

Shchekinoazot Onwards and Upwards

THIS YEAR, ONE OF THE TULA REGION'S INDUSTRY LEADERS, SHCHEKINOAZOT, CELEBRATES ITS 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Today the chemical giant is rapidly developing: 16 major investment projects were implemented over the past 14 years. The facilities put into operation were not just new; all of them are modern and high-tech. Significantly, Azot takes eco-friendliness of future production facilities as a determining decision-making factor.

In 2018, several large-scale epoch-making projects were implemented at the same time. New manufacturing plants were put into operation: M-450/A-135 unit for production of methanol and ammonia, SK-200 for sulfuric acid and facility for perfumery-quality dimethyl ether. This product, which is used in the cosmetic industry, has not been manufactured in Russia before. Thus, Shchekinoazot turned out to be one of the country's first DME producers. The fourth project is the construction of efficient state-of-the-art waste treatment facilities.

Year of Construction

Azot's team is sure: you cannot rest on your laurels.

For Shchekinoazot, 2019 was the year of major construction of new production facilities: nitric acid and ammonium nitrate AK-270/AS-340, third methanol facility with a capacity of 500 thousand tons per year, which will make Shchekinoazot one of the leaders on this product in Russia.



The main manufacturing equipment is being mounted at the Methanol-500 unit.

The commissioning of M-500 will bring the total volume of methanol production to 1.5 mln tons per year. Today, works on the site are in the active phase. The site is ready for construction.

With 100% of contracts for the supply of basic manufacturing equipment signed, 80% of the equipment has already been delivered to the construction site.

More than 2,500 piles were driven in, and about 13,000 cubic meters of reinforced concrete foundations for equipment were built (the planned area was 15,100 cubic meters). The installation of rectification columns is underway. Methanol tanks were installed and passed their hydro-tests. The air processing unit and the administrative building are being constructed.

The new ammonia unit, which is part of the combined M-450/A-135 complex, has a capacity of 135,000 tons of ammonia a year. Ammonia serves as the raw material for both nitric acid and ammonium nitrate. The enterprise aims to advance the technological chain on its own, rather sell raw materials to the consumer. The entire amount will be processed into an added-value finished product at Shchekinoazot's site.

The facilities for methanol and nitric acid with ammonium nitrate are to be put into operation earlier, in accordance with the plan. They will be followed by a huge project, on which Shchekinoazot has also started working — the construction an ammonia-carbamide complex with a capacity of 525,000 and 700,000 tons per year, respectively. This will allow Shchekino mineral fertilizers to confidently conquer another niche in the world market. The technology from HALDOR TOPSOE (Denmark) will be used for the production of ammonia, while carbamide production will employ the technology from STAMICARBON (Holland).

Shchekinoazot implements its projects with the support of the Governor and the Government of the Tula Region.

Big Job

New production facilities put into operation in 2018 yielded results in 2019. They generated increased production resulting in higher sales: last year, sales of all bulk products of Shchekinoazot surged 47%.

Such an increase in gross sales was driven by the commissioning of the combined methanol and ammonia complex M-450/A-135. As a result, sales of methanol increased by 76%, and ammonia — 5.4-fold. Sulfuric acid sales exceeded last year's figures by 21% thanks to the SK-200 project. The sales of ammonium sulfate grew by 16%.

The appearance of the plant is also changing: a long-term program for dismantling idle buildings and structures is going on, and is being conducted together with investment projects at the sites being cleared. Territories are being cleared for future manufacturing facilities.

Apart from the investment projects, the company is bringing to life its plans for capital construction at the plant and upgrade of facilities.

Shchekinoazot focuses on the district's social development, improving the quality of life of personnel and their families and taking care of the region and its people. The company is implementing a large social program in the Tula Region.

Behind any decision stands a cohesive team, rather than a single person. Time has proved that the Shchekinoazot's team is able to solve problems of any complexity and continuously move forward towards new achievements.

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