

Photo provided by the press office of the Tula Region government.

Shchekinoazot — a confident look into the future

On October 12, the Russian Minister of Industry and Trade Denis Manturov paid a working visit to the Tula Region. During the visit, he toured Shchekinoazot, one of the leading companies in Russia, which has been successfully operating in the Russian and global markets of chemical raw materials and products for more than 60 years.

During the visit, the region's governor **Aleksey Dyumin** chaired a meeting of the RF State Council working group on industry. Together with the Minister, they discussed the streamlining of the national project "International cooperation and export". **Denis Manturov** noted that a number of crucial decisions were made since the previous meeting of the working group:

"In a year and a half, we have gained an effective source of searching for new opportunities to grow the regional industrial potential. It is especially true during the pandemic when fresh and out-of-the-box ideas and quick solutions are in demand. The main tangible result is the inclusion of the working group's proposals in the National Economic Recovery Plan.

Cooperation between companies, regions, and the federal center at the working group's platform offers an opportunity to develop coordinated

solutions for economic development. The working group focuses on the problems that we learn directly from companies," **Aleksey Dyumin** said.

The honored guests then visited Shchekinoazot's production site, where they toured the control room and the new methanol and ammonia production complex launched in 2018.

Shchekinoazot has been implementing its long-term investment program since 2005. For 13 years, from 2005 to 2018, 16 investment projects worth over 880 million dollars were implemented! Two hundred high-paying jobs were created.

Manturov noted that Shchekinoazot's participation in investment support programs is an important and effective tool to assist in the implementation of the long-term investment program.

Four major investment projects were successfully completed in 2018. The list includes a combined methanol and ammonia production facility with a capacity of 450,000 and 135,000 tons per year, respectively, a joint dimethyl ether production project with the German company PCC SE and modern sulfuric acid production.

State-of-the-art treatment facilities were built and commissioned.

Despite the challenging situation in world politics, security, and the global economy, the company has not suspended its projects. Shchekinoazot continues implementing its large-scale investment program, commissioning new production facilities, and creating new jobs. Today, three major investment projects are running concurrently.

The active phase of the construction of the third methanol facility with an annual capacity of 500,000 tons is underway at Shchekinoazot.

The company will become one of the largest producers and exporters of methanol in Russia and Europe upon reaching the planned methanol production volume of 1.5 million tons per year. Launching the nitric acid and ammonium nitrate production facility with a capacity of 270,000 and 340,000 tons per year, respectively, will allow entering the market with a ready-made mineral fertilizer, which is in demand in agriculture, rather than with a raw product. The current construction stage will end with Shchekinoazot's largest investment



Governor of the Tula Region Aleksey Dyumin, President of Shchekinoazot Boris Sokol and Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation Denis Manturov inspect the new methanol and ammonia production complex.

project: an ammonia and urea production facility with a capacity of 525,000 and 700,000 tons per year, respectively.

Boris Sokol, President of Shchekinoazot, expressed special gratitude for supporting the investment program to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and personally to Denis Manturov, the region's government and personally to

Governor Aleksey Dyumin, and to financial institutions VEB.RF, Russian Export Center, Gazprombank, and Sberbank. Such comprehensive support from the Ministry and regional authorities to Shchekinoazot's programs gives the company and its personnel confidence in the success of the company's development strategy.