the existing production facilities and, at the same time, to build new ones quickly and efficiently.

But everything we do we do for ourselves. For the prosperity of the company, its employees, their families, for the development and well-being of the region and the country. Understanding all this makes us increase the level of our responsibility and professionalism as we work.

Social Programs in Action

Successful implementation of production plans will allow the enterprise to fully implement fully implement all our social policy and charity plans, which will serve the common interests of the population of the whole region.

In 2016, Shchekinoazot invested 95 million rubles in social and charity programs, including bonuses to pensions Great Patriotic War veterans, infrastructural improvements to Pervomaysky township, reconstruction of the Yubileyny Sports Complex complete with a swimming pool and a boxing center. The company co-finances the National Budget Regional Program.

The achievements of the young children from Topsoe, Tolstoy, Sokol Families Charity Foundation we provide our support to are a point of pride for the company. All those assembled had the opportunity to appreciate the results of the support thanks

to the brilliant performance given by the Foundation's children: Elegia Dance Theater soloist, finalist in the Russian Jazz Championship, Varvara Vnukova who performed the Love Anticipation Dance, and the winner of All-Russia and International competitions Daniil Konstantinov who played the composition titled "Russians, Celebrate!" and a lyrical piece titled "In Memory of Gennadi Zavolokin".

Wages are indexed annually. Shchekino chemists take vacations at resorts at a minimum price to rejuvenate and restore their health. The company pays for most of these expenses.

Thank You for Your Work and Support!

Boris Sokol expressed his sincere gratitude to the Shchekinoazot team for their honest and dedicated work. The president of the company also expressed gratitude to the business and financial partners who help the company implement ambitious projects. The president of Shchekinoazot JSC expressed special gratitude to the heads of the region, and personally to the Governor, for his assistance in resolving a number of issues, particularly concerning the delivery Rosneft's benzol to the enterprise. Boris Sokol noted that effective state and regional support mechanisms for chemistry enterprises inspire feeling of belief in the future.

The company President presented awards to the employees. In total, 60 Shchekinoazot employees received tokens of recognitions for their work.

62 years is a whole era created, and still being created, by Shchekinoazot's employees. This is not just a number, it's the sum of many factors: experience, operational excellence of the team, passion towards work and up-to-date production technologies.

The ability to achieve goals, work hard for increasing and creating are the key to Shchekinoazot's team winning strategy. Komsomolskaya Pravda Tula joins in congratulating the Shchekino chemists and is proud to have such a powerful production company in our region.

...On May 27, Shchekino hosted a gala night featuring Shchekino District Heads, Elena Rybalchenko and Oleg Feodosov, Shchekinoazot Human Resources and Social Development Director, Irina Podchufarova, who congratulated the chemists and their families.

The Day of the Chemist festivities concluded with an unforgettable performance by Larisa Dolina. She sang for all the town's residents and guests at the big festival organized by Shchekinoazot on Lenin Square. The Day of the Chemist is customarily celebrated in style – just like Town Day. And that is no surprise, as virtually every family in Shchekino is connected to Shchekinoazot.

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Photo: Alexey FOKIN.