

## Russian driverless vehicle Matryoshka has been presented at Frankfurt Motor Show

16.09.2017 / Autostat

The developer of Volgabus project: Bakulin Motors Group has presented the first Russian driverless vehicle Matryoshka at Frankfurt Motor Show. The unmanned Matryoshka system allows the realisation of radically new models of transport services, such as transportation of passengers at the expense of the host, driverless taxis, car sharing etc., as stated by Bakulin Motors Group press office.

“We have many ideas and concrete proposals, which we are ready to discuss with potential customers. In addition, Volgabus plans to find partners, who are ready to integrate Matryoshka into the existing infrastructures of cities and closed areas, at the exhibition” - said the general director of Bakulin Motors Group: Alexei Bakulin.

The unmanned transport vehicle Matryoshka is a modular system, formed of three elements. The central module serves as the functional load, due to the possibility of replacing this module, the vehicle can be used in different configurations - from cargo platform to passenger bus. Matryoshka can reach a velocity of 30 km/h and travel around 130 km or for four hours, once fully charged. The dimensions of the vehicle are as follows: 4000 mm length, 1700 mm width and 2700 mm height. The driverless vehicle works on a 45 kW electric engine and the 140 Nm torque feeds the lithium-iron-phosphate batteries. The vehicle is designed for 8-12 passengers and can take up to 1300 kg on board. The software, on which Matryoshka functions, is able to self-learn and monitor the road situation in real time. The bus can choose the optimum route itself during heavy traffic. The vehicle detects the distance of objects, road signs and traffic lights, using sensors installed on board and the Glonass GPS system is responsible for navigation.

The serial production of Matryoshka will start in 2018. New passenger versions will be released in future - medium and large classes.

## Mercedes-Benz GLC has become the leader of the premium-segment market in Moscow

13.09.2017 / Autostat

Mercedes-Benz GLC has become the best-sold premium-class automobile in the capital, with 204 units in July, indicating a 79% year-on-year rise. The previous leader Mercedes-Benz E-Class occupies the second spot, with 186 vehicles, following 26% growth in sales, in comparison with last July. BMW X5 crossover comes third with 171 units, which is equivalent to a 41% increase, compared to the same period of the previous year.

The top-five is completed by Lexus-RX (151, +57%) and BMW 5-Series (141, +50%). The rest of the top-ten in the Moscow market of premium automobiles is as follows: Mercedes-Benz CLA (125, +94.2%), Audi A4 (116, +33%), BMW 3-Series (109, -11%), Mercedes-Benz GL (108, -44%) and Lexus NX (99, +13%).

## **KAMAZ and Betsema will develop special equipment for the oil and gas industry**

16.09.2017 / [RusAutoNews.Com](http://RusAutoNews.Com)

KAMAZ and Betsema have signed an agreement on cooperation in the development and joint promotion of equipment on KAMAZ chassis for the oil and gas industry, within the scope of the Comtrans-2017 International Commercial Vehicles Exhibition in Moscow.

According to the agreement, the leading Russian truck manufacturer will develop and produce new equipment designed for the hydraulic fracturing of oil and gas reservoirs for its partner.

“There are great prospects for the market of special equipment for hydraulic fracturing of reservoirs, therefore, the presence of KAMAZ is necessary in this segment, as a supplier of reliable specialised machines” - commented Andrei Ignatyev. Ignatyev has added that the special equipment for the hydraulic fracturing of reservoirs is mainly made on the chassis of imported vehicles currently. Cooperation with Betsema will help create and bring a competitive alternative solution to the Russian market, taking another step towards import substitution.

## **The number of luxury automobiles in Russia has exceeded 10,000 units**

15.09.2017 / [Autostat](http://Autostat)

According to Autostat data, there are 10,500 luxury automobiles in Russia, as of the beginning of July 2017. The segment forms only 0.025% of the automobile fleet of the country.

The biggest share of the segment belongs to Bentley (around 35%), with a registered number of 3600 vehicles. Mercedes-Maybach follows the leader with 2100 automobiles, which is equivalent to one-fifth of the segment. Maserati and Rolls Royce numbers are almost equal (1100 units), each having more than 10% share of the market. The following luxury automobile brands should also be mentioned as official players in the Russian market: Ferrari (712), Aston Martin (411) and Lamborghini (252). Other brands, which would be considered exotic for Russia, such as: Buick, MG, Lotus and Bugatti also exist in our country.

As noted by Autostat analysts, more than half of all luxury automobiles in Russia are found in Moscow (5900 units). Other regions of the Russian Federation lag well behind the capital. Approximately 1000 luxury vehicles are registered in St. Petersburg and a little over 900 in Moscow Region. Krasnodar Krai is the leader of the luxury segment amongst the non-capital regions (290 units). Sverdlovsk (140) and Rostov (137) regions follow the leader. The number has reached 100 units in Samara region. The amount of luxury vehicles is below the 100 units mark at the remaining regions of Russia.

## **Volkswagen will launch the production of Skoda Kodiaq in Russia, following the discontinuation of Skoda Yeti**

15.09.2017 / RNS

Skoda Kodiaq crossover will replace Skoda Yeti in the range of models manufactured by the company in Nizhny Novgorod, as stated by the general director of VW Group Rus: Markus Ozegovich.

“We have decided that Kodiaq is the best successor for Yeti, because this model is larger, more modern and meets the needs of Russian customers. Kodiaq will replace Yeti in production at the beginning of 2018” - Ozegovich said.

As announced by Skoda Auto Russia in August, the full-cycle production of Kodiaq will start at the factory of GAZ Group in Nizhny Novgorod during the first quarter of 2018. The sales of the crossover will start in the country in June. Skoda Octavia and VW Jetta are also manufactured at the production site in Nizhny Novgorod.

Skoda Yeti has become the exports leader amongst the localised models within the first half of 2017, as published by Autostat. A total number of 15,000 vehicles are planned to be exported this year, as told by Ozegovich.

VW Group Rus and GAZ Group have extended the agreement on the production of VW and Skoda vehicles until 2025 in mid-June. Ozegovich did not rule out any scenario as to the replacement of a model by another in the line, at the time.

## **Lada sales up by 25% in August 2017**

14.09.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

According to AEB data, the sales of Avtovaz have increased by 25,4% in Russia in August 2017, to 26.211 units. A total number of 192.944 vehicles have been sold within eight months, which indicates a 15,5% year-on-year increase.

Granta was the most popular model in August, finding 8474 clients. Lada Vesta sales also show positive dynamics with 6694 units. Lada XRAY sales have risen in August to 2855 vehicles. Other two models: 2298 units Lada 4x4 and 1524 units Lada Kalina have been sold in August 2017.

Lada vehicles are currently sold in more than 300 dealer centres, throughout 178 Russian cities.

## Russian car market has climbed to the second spot in Europe in August

14.09.2017 / Autostat

According to data received from Autostat, Germany has kept its position as the leading country in automobile sales amongst the national associations of car manufacturers in Europe, with 253,679 vehicles (+3.5%). If Russia is taken into account in the European car market, our country has risen to the second spot in the continental ratings. Russian car sales have exceeded 122,500 units during the last month, according to the preliminary estimate of Autostat (excluding LCV).

France occupies the third place with 107,455 vehicles, following a 9.4% year-on-year increase. Italy came fourth with 83,363 units (+15.8%), which is the best figure for the country since 2009, as stated by the Italian Association of the Automotive Industry. Great Britain completes the top-five, whose car dealers sold 76,433 vehicles (-6.4%). As noted by the British Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the market has been on the decline for a fifth consecutive month, despite achieving the third best result in August sales in the last decade. Spanish car market, on the other hand, has grown by 13% in August, reaching 72,410 units.

## Russian car market up by 17% in August 2017

10.09.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

RusAutoNews.Com – According to the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee (AEB AMC), in August 2017, sales of new cars and light commercial vehicles in Russia increased by 16,7% compared with June 2016 or by 18,961 sold units, and amounted to 132,742 cars. This year in January—August period 980,921 cars were sold.

Joerg Schreiber, Chairman of the AEB AMC commented: “The recovery of the Russian car market keeps going strong in August. Year-to date sales after 8 months stand close to one million, still a modest figure in the historical comparison. But it’s the fact of the recovery taking place – at this robust pace and for 6 consecutive months – which is most important for the time being. General market mood is clearly on the up, and so are the expectations for the remainder of the year”.

## The Russian premium car sales fell by 1% in August 2017

14.09.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

RusAutoNews.Com – According to Autostat, the premium segment amounted to 11.337 vehicles in August 2017, indicating a 1,1% year-on-year decrease. Mercedes-Benz has remained the leader of the market with a sales figure of 3090 vehicles (+4,7% y/y). BMW comes second in the rankings, with a sales figure of 2358 vehicles (+10,7% y/y). Lexus completes the top-three in the premium segment with 2017 units (-13% y/y). 1305 Audi (-20,9% y/y) and 643 Land Rover (-4% y/y) vehicles have hit the Russian roads in August, on the other hand.

## Daimler and KAMAZ will begin the production of a new truck in 2019

11.09.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

A press conference was held within the framework of the Comtrans-2017 International Commercial Vehicles Exhibition in Moscow. The general director of KAMAZ: Sergei Kogogin was amongst the participants.

One of the latest KAMAZ projects - the new generation KAMAZ-54901 long-haul tractor - has been presented during the press conference, which made its premiere in the exhibition. Ergonomics, convenience and driver comfort were taken into account during the creation of the cabin of the new vehicle, in order to meet all modern requirements. New modern materials, along with elegant colour schemes, combined with the highest quality of manufacturing and assembly, have raised the interior and the exterior design of the cabin to a new level. KAMAZ-54901 is equipped with the new ZF Traxon automated gearbox and a completely new type of engine - inline R6. The engine is amongst the best in the world in its class and has a high potential for further development, in accordance with consumer characteristics.

“We have developed our strategy on the shift to the premium-segment, - said the director of KAMAZ, answering questions from journalists, while explaining the combination of high technical characteristics and options within the same model - It's very complicated for the company, however, there's no other way.” According to Kogogin, the pilot-industrial lot of the index 54901 vehicles is planned to be released next year. The serial production of the model will start in 2019. The complete transition to the series will happen in 2022” - he added.

The head of the automotive giant has noted that there is a bright future ahead of the project, which is one of the main undertakings of the company. A new plant for the production of K5 generation cabin carcasses has been built in cooperation with Daimler in short time, for the implementation of the project. The vehicles will be equipped with the new inline 6-cylinder P6 engines, alongside the new cabin. A new conveyor has been prepared for this operation at KAMAZ engine plant.

The company plans to enter the world market with the new vehicle. “We'll gladly look for partners beyond the Russian Federation, in order to sell our product throughout the world. Entering the markets of the CIS countries is our primary intention. We expect to get a foothold in the European market too” - said Kogogin.

Taking into account the realities of today and the production rate of KAMAZ, the company director has noted that the factory will operate without work stoppages in the second half of the year. “As of the start of today, the assembly rate exceeds 190 vehicles per day. The rate will go beyond 200 vehicles in October, therefore, the task is to keep up with this pace until the end of the year. Our intention is to increase the business plan to 36,000 trucks and reach 39,000 units in sales this year” - as stressed by the general director of KAMAZ.

**Renault plans to update its model range in Russia until 2022**

11.09.2017 / RNS

Renault Russia will expand its model range in the next 2-3 years, growing in the SUV segment in Russia (crossovers and SUVs). The company is ready to localise the most popular models, as told by the Marketing Director of Renault Russia: Francisco Hidalgo-Marquez to journalists. The brand wants to improve its position against its rivals, approaching the position of Toyota. Renault doesn't want to be associated with the affordable, mass-production models, such as: Logan and Duster anymore.

Hidalgo-Marquez has named one of the steps of the new strategy of the brand as "the complete renewal of the model range until 2022". "Our development will largely rely on the SUV segment in the future. The vehicles will be locally manufactured and the model range will be expanded in the forthcoming years... We would like to update our model range and get closer to our current share in the European market, remaining a localised brand at the same time. For that reason, we need to improve our image, approaching the position held by Toyota" - he said. Renault will import certain new models. "When we identify the models with high potential in the Russian market, we will concentrate on their localisation in the country. Certain models will be imported, but they will be distinguished by a high price. If the circumstances stabilise in the medium-term, we'll consider expanding the number of models manufactured in Russia" - Hidalgo-Marquez added.

The latest crisis has shown us the ineffectivity of importing a high range of models, noted Hidalgo-Marquez: Renault used to sell 20 models in the beginning of the crisis, most of them imported, then the number had to be cut. Logan, Duster and Sandero were the models sold by Renault a year ago, Kaptur and Koleos were added to the range during the year, to be followed by the LCV Dokker at the end of the year. If Renault decides to manufacture a new model, it will be adapted to Russian conditions, as it was the case with Logan or Kaptur. The option of discontinuing any of the models on Moscow or Togliatti sites is not considered, which are all in demand, as explained by the Commercial Director of Renault Russia Jerome Pannot.

**The joint venture of Sollers and Mazda has started the construction of an engine factory in Vladivostok**

06.09.2017 / RNS

The joint venture of Sollers and Mazda "Mazda Sollers Manufacturing Rus" has started the construction of an engine factory in Vladivostok. The works have commenced on the site at the end of August, as stated by Sollers press office.

The construction licence has been received on 22 August. "All necessary documents were submitted to the architectural and construction supervision thereafter and the construction began in the last days of August" - according to the press office. The governor of Primorsky Krai Vladimir Miklushevsky has confirmed the approval of the construction permit for the plant at a press conference within the framework of the Eastern Economic Forum. "The plant will be export-oriented" - Miklushevsky added.

## **The government has approved the strategy for the development of automotive industry exports until 2025**

06.09.2017 / RNS

The government of Russian Federation has approved the strategy for the development of automotive industry exports until 2025. The relevant statement has been published at the government's website. In particular, the program provides for the integration of Russian automotive component manufacturers into the production chains of international car producers, as well as assistance to domestic manufacturers in entering new markets. In addition, there are plans to switch the production of large plants to export models, targeting global markets. Car and car component exports are expected to reach \$4.41 billion by 2025.

The strategy for the development of exports in pilot industries had been approved by the Presidium of the Presidential Council for Strategic Development and Priority Projects previously.

## **The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has announced \$1 billion worth of automotive component supplies abroad in 2017**

06.09.2017 / RNS

The value of automotive component exports from Russia has reached \$1 billion within the first seven months of 2017, as stated by the minister of industry and commerce Denis Manturov to journalists. "We have already hit the £1 billion mark in car component exports this year" - Manturov said, noting that the amount includes components and spare parts only. The minister has added that the aforementioned period is between the start of the year until the end of July. The export development strategy for the automotive industry implies an increase in exports of auto components to \$1.6 billion by 2020 and to \$2.5 billion by 2025.

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## Russian Government plans to increase automotive exports to \$4.9 billion by 2025

01.09.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

The Presidential Council has approved the industrial development projects until 2025. Automobile industry exports are planned to be increased to \$4.9 billion by 2025, \$1.6 billion of which will be generated from the exports of agricultural vehicle spare parts and components. The number of countries that import agricultural vehicles is expected to rise from 33 in 2018 to 50 in 2025.

The baseline scenario assumes that the exports will amount to \$4.9 billion with 240,000 automobiles or 10% of the output of the industry. Car component exports will generate \$1.6 billion (excluding tyres). Exports of cars manufactured by Russian producers will reach 120-130,000 units by 2025 and the share of exports in total production is expected to rise to 20%. 50,000 home production commercial vehicles will be sold abroad, the share of exports reaching 20%. Exports of vehicles manufactured by international producers will rise to 70,000 units, with an approximate share of 5% in production.

The government supports car exports through various subsidies; costs of transportation products (85.5 billion rubles until 2025), homologation and certification of products in foreign markets (18.5 billion rubles), the development of dealer/service networks (1.4 billion rubles) and participations in international industry exhibitions (0.9 billion rubles). In addition, 12 billion rubles of subsidies will be allocated for export credits until 2025, including commercial loans to exporters, foreign buyers, banks of foreign buyers, as well as 7.3 billion rubles of subsidies for individuals on car purchases in targeted export markets.

If everything goes according to plan, the share of exports will be at least 9-11% (140-160,000 vehicles) in 2020 and 13-15% (300-400,000) in 2025, fulfilling the target scenario. The exports are aimed at Vietnam, Iran and Egypt. European exports are also within possibility, to Albania, Germany, Slovakia, Serbia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Hungary and Slovenia.

There are similar plans to increase the exports of aviation industry and railway products. "According to expectations, the exports of railway products will increase by 14% annually and amount to \$470 million in 2018, \$570 million in 2019 and may reach \$1190 million in 2025" - as stated by the department. The basic scenario of the project for the aviation industry provides for an increase in exports of the industry by almost three times by 2018 (compared to 2016), five times by 2020 and eight times by 2025 (to \$3.5 billion)

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