

BMW will start selling electric cars in Moscow and St. Petersburg

29.04.2013 / Avtostat

The sales points for BMW i model electric cars in Russia have been determined by a competition amongst official BMW dealers. Accordingly, the BMW i will be sold at AVTO DOM in Moscow and Eurosib Servis in St. Petersburg. There are plans to set up the service infrastructure for BMW i 3 and BMW i 8 model automobiles for the next step.

BMW i-series electric cars had been launched during the Frankfurt Automobile Exhibition in September 2012 for the first time. The models will be put on the Russian market from 2014 onwards.

VW Jetta production has started in GAZ

29.04.2013 / Avtostat

The production of Volkswagen Jetta, specifically designed for the Russian market, has started in Gorky Car Factory (GAZ), established in Nizhni-Novgorod. Jetta has become the second model after Skoda Yeti, to be manufactured on the VW Group line in the factory. €300 million had been spent for infrastructure and equipment during the establishment of the line.

TagAZ paintshop had been operating with incomplete licences

26.04.2013 / Kommersant

A law suit has been brought against NT Avto, which represented TagAZ after bankruptcy- with the accusation of illegal entrepreneurship. According to Rostov Region Home Office, the prosecution has started when it was found out that the paintshop of the factory had been operating without several of the required licences in between July 2012-March 2013, during an inspection.

According to newspaper, due to a power cut, the operations have stopped at the paintshop and the rest of the facility. The factory owes money to the energy company as well.

OOO NT Avto had been established in July 2012, in order to prevent the confiscation of the assets of OOO TagAZ and OOO Tagavtoprom, who declared bankruptcy, by the creditors and to enable the continuation of production in the factory. TagAZ owes more than 25.8 billion rubles to the banks. TagAZ is planning to be able to pay back its debts within the next two years. The production of 55,500 vehicles within the remaining 9 months of 2013 and 254,300 vehicles until the year 2019, in order to meet several orders already placed, is within the recovery plan of the factory.

The premium segment is ahead of the market in Russia

25.04.2013 / AutoBusiness info

According to the year 2013 first quarter data, the sales of premium segment automobiles has increased by 12%, in comparison with the same period of the previous year. This ratio has reached 16% within the total figure of Mercedes, BMW and Audi.

8818 BMW vehicles have been sold within the January-March period. The sales figure of Mercedes-Benz has reached 8595 vehicles by the end of the first quarter, on the other hand (+20.7%). The demand for C and E series has fallen by 1.4% and 19% respectively. However, Mercedes still managed to keep its position ahead of BMW in March. Audi has sold 8278 vehicles in Russia during the same period (+15.4%). More than half of this amount is formed of SUV models. A4, A6 and A8 models have trailed behind their rivals, on the other hand. However, the brand has achieved to break its own sales record in Russia with 3753 vehicles in March.

The sales dynamics of brands such as; Volvo, Infiniti, Cadillac and Jaguar failed to reach previous year's levels during the first quarter, with declining sales of -19.7%, -1%, -44.3% and -2.4% respectively. The sales figures of Lexus (+33%) and Porsche (+22%) have increased, on the other hand. Land Rover and Mini are the other models, closing the quarter with positive sales dynamics (+4% and +12% respectively).

The total number of premium cars sold in Russia within the January-March period has gone over the 40,000 vehicles mark. The market share of the segment remained the same as last year: 6.7%.

MAZ and KamAZ couldn't come to an agreement yet

25.04.2013 / AUTO.RU

Truck manufacturers KamAZ of Russia and MAZ of Belarus could not yet come to a conclusion on the negotiations they carry out, concerning the establishment of an associated holding under the name of Rosbelavto.

Russian Minister of Industry and Commerce Denis Manturov has stated that MAZ will not be available for investment without the exchange of company assets. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, on the other hand, has announced that unless a serious investment is made in MAZ, the merger of MAZ with KamAZ will be approved. Lukashenko has added that according to rumours "foreigners with intentions to close down MAZ" are behind the negotiations and such a "thuggery" will not be tolerated.

As one may remember, Russian state enterprise Rostekh had proposed the merger of the two big truck manufacturers during the winter of 2010. However, the parties could not yet manage to come up with solid results in the negotiations.

The decline in automobile market in Russia may affect production figures

25.04.2013 / Prime

Car production is expected to rise in Russia, albeit to a small extent, in April and by the end of the first four months of the year. However, the experts in the sector have not yet ruled out the possibility of a decline in production numbers, following the example of the performance of the market as a whole.

According to Rosstat data, car production in Russia has increased by 3.3% by the end of the first quarter of 2013, in comparison with the previous year, reaching 459,000 vehicles. Andrei Rojkov from the investment company IFK Metropol is sure of an increase in car production by 3-4% or even to a higher percentage in the upcoming months.

“As long as the foreign manufacturers localise their production in Russia and develop new models and projects regularly, domestic production will form a stronger barrier against imports. For this reason, we will observe a “not bad at all” production dynamics in April and by the end of the first four months of the year.” as stated by Rojkov.

Investkafe analyst Andrei Shenk also predicts a minimum growth rate of 2% in production, based on the government's economical growth anticipation. Shenk has reminded, on the other hand, the fact that the manufacturers generally take the sales figures of the previous months into consideration while planning and adjust their tempo accordingly. “In my opinion, the April sales figures will remain in previous year's level. The market will not grow, but will not shrink either, as it was the case in March. However, if the figures display a negative trend, a cut down on production will be on the cards.” Shenk has also highlighted the fact that the manufacturers will abstain from creating excess supply.

Andrei Tretelnikov from Rye, Man & Gor Securites is also of the opinion that the production figures will be kept in March levels in April. “We can't see any indicators that would suggest any significant amount of increase in production. Therefore, the sales figures will maintain March levels at best or fall by 1-2% in the worst case scenario.” as stated by Tretelnikov.

Igor Krajevski from BKS, on the other hand, is not ruling out the possibility of a 5% decline in production, following the case in sales. Krajevski has stated that “The main sales have been done during the first two months of the year. The galleries have offered the consumers good options, in order to get rid of last year's stock. Thus, the sales started to decline towards March. The situation doesn't look likely to change in April either.”

According to AEB data, 617,000 cars and LCVs have been sold in Russia within the first quarter of the year and the March-only sales have trailed at 244,030 vehicles, declining by 4% in comparison with the previous year.

Utilisation Tax will bring 440 billion rubles to Russian Budget within the course of 7 years

24.04.2013 / AutoNews.ru

According to the evaluation of Russian Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the utility tax will contribute 440.5 billion rubles to the budget of the country between the years 2013-2020. 423 billion rubles of this amount will be formed of taxes acquired from cars and LCVs. While 1.6 billion rubles will be obtained from buses, the share of trucks within the total budget will remain below 10%.

It should be remembered that the base value of renewal tax is 20,000 rubles. This amount varies according to the age, type and engine volume of the vehicle and whether it's imported by an individual or a company. For example, the lowest coefficients in automobiles brought to the country by individuals vary between 0.1-0.15. In other words, these individuals are only liable to pay renewal taxes between 2000-3000 rubles.

Mazda Sollers has started operating in three shifts

23.04.2013 / Vedomosti

Mazda Sollers Manufacturing Rus, established in Vladivostok, has activated the third shift on its production line. As one may remember, Mazda Sollers factory had been opened in September 2012 and started the serial production of Mazda CX-5 in October and Mazda 6 in April.

The current annual capacity of the factory is 50,000 vehicles. However, the maximum capacity within the frame of the project is 100,000 vehicles. The partnership established with equal shares with an investment of 10 billion rubles, employs 3000 people.

Yekaterinburg automobile market has shrunk in March

22.04.2013 / Auto-Dealer-Yekaterinburg

According to data compiled by Auto-Dealer-Yekaterinburg agency, 21,100 new cars and LCVs have been sold in Yekaterinburg within the first quarter of 2013 (+1%). The number of vehicles sold in March-only is 8182, on the other hand. This figure is 3% below the number of vehicles sold during same period of the previous year. Yekaterinburg automobile market had shown a negative dynamics in December for the last time.

Lada has once again become the leader of the market in the city by the end of the quarter, despite the 11% drop 2568 vehicles. Hyundai is the leader amongst the foreign brands 1762 vehicles, +5%. KIA occupies the third place (1648, +31%). The sales figure for Renault is 1419 (+52%).

Over 100,000 automobiles have been manufactured in St. Petersburg during the first quarter

23.04.2013 / Auto-Dealer-SPb

According to Auto-Dealer-SPb agency data, Toyota, GM, Nissan and Hyundai factories established in St. Petersburg have manufactured 100,300 vehicles during the first quarter of the year (+9%). The number of automobiles manufactured in March-only is 34,500, on the other hand (+3%). 55% of the total production has been made by Hyundai.

Auto-Dealer-SPb reported that this production tempo will continue throughout the second quarter and the factories do not have any reason to cut down the production. GM will be able to recover from falling sales figures with the introduction of Chevrolet Trailblazer, however only to a certain extent. Toyota's low production level last year has played a role in turning the current production dynamics to positive.

The share of St. Petersburg factories in the total automobile production in Russia has reached 21.8% in January-March period. 9% increase has been achieved in automobile production in the city by the end of the first quarter, in comparison with the countrywide increase of 3.3%.

The models manufactured throughout the four factories are as follows; Chevrolet Cruze, Opel Astra, Nissan Teana, Nissan X-Trail, Nissan Murano, Infiniti FX, Infiniti M, Toyota Camry, Hyundai Solaris and KIA Rio. Solaris, Rio, Cruze, Astra, Camry and X-Trail are amongst the January-March period's 25 best-sold models in Russia.

The Russian car battery OEM market has grown by 10.7% in 2012

19.04.2013 / Avtostat

The car battery OEM market, in other words the number of products supplied to car manufacturers and production lines, has grown by 10.7% in Russia in 2012, in comparison with the previous year, reaching 2.31 million units. 84.8% of this figure has been supplied to car manufacturers, 12.6% to truck manufacturers and the remaining 2.6% to bus manufacturers.

While the foreign manufacturers held 48.4% of the market (1.1 million units), the share of Russian manufacturers reached 51.6% (1.2 million units). Global Battery Co. Ltd. has become the leader amongst foreign manufacturers with a market share of 10% (224,000 units). The second place is occupied by Ista of Ukraine with 7.3% (169,400 units). The third place belongs to Volkswagen AG (118,200 units).

Renault has announced to make an additional investment of 21 billion rubles in Russia

22.04.2013 / Vedomosti

French manufacturer Renault has announced that an additional amount of 21 billion rubles (€500 million) will be allocated for the projects in Russia until the year 2020. This amount will be spent on the production projects in Moscow, Togliatti and Izhevsk.

The company has invested more than 1.4 billion rubles in Russia up to today. 480 million rubles of this figure has been spent on the development of the 188,000 capacity Avtoframos factory, established in Moscow. €711 million, on the other hand, has been used to purchase 25% share of AvtoVAZ in 2008. The amount spent on the establishment of the 350,000 automobile production capacity Bo line in AvtoVAZ factory has been calculated as €240 million.

As reminded by a source close to the company, Renault has plans to acquire the contracted assembly production of light commercial vehicles at ZiL factory, besides the Avtoframos project in Moscow. Production of two Renault models will start in Togliatti during the second half of 2013. The production will be commence in Izhevsk factory in due course. The modernisation cost of this factory will be around 10 billion rubles. The organisation of licenced engine production in AvtoVAZ facilities from 2015 onwards, is another project planned. The estimated annual production capacity is 500,000 engines within the frame of the project. The investment value of the project is €378 million, on the other hand.

Renault aims to manufacture 350,000 automobiles annually in Russia, as required by the Industrial Assembly Agreement. Renault has sold 189,852 automobiles in Russia in 2012 (+23%). The company is aiming to raise its market share to 8% by the year 2016. The 2012 share of the company was 6.5%.

GM-Auto has started the production of Chevrolet Trailblazer

19.04.2013 / Avtostat

GM-Auto factory, established in St. Petersburg, has started the serial production of Chevrolet Trailblazer automobiles, using CKD method. Cruze and Opel Astra are the other models manufactured in the factory with CKD method, besides Trailblazer. The Trailblazers will be ready to be ordered from March onwards and will have a price tag starting from 1,444,000 rubles.

Russian LCV market has grown by 3% during the first quarter

17.04.2013 / Avtostat

14,242 light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia in March. This figure is almost equal to the number of vehicles sold during the same period of the previous year. 35,709 LCVs have been sold as of the first three months of the year, on the other hand (+3%). While 67.6% of the vehicles sold are domestically manufactured, the remaining 32.4% are foreign brands.

March ranking according to brands is as follows; GAZ - 6829, (-1.6%), UAZ - 1720, (-19.7%), Volkswagen - 1284, (+15.6%), Ford - 1088, (+28.5%), Lada - 787 vehicles.

Car production in Russia is on the decline

17.04.2013 / OIB Russia

According to Russian State Institute of Statistics Rosstat data, 459,000 automobiles have been manufactured in the country within the first quarter of the year (+3.3%). The number of automobiles manufactured in March-only is 164,000, on the other hand. This figure is equivalent to an 8.1% decline, in comparison with March 2012.

AvtoVAZ has once more become the production leader with 39,157 vehicles, despite the 22.1% drop in production. The factory is relating this decline to the failure to commence the production of the new generation of Kalina in time, following the discontinuation of the old generation of Lada Kalina. Lada Granta has become the most-manufactured model in Togliatti with 12,081 vehicles. In addition to Togliatti, 5159 more of this model have been manufactured in Izhevsk.

On the other hand, Avtotor has started manufacturing Hyundai i40 in Kaliningrad in March.

According to Rosstat data, 39,600 trucks have been manufactured in Russia during the January-March period (-9.1%). The production figure recorded in March is 17,700, on the other hand (-1.8%).

KamAZ, who returned to five-days-a-week timetable in March, has manufactured 4550 trucks (-10%), in response to NefAZ's production of 1049 dumper trucks.

The bus production has fallen by 5.4% in Russia, by the end of the first quarter of the year. 10,300 buses have been manufactured in total. The March-only production figure is 4300, on the other hand (-14.3%).