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Toyota Tsusho will establish a components factory in Leningrad region

06.09.2012 / Vedomosti

Toyota Group affiliate Toyota Tsusho is planning to sign an agreement with Leningrad Regional Administration, proposing the establishment of a new components factory towards the end of 2012 in the region. The new factory will supply components for Toyota Motor Manufacturing Rossiya established in St. Petersburg. The relevant statement has been made by the Deputy Governor of Leningrad Region: Dmitri Yalov. Yalov has stated that the company is currently in the process of choosing premises for the factory. It's also within the knowledge that the investment planned by Toyota Tsusho is worth a few million rubles.

PSMA Rus will reach an annual production capacity of 40,000 Citroen C4Ls in 2014

06.09.2012 / Prime

French manufacturer Citroen is aiming to increase its annual Citroen C4L production capacity at the PSMA Rus Factory established in Kaluga to 40,000 vehicles in 2014. The relevant statement has been made by the General Director of Citroen: Frederick Banzet. Banzet has also reminded that the CKD production of the new model will start during the second quarter of 2013. The year-end sales target of the company in Russia for 2012 is 40,000 vehicles. This figure stood at 28,000 vehicles by the end of the previous year.

KamAZ has manufactured more than 4000 trucks in August

05.09.2012 / Avtostat

Russian truck producer KamAZ has manufactured more than 4000 trucks in August. (Last August, this figure was only 1100, due to long summer holidays). Thereby, the number of trucks manufactured by KamAZ within the first eight months of the year has exceeded 35,000 (+14%). Due to stable demand, the factory will continue to operate five-days-a-week during September. The company will have manufactured 48,500 vehicles (+9%) by the end of 2012, in accordance with the set production target. 42,000 of these vehicles are aimed to be sold domestically.

Renewal tax in Russia has come into effect on 01.09.2012

03.09.2012 / Vedomosti

The renewal tax on new automobiles has taken effect as from 01.09.2012 in Russia. The base amount of tax has been set as 20,000 rubles for automobiles and 150,000 rubles for trucks and buses. The tax rates will increase depending on the age and the engine volume of the vehicles. As is known, the renewal tax had been brought into force as a non-tariff measure, in order to protect the companies who manufacture in Russia, in response to the reduced tariff rates following Russia's entry to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The tax will be collected from automobile importing individuals and establishments.

Moscow Government has put up its shares in Avtoframos for sale for 1.9 billion rubles

04.09.2012 / Interfax

The 5% share of Moscow Government in Avtoframos is up for sale for 1.9 billion rubles. 94.6% share of the company is held by Renault. Renault Logan, Sandero, Fluence, Megane-Hatchback, Duster, Koleos and Latitude are the models currently being manufactured in the factory. The facility has an annual production capacity of 160,000 vehicles. However, Renault is aiming to increase this figure to 175,000 gradually.

GAZ Group is making preparations to manufacture foreign brand automobiles with CKD method

31.08.2012 / Avtostat

Gorky Car Factory (GAZ) -established in Nizhni-Novgorod- has started the test production of Chevrolet Aveo last week, following the completion of the production of the first Skoda Yeti with CKD method. The relevant statement has been made by the Chairman of GAZ Group: Bo Anderson during the Moscow Car Show 2012. The factory will start the serial production of GM and VW in 2013.

As one may remember, Skoda Yeti model vehicles are being manufactured in Nizhni-Novgorod using SKD method, since November 2011. In addition, GAZ will start the CKD production of VW Jetta and Skoda Octavia in 2013. The factory will reach the 110,000 vehicles capacity -aimed within the scope of the project- in 2015.

The agreement between GAZ and VW will be valid until 2019. However, the companies are keeping the options open to extend the validity period of the agreement. GAZ will be manufacturing an approximate number of 30,000 Chevrolet Aveo Hatchbacks for GM annually, on the other hand. Bo Anderson has added that GAZ is aiming to sell approximately 100,000 commercial vehicles in Russia in 2012. This figure was 90,500 by the end of the previous year.

Avtotor is starting to manufacture Hyundai LCVs

30.08.2012 / Avtostat

Kaliningrad Avtotor Factory will start manufacturing Hyundai LCVs as from 05.09.2012. Within the frame of the project, the preparations for which started in August 2011, the test production of HD-78 vehicles have been completed during the previous months. It's also within possibility to shift the production of other models of Hyundai trucks and buses to Kaliningrad in the future.

Hyundai commercial vehicles are currently being manufactured in TagAZ factory, established in Taganrog. By the end of the first half of the year, 473 small tonnage Hyundai Porters, 146 County buses and 8 Hyundai HD tow trucks have been manufactured in the factory.

Volkswagen will establish its engine factory in Kaluga

29.08.2012 / Vedomosti

VW Group has revealed the location of the engine factory it's planning to establish in Russia. The factory will be established in Kaluga with an investment of €250 million. The relevant agreement has been signed by the Chairman of Volkswagen AG Martin Winterkorn and the Governor of Kaluga: Anatoli Artamonov yesterday.

The factory with a planned annual production capacity of 150,000 engines will start operating in 2015. 1.6lt EA211 petrol engines will be manufactured at the factory, which will be established on the 30 square-metres premises next to the existing VW factory in Kaluga. The mechanical working of cylinder blocks, block headers and crankshafts and the assembly of engines will be carried out at the factory. All the components of the engines will be manufactured by the company itself in Russia.

Volkswagen is planning to spend €1 billion on the localisation of production in Russia until 2018. The production of engines within the country is one of the requirements of the Industrial Assembly Regime agreement signed by VW in 2011.

AvtoVAZ will make an investment of 5.6 billion rubles on new vehicle development

28.08.2012 / Prime

Russia's biggest car manufacturer AvtoVAZ is planning to make a technology investment of 5.6 billion rubles in order to develop new vehicles. According to the Prime News Agency report based on company documents, thanks to the new investment, the period required to develop a new vehicle will be reduced to 39 months from 64 months. Cost reduction on the process of development and quality improvement are also aimed by the project.

In addition, the company is planning to invest 2.7 billion rubles on digital technologies within the next 5 years. The virtual evaluation of engineering solutions during the process of vehicle development is amongst these new technologies. A total amount of 4.5 billion rubles will be spent on the premises where the tests will be carried out (2.5 billion rubles) and the centre of collision technologies (2 billion rubles).

Respectively, 230 million and 184 million rubles will be invested on innovation in information technologies and intellectual property rights as stated in the company documents.

Finally, AvtoVAZ is planning to go into partnership with Skolkovo Fund in order to establish a business-incubator center for electric vehicles.

The Russians are now able to afford higher-priced vehicles

23.08.2012 / Kommersant

The market share of inexpensive automobiles in Russia has fallen below 50% in January-July period of 2012. According to the research made by Ernst&Young, the structure of the Russian vehicle market has changed during the first seven months of the year. The sales of the budget-friendly automobiles with price tags less than 600,000 rubles has constituted the 49.5% of total sales. This ratio was 55.8% by the end of the same period of the previous year. While 26.6% of the market was formed of automobiles with sales values between 600,000-1 million rubles, the share of automobiles within the price interval of 1-1.5 million rubles has increased to 14.4%, from 9.6% ratio of last year.

The monetary value of the Russian vehicle market has grown by 28.4% during the first seven months, summing up to 1.3 billion rubles. The monetary value of the sales of automobiles with price tags less than 600,000 rubles and within the interval of 600,000 - 1 million has remained almost unchanged: 326 billion rubles (24.8%). Although, together the automobiles belonging to these two segments formed 76% of the market numerically, their monetary value only added up to half of the total sum. The monetary value of automobiles within the price range of 1-1.5 million rubles in the market has been calculated as 281 billion rubles (21.4%). The luxury automobiles with price tags above 1.5 million rubles have constituted the 9.5% of the market and generated 382 billion rubles financially.

The average automobile price in Russia has increased by 12% in comparison with the same period of the previous year, reaching 788,000 rubles.

The experts from E&Y share the view that the current situation of the market has been created by the vast credit opportunities in the country, more than any other factor. The shrinkage in the sales of budget-friendly automobiles is being linked to the decline in AvtoVAZ sales. The sales of Lada in the first seven months has fallen by 13% in comparison with the previous year. The increase in the sales of automobiles with price tags above 1 million rubles is being related to the high performances of KIA and Hyundai in the market.

Total number of vehicles in St. Petersburg: 1.44 million

27.08.2012 / Avtostat

According to Avtostat data, the total number of vehicles in St. Petersburg has reached 1.44 million by mid-2012. 67.2% of this figure (972,000 vehicles) is formed of foreign brand automobiles. Ford is the most common foreign brand in the city (85,959 vehicles). Volkswagen occupies the second place (72,408 vehicles). VW is followed by Nissan (68,897 vehicles). The rest of the brands which complete the top-ten list are as follows; Toyota (61,447), Opel (55,957), Chevrolet (55,135), Hyundai (51,272), Mitsubishi (50,053), Renault (49,792) and KIA (43,441 vehicles).

The tariff rate implemented on import of automobiles in Russia has been reduced to 25%

24.08.2012 / Motor.ru

Following the official admission of Russia to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on the 23rd of August, the tariff rate implemented on the new automobiles has been reduced to 25% from 30%. This rate will be valid for three years as from the admission date and will be reduced to 15% by 2019 (the final rates for automobiles with the engine volume of 2.8lt and SUVs with engine volumes between 3.5 and 4.2lt will be 12.5% and 10% respectively).

As from the 23rd of August, the tariff rate implemented on imported automobiles younger than seven years of age has been reduced to 25%. This rate will be pulled down to 20% before the year 2018. The tariff rates on automobiles over seven years of age will remain unchanged, on the other hand. Currently, the rates vary in between €2.2 and €2.8 per cubic centimeter engine volume.

On the other hand, the Russian government will start collecting new dues from all importers under the name of “renewal tax” as from 01.09.2012, in parallel with the reductions made on tariff rates. The base value for automobiles will be 20,000 rubles. This amount will increase depending on the age and the engine volume of the automobile.

The ten most popular foreign brands in Moscow

22.08.2012 / Avtostat

According to Avtostat data, by mid-2012 there are over 3.5 million automobiles in Moscow. The number of automobiles registered within the Moscow Region is 2.2 million. More than half of this number is formed of automobiles registered in administrative units such as; Odintsovo, Krasnogorsk and Khimki, which constitute Greater Moscow. In other words, there are approximately 5 million automobiles in the capital and the neighbouring areas.

Ford Focus is the most popular foreign brand in Moscow (94,156). Including the vehicles in the Moscow Region, the total Focus number approaches 150,000. Renault Logan occupies the second place (51,272 in Moscow - 36,111 in Moscow Region. Total: 87,383), followed by VW Passat in the third place (83,833 vehicles in total). The brands and models following the top-three are as follows; Mitsubishi Lancer (80,107), Opel Astra (75,833), Skoda Octavia (65,121), Chevrolet Lacetti (64,578), Daewoo Nexia (58,535), Toyota Corolla (55,958), Nissan Almera (54,374) and Mazda 3 (53,501).

The experts in the sector tip KIA Rio and Hyundai Solaris as the most likely candidates to make it into this list in future, taking the recent upward sales graphics of these models into consideration.

Toyota Corolla is the most popular foreign brand in Russia

23.08.2012 / Sara-Avtostat

According to Avtostat data -apart from the city of Moscow, where Ford Focus is the most popular model- Toyota Corolla is the most widespread foreign brand automobile in Russia with 629,743 vehicles. The second most popular foreign automobile is Ford Focus with 535,787 vehicles. Ford Focus is also the best-sold foreign model in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The top duo is followed by Renault Logan (420,563 vehicles).

As from 01.07.2012, the total number of automobiles in Russia has increased to more than 36.1 million vehicles. 17,4 million of this figure is formed of foreign brands. More than 20% of these foreign models (3.7 million vehicles) have been manufactured in Russia.

No	Brand	Units	Manufactured in Russia %
1.	TOYOTA COROLLA	629,743	0,0%
2.	FORD FOCUS	535,787	80,3%
3.	RENAULT LOGAN	420,563	100,0%
4.	DAEWOO NEXIA	376,775	0,2%
5.	CHEVROLET NIVA	372,431	100,0%
6.	VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT	329,428	6,8%
7.	MITSUBISHI LANCER	285,856	0,0%
8.	TOYOTA CAMRY	262,817	15,9%
9.	OPEL ASTRA	252,676	38,0%
10.	CHEVROLET LACETTI	252,360	69,2%

Avtoframos is increasing its volume of production

23.08.2012 / Avtostat

Avtoframos, the Renault factory established in Moscow, has started to increase its volume of production gradually, following the end of summer holidays. The factory is aiming to reach an annual production level of 175,000 vehicles. The company executives state that a total amount of €100 million will be allocated on capacity increase during the 2011-2012 period. The press bureau of Renault Russia has also shared the information that the installation of recently purchased equipment has been completed in the factory during the holiday period. A 10% capacity increase is aimed with the help of the new equipment. An additional workforce will be recruited by the factory, on top of the 3905 employees currently working in the premises, following the summer holidays.

Avtoframos has manufactured 81,375 automobiles in the first half of 2012 (+21%). During this period, the production of Fluence Hatchback has been discontinued, while the CKD production of Koleos and Latitude models has started. The models which are currently being manufactured in the factory are as follows; Logan, Sandero, Fluence, Duster, Koleos and Latitude.

Automechanika - meeting place for the automobile sector

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The Automechanika is the leading international meeting place for the automobile sector. As the world's biggest trade fair for the automotive aftermarket, the Automechanika spotlights innovations and solutions in the fields of parts, systems, tuning, workshop equipment, bodywork & paintwork, car wash, IT & management and the latest automobile services.

The Automechanika is one of the most successful trade fair brands of Messe Frankfurt and has a worldwide presence. With a network of 12 events in 11 countries, we offer exhibitors access to new markets and bring them into contact with new national and regional visitor groups.



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11-16 September 2012, Frankfurt.

The World's Leading Trade Fair for the Automotive Industry

Around **155,000 visitors from 181 countries** attended the last Automechanika in Frankfurt from 14 to 19 September 2010 – a record because never before in the history of Messe Frankfurt have so many different nations been represented at a single fair or exhibition in Frankfurt. Altogether, **4,400 exhibitors from 76 countries** presented their latest trends and developments for the automotive aftermarket and supply industry on **more than 305,000 square metres of exhibition space**. Frankfurt Fair and Exhibition Centre will also be fully occupied at the coming Automechanika from 11 to 16 September 2012.

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SHANGHAI

11-14 December 2012, Shanghai.

The world's second biggest Automechanika fair is jointly organized by Messe Frankfurt Shanghai Co Ltd and the China National Automotive Industry International Corporation (CNAICO). The 2011 show took place from December 7 to 10 with more than 3,600 exhibitors from 36 countries, including first time exhibitors from Austria and the Philippines. The exhibitors displayed their products on 160,000 square metres of exhibition space. The show's three main product groups were parts & components, repair & maintenance as well as accessories & tuning.