

Russian Automotive – Selected News

16.05 – 31.05.2012

Yokohama has activated its tyre factory in Lipetsk

31.05.2012 / RBK Daily

Yokohama R.P.Z tyre factory, established in Lipetsk Exclusive Economic Zone, has been officially launched. The investment value for the factory with an annual capacity of 1.4 million tyres has been declared as 4.8 billion rubles. Russia is the fourth largest market for Yokohama, behind Japan, USA and China. The company has sold 3 million tyres (+28%) in Russia in 2011. The company executives expect this figure to increase to 3.3 million in 2012. 500,000 of these tyres will be manufactured in Lipetsk. Belgian Bekaert, also operating in Lipetsk EEZ, will supply the factory with steel. One of Yokohama's potential suppliers German chemical company Lanxess is also building a factory in the region. The company's aim to make use of both raw materials and the supply opportunities in Russia as much as possible, has also been highlighted in the statement.

More than 70% of vehicles sold in Russia are being manufactured within the country

30.05.2012 / Avtostat

Russian Vice-Minister of Industry and Commerce Alexei Rakhmanov has stated that more than 70% of vehicles sold in the Russian market are being manufactured domestically. Rakhmanov has added that the Russian market continues to grow and declared the growth rate of the market for the first four months of the year as 17%. According to the prediction of the ministry, by the year 2020, 3 million vehicles will be produced in Russia annually. Last year this figure stood at 1.7 million vehicles.

GAZ Group is increasing its production of PAZ medium-class buses

30.05.2012 /Avtostat

GAZ Group has expanded its production of PAZ-320412 model medium-class buses in May 2012. A total number of 2000 buses from 3204 series will be manufactured at Pavlovsk Bus Factory belonging to the group, until the end of the year. PAZ-320412 and 3204 buses are 8.8 and 7.6 metres long respectively. According to the statement made by the company, the decision to increase the production has been taken due to the high demand on these buses. 500 out of 600 buses that will be manufactured in the factory until the end of the year will be used on the roads of St. Petersburg.

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MAN has postponed the opening of its St. Petersburg factory to October

25.05.2012 / Prime Tass

MAN has postponed the opening of the truck factory it's planning to establish in St. Petersburg to October. Previously, it had been stated by the General Director of MAN Truck and Bus Production Rus Tomas Schneiderheinze that the St. Petersburg factory would open during the second quarter of 2012. In addition to the factory, MAN is planning to establish a new service centre in Shushary region of St. Petersburg in March 2013. Total value of the two investments will be around €35 million.

Avtokomponent has established a components factory in Tolyatti

23.05.2012 / Vedemosti

Avtokomponent of Nizhni-Novgorod has established a factory in Tolyatti in order to supply AvtoVAZ. According to Vedemosti newspaper, Avtokomponent has taken 12 years lease of ZAK components factory, which is established on a 10,000 m2 premises belonging to AvtoVAZ. The factory manufactures; interior details for Lada 4x4 and Largus, protective bonnets for the engines of Lada Priora and Kalina, clamps and grippers for Lada Granta and dashboards, door panels, consoles and decorative elements for Lada Priora. According to the statement made by the company executives, the factory will start manufacturing mudguards for Lada Granta engines and interior details for Nissan LB1A as from July and September respectively. Avtokomponent will continue manufacturing mirrors for AvtoVAZ in Nizhni-Novgorod as previously. Avtokomponent is also part of a partnership project with Spanish Zanini Auto Group in order to supply AvtoVAZ with wheel covers.

Nissan will double the capacity of its St. Petersburg factory

22.05.2012 / Avtostat

Nissan intends to increase its localisation rate to 80% and its market share to 10% in Russia before 2016. (The current share is 5.9%. 161,000 Nissans have been sold in the country in 2011.) In order to achieve these goals, the company is planning to double the capacity of its factory in St. Petersburg by reaching 100,000 vehicles, with an investment of €167 million in 2014. 50,000 automobiles have been manufactured in the factory last year. The models currently under production are as follows; Teana, SUV X-Trail and Murano. Nissan will establish several more production units, including press and plastic detail workshops, for the purpose of capacity increase. In this way, the simultaneous production of five different models, including Qashqai, will become possible.

In the meantime, Nissan is looking into the potential opportunities it might benefit thanks to the strategic partnership established with AvtoVAZ. The production of Datsun brand in Tolyatti AvtoVAZ plant being one of these opportunities. As of previous year, Russia is the biggest market in Europe for Nissan.

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Sollers and Toyota will start manufacturing Prado in Far East by the end of 2012

22.05.2012 / Avtostat

According to the statement made by Toyota Motor, the production of Toyota Land Cruiser will start in the Far East region of Russia at the end of 2012. As one may remember, Toyota and Sollers-Bussan have signed an agreement proposing the production of Toyota Prado with SKD method in Far East, during March 2011. The production capacity aimed in the project is 25,000 vehicles annually. The production of approximately 1000 vehicles per month is being planned at the first stage.

It has been stated by Toyota that Prado is a popular model in Russia, the demand for the model is anticipated to increase even more in the forthcoming period and the optimisation of vehicle supply to the market is being aimed with this project. 5539 Toyota Land Cruisers have been sold in Russia by the end of the first four months of 2012 (+20%).

Car production in Russia has increased by 20% in January-April period

21.05.2012 / Autovesti.ru

According to Russian Federal Statistics Service data, car production in Russia has increased by 19.9% by the end of the first four months of the year (623,000 vehicles). Meanwhile, during the same period, truck and bus productions in the country have also increased by 4.7% (61,000) and 59.6% (15,800) respectively.

It should be noted that the same period has also witnessed to an increase of 18% in car and LCV productions (880,500 vehicles). On the other hand, the rate of increase recorded in April only is 14% (266,200 vehicles).

44,300 automobiles have been sold in St.Petersburg in January-April period

21.05.2012 / Avtostat

44,257 brand-new automobiles have been sold in St.Petersburg within the first four months of 2012. This figure corresponds to an increase of 33% in comparison with the same period of the previous year. While Volkswagen has become the best-sold brand between the months of January and April (4020 vehicles, +86%), Nissan has taken the second place with 3858 vehicles. This duo has been followed by; KIA - 3534, Renault - 2916, Hyundai - 2784, Chevrolet - 2568, Ford - 2271 and Skoda - 2179 vehicles. Russian AvtoVAZ has become the brand with the worst sales dynamics. Previous year's second best-sold brand Lada has slipped to ninth place in the rankings, following sales of of 2160 vehicles only. The sales figure for Toyota is 2109 vehicles, on the other hand.

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Top 25 regional vehicle markets in Russia by the end of the first four months of 2012

17.05.2012 / Avtostat

According to Avtostat data, 127,700 new vehicle licences have been issued in Moscow within the first four months of 2012. For the region of Moscow this figure is 71,000. In other words, 24.2% share of Russian vehicle market belongs to the city and the region of Moscow. The share of St. Petersburg (44,257) and Leningrad Region (10,251) in total is 7%.

Tatarstan has become the leader of the regional markets. 35,603 vehicles have been sold in Tatarstan within the four months (+4.3%). Tyumen Region occupies the second place with 30,603 automobiles. The rest of the ranking is as follows; Krasnodar Krai - 30,298, Sverdlov Region - 28,399, Bashkortostan - 27,296, Samara Region - 26,524, Chelyabinsk Region - 21,861, Nizhni-Novgorod Region - 19,864, Rostov Region - 19,800, Perm Krai - 16,232. The share of the top ten regional markets in total is a little above 30%.

These regions are followed by; Kemerovo, Stavropol, Voronezh, Krasnoyarsk, Orenburg, Saratov, Volgograd, Novosibirsk, Udmurtiya, Belgorod, Tula, Vologda, Ryazan, Arkhangelsk and Irkutsk krajs and republics respectively. The share of the top 25 regional markets in total is above 80%.

GAZ will manufacture 60,000 Volkswagens and Skodas in 2013

16.05.2012 / Prime Tass

The Chairman of VW Group Rus - GAZ Project Petr Linhardt has stated that GAZ Group will start the production of Skoda and VW automobiles with CKD method in December 2012 and manufacture 60,000 of these vehicles in 2013. Linhardt also added that this figure will go up to 110,000 in 2014.

Gorky Car Factory (GAZ) is currently manufacturing Skoda Yeti using SKD method. The annual production plan for this model is 6000 vehicles. The factory has manufactured 2000 Yetis since the beginning of the year.

As one may remember, GAZ and VW have signed an agreement proposing the production of VW and Skoda brand automobiles at GAZ in June 2011. The agreement will be valid until 2019. The Skoda Yeti production in the factory started in November 2011. Furthermore, besides Yeti, the production of VW Jetta and Skoda Octavia will also start in the factory, before 2013.