

Russian Automotive – Selected News

27.05 – 08.06.2011

Mefro Wheels has established a steel wheel factory at Togliatti

08.06.2011 / Avto.Vesti.Ru

German producer Mefro Wheels GmbH has established a steel wheel factory at Togliatti. The factory has been named as “Mefro Wheels Russia Zavod Tolyatti.” Besides steel wheel, various car and motor parts will also be produced in the factory.

In April 2011, Mefro Wheels GmbH signed a framework agreement to buy the existing wheel rim factory belonging to KamAZ. In addition, the company also purchased the complete shares of KamAzavtotekhnika Company, which had also been owned by KamAZ, changing its name to “Mefro Wheels Russia Zavod Zainsk”. KamAz managed to obtain a supply guarantee of assembled steel wheels, apart from its own production when required, from MefroWheels.

DAF is looking for premises to establish a truck factory in Russia

08.06 / presidentrb.ru

Within the framework of a visit organised to the Republic of Bashkortostan, a delegation from the Dutch truck producer DAF has come together with the President Rustem Hatimov, PM Zamat Ilimbetov and the General Director of NefAz, Raif Malikov on the 6th of June. At the meeting, the possibility of establishing a joint factory to produce DAF truck frames has been discussed.

After the meeting, President Hatimov has expressed his support for DAF management’s idea of establishing the truck frame factory in Bashkortostan, drawing attention to the advantageous position of the region, thanks to the existence of a firm such as NefAz, which could carry out the frame assembly operations, in addition to a range of supply companies.

Representing DAF at the meeting, Ron Bosen -Director of Marketing and Strategic Development Department- has declared the company’s aim as “Heading for the East.” He also added that the company is searching for a feasible location for truck production in Russia.

DAF Moscow office has been opened recently on 26 May 2011.

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Russia and Belarus intend to complete the establishment of Rosbelavto by the end of the year

08.06.2011 / AutoNews.Ru

The governments of Russia and Belarus are willing to finalise the foundation procedures of the holding, which will be established with the participation of MAZ and KamAZ, as stated by Viktor Semashko, Vice President of Belarus. Semashko has also stressed that the establishment of the holding will not necessitate a partial sale of MAZ shares to Russia by Belarus. According to Semashko, the transfer of shares belonging to KamAZ, MAZ and other possible participant factories to the newly established holding will be the preferred method of transaction. The final aim of the partnership is to become the leader of the truck market of the Customs Union.

The complete MAZ shares are held by Belarusian government. KamAZ, on the other hand, is shared by Rostehnologii 49.9%, Daimler 11%, Troika Dialog 27.26% and EBRD 4%.

Russian Ministry of Economical Development has signed a memorandum with 191 suppliers

06.06.2011 / Finmarket

According to the statement of Dmitri Levchenkov, President of Special Economic Zones and Project Finance Department within Russian Ministry of Economical Development, the ministry has signed a memorandum with 191 companies that produce automotive components, within the scope of Industrial Assembly Regime (#566). The final deal between the ministry and the companies will be signed at the end of 2011 and will be valid till 2020. In accordance with the deal, it will be compulsory for the parts producing companies to achieve 40% localization rate on specific production items.

AvtoVAZ will modernize the production of plastic accessories with Nissan

03.06.2011 / Avtostat

AvtoVAZ and Nissan Motor Co. have signed a technological cooperation agreement for the modernization of the plastic accessories production unit belonging to AvtoVAZ yesterday. Japanese and Russian experts will collaborate for three years in order to transfer the plastic parts production technologies of Nissan to AvtoVAZ. By the end of the process, a serious renewal of production is aimed in addition to a 30% increase in efficiency. For example, Nissan can produce a bumper within 60 seconds, as compared to 120 seconds process with the obsolete technology used by AvtoVAZ. With the completion of the modernization process, AvtoVAZ will be ready to produce plastic accessories for Lada, Nissan and Renault.

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New Assembly Regime deals have been signed in Russia

01.06.2011 / Avtostat

Yesterday was the deadline for the time granted by the government to foreign producers to sign the new Industry Assembly Regime. As one may remember, in addition to AvtoVaz, Renault, Nissan, IjAvto, KamAz, Mercedes Benz Trucks Vostok and Ford-Sollers partnerships, companies such as; GM, VW, Fiat and Magna have given the government letters of intent at the end of February, in order to sign independent deals. Apart from Fiat and Magna all the applicants have signed the final deals yesterday. Foreign producers will have to invest a minimum of \$6bn on Russian automotive until 2016, within the context of the Assembly Regime.

While the deal signed by Fiat in 2007 has seven years validity, Magna has abandoned plans to make production in Russia. However, Fiat still hasn't taken any steps towards putting into practice any of the potential production options they have announced through the press previously.

Within the next two years Continental will establish a tyre factory in Russia

31.05.2011 / RBK Daily

The Board of Continental has approved the €200 million investment package allocated for the establishment of its Russia tyre factory. According to the project, the plant will commence production by the end of 2013. RBK Daily has reported that Continental will be producing for both the after market and the OEMs in Russia.

The initial annual production capacity proposed in the project is 4 million tyres. As stated by the company, starting from scratch, this capacity might be reached within three years. Long term target on the other hand, is 12 million tyres per year. Alongside its own brand, the German producer plans to produce all the existing brands, which are currently in Russian market, such as; Gislaved and Barum, within the plant.

In 2004 Continental went into partnership with a Moscow based tyre factory, but abandoned the project during the process of feasibility studies. Later, in 2007, the company took over Slovakian Matador, for the purpose of benefiting from the experiences of a firm, which had been one of the active producers in Russian market. Matador co-owns an establishment in Omsk, with Sibur-Russkie Shni. Continental executives express a desire to establish their own production unit to be able to operate independently, without having to rely on local partners in Russia.

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Nissan is looking for premises in order to produce automotive spare parts

30.05.2011 / [RIA Novosti](#)

Nissan has visited Vologda Region as part of plans to produce car spare parts and components. According to the statement of Yuri Senko –Vice President of Regional Government Investment Department- made to RIA News Agency, the company is especially interested in the production of bearings, electrical equipments, seats and covering materials. As cited by Senko, the Nissan executives making investigations in the region are considering the machine parks and the local establishments that possess convenient free spaces, at first stage. In order to contextualize the subject, a meeting is being held by the company executives and local producers today.

The production capacity of the Nissan factory, which was established in June 2009, is 50.000 cars. Last year's production remained at 24.500.

AvtoVAZ has postponed the relocation of Lada 2107 production at Izhevsk

30.05.2011 / [Tolkochto.ru](#)

AvtoVaz has revised its decision on the transfer of the production of Lada 2107 to IzhAvto. The initial plan was to transfer the whole production activities from Togliatti to Izhevsk. However, the supply of the parts and the preparation of the staff could not be completed in time at Izhevsk. Despite its planned April total production of 200 vehicles, IzhAvto could only manage to produce 30 Lada 2107s within the month. At the moment, the May target of 3100 vehicles seems highly unlikely. For those reasons, at least until August the production of Lada 2107s will be carried out by AvtoVAZ. In other words, it has been decided to postpone the transfer of the production band to August. During the first four months of 2011, 39.000 classical AvtoVAZ Lada models have been sold.

Avtoframos will start producing electric cars

27.05.2011 / [Auto.lenta.ru](#)

Moscow Renault factory Avtoframos is planning to start the assembly of electric cars by the end of this year, as stated by Vladimir Zotov, Governor of Southwest Moscow Administrative District. Although he hasn't made a statement about the models under current production plans, he declared the annual production target of the factory in the near future as 160.000. The total investment planned to be allocated for the purpose of capacity increase is 30 billion rubles. Currently, Logan Sedan, Sandero Hatchback and Sandero Stepway models are being assembled in the factory.