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The Antitrust Agency has approved the agreement passing the control of AvtoVAZ to Renault

01.10.2012 / business-gazeta.ru

The Russian Federation Antitrust Agency FAS has approved the agreement between Renault-Nissan and Rostekhnologii, concerning the transfer of the control shares of AvtoVAZ. Accordingly, Renault-Nissan will be liable to account for any increase above 15% in automobile prices, in comparison with the previous year's average. Otherwise, FAS will have the right to impose fines and invalidate the agreement.

In accordance with the aforementioned agreement, Renault-Nissan and Rostekhnologii will transfer the shares they hold into the organisation which will take over the control of AvtoVAZ, in the form of capital investment. 67.3% share of the partnership, which will hold 74.5% of AvtoVAZ shares, will belong to Renault-Nissan. Renault-Nissan will make a total investment of \$750 million in AvtoVAZ, due to this reason. The current distribution of AvtoVAZ shares is as follows; 28.89% - Rostekhnologii, 25% - Renault and 20.14% - Troika Dialog.

Three new component manufacturers are coming to Nizhniy Novgorod Region

01.10.2012 / Vedomosti

Boryszew Kunststofftechnik Deutschland will establish a factory in the city of Dzerzhinsk with an investment value of 600 million rubles (~20 million USD), in order to manufacture external and internal plastic details for new automobiles. The company is among the suppliers of Volkswagen. Hoholovski has added that the site selection for the factory has been made and the production will commence in April 2013.

Matador Automotive Rus is another enterprise which will establish a component production facility on the premises belonging to GAZ in Nizhniy Novgorod, with an investment of 1.7 billion rubles (~57 million USD). Matador Automotive Rus will manufacture dashboard frames for VW Jetta, Skoda Octavia, Yeti and Rapid.

Magna Technoplast will manufacture dashboards, petrol caps, radiator frames and seats for GAZ and other customers. Currently, approximately 200 component manufacturers operate within Nizhniy Novgorod Region.

Prediction for Russian vehicle market in 2012: 3 million units

28.09.2012 / Avtostat

Avtostat agency has increased its prediction on vehicle sales figures in Russia for the year 2012. According to the latest predictions; 2.72 new passenger cars, 180,000 LCVs, 130,000 trucks and 18,000 buses will be sold in the country until the end of the year. Thereby, the total magnitude of the market has been calculated as 3,048,000 vehicles (+10%). Furthermore, the agency is anticipating a total production number of 2.22 million vehicles. 1.95 million of this figure is formed of automobiles (+12%).

Toyota is aiming to sell 150,000 automobiles in Russia this year

27.09.2012 / Avtostat

Toyota is aiming to sell 150,000 Toyota and 16-17,000 Lexus brand automobiles in Russia in 2012. The relevant statement has been made by the Chairman and the Executive Director of Toyota Motor Europe: Didier Leroy. Leroy has stated that the European-wide sales -including Russia- of Toyota and Lexus has reached 822,000 vehicles in 2011 and this figure will go up to 830-835,000 in 2012.

During the winter period of 2012-2013, Toyota will start manufacturing Land Cruiser Prado in cooperation with Sollers in the Russian Far-East. The production of Corolla model vehicles -which will be exported to Europe and Russia- in Turkey is another project due to start in the year 2013. The company's following enterprise will be the production of RAV4 in Poland, commencing in 2014.

Chevrolet has become the leader of Ekaterinburg's foreign brand car market in August

25.09.2012 / Auto-Dealer-Ekaterinburg

According to Auto-Dealer-Ekaterinburg data, 64,957 automobiles have been sold in Yekaterinburg during January-August period of 2012 (+20%). The number of automobiles sold in August-only has reached 8562 (+17%), on the other hand.

Lada has become the leader of the market once again. However, the sales of the Russian brands continue to decline gradually. Chevrolet has become the best-sold foreign brand in the city, overtaking the leader of the January-July period: Toyota.

The growth rate of the city had been higher than the rest of Russia during the recent months, however; as from August the figures have become level with the countrywide average.

Russian Ministry of Industry and Commerce: "Passenger car market will grow by 15% in 2012."

25.09.2012 / AutoBusiness

The Russian Ministry of Industry and Commerce anticipate that the passenger car market of the country will have grown by 14.6%, reaching 2.03 million vehicles by the end of 2012. The relevant statement has been made by the Vice-President of the Automobile Department of the Ministry: Yevgeni Kudryashov. Kudryashov has reminded that the Russian automobile market had a volume of 1.77 million vehicles in 2011 and declared the production target for this year as 1.44 million cars, compared to previous year's production number of 1.25 million. In other words, the ministry executives share the view that car production will increase by 15.2% this year.

However, according to the recently announced predictions of the Russian Ministry of Economic Development, the market will grow by 12.4% this year. The ministry estimate the growth rate for the year 2013 as 6.2% and for the years 2014-2015 as 7%.

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.

General Motors will spend \$200 million on the new Niva

24.09.2012 / Autonews

The General Motors-AvtoVAZ partnership: GM-AvtoVAZ will spend \$200 million on the design of the second generation Chevrolet Niva. The Head of GM Russia office: Jim Bovenzi has stated that the the vehicle has already taken its final external form and the company is dealing with the interior design at the moment. The production of the new generation Niva will start at the end of 2015. In the mean time, the annual capacity of the factory in Tolyatti will be increased to 120,000 from from the current level of 95,000 vehicles.

450,000 Chevrolet Nivas have been manufactured in Russia within the last 10 years. According to AEB data, 54,400 Nivas have been manufactured in the country in 2011. This figure corresponds to 31% of the sales of the company in Russia.

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).

GAZ Group is planning to increase its bus sales by 7% this year

24.09.2012 / Avtostat

GAZ Group is planning to increase its by sales by 7% in comparison with the previous year in 2012, reaching a sales figure of in between 13,500 and 13,800 vehicles. The relevant statement has been made by the Bus Department Director of the group: Nikolai Odintsov. Odintsov has also stated that the company is aiming to increase its market share to 68% -by a further 3%- thanks to the new models which will be put on the market soon.

GAZ Group has exported 1591 out of the 13,198 buses it has sold last year. The bus department of the group will allocate 3% of this year's income on its investment programme. The production of Euro-5 standard buses with CNG engines, the design of new GOLAZ-5251 long distance buses on Scania frames and research & development activities will constitute the main features of the programme. GOLAZ-5251s will be used in Sochi Winter Olympics.

Japanese tyre manufacturer targets Russia from Turkey

22.09.2012 / OIB Russia

Sumitomo Rubber and the Turkish company Abdulkadir Ozcan AS are proposing the establishment of a tyre factory in Cankiri, Turkey. The factory will have an investment value of \$516 million will employ 2000 people. 80% of the production will be exported under the brand names of Dunlop, Falken and Sumitomo. Japanese company expects a significant growth throughout the markets of the Russia, Middle-East and North Africa and Turkey will become a strategic base in the region for the company. The company is aiming to reach a daily production level of 30,000 tyres within two years and declared the annual production target to be achieved until the year 2017 as 10,000,000 tyres. The company has plans to supply manufacturers such as; Toyota and Honda in near future.

German Mubea and Japanese Sanoh will establish a factory in SEZ Togliatti

20.09.2012 / Avtostat

The joint production project of German Mubea and Japanese Sanoh companies in Togliatti Special Economic Zone has been approved by the regional administration. At the first stage, the German company is planning to manufacture suspension springs under the name of Mubea Komponenty Podveski Rus. The company intends to add stabilizers and clamps to its product range in the future. The Japanese manufacturer will operate under the name of Sanoh Volga in the region, on the other hand. Sanoh Volga will manufacture components for brake and fuel systems within SEZ Togliatti.

Russian LCV market has resumed its growth trend in August

18.09.2012 / Avtostat

16,980 light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia in August (+5.3%). Thereby, following two months of decline in sales, a growth trend has been observed in the market once again. The LCV sales by the end of the first eight months of the year has increased by 3.4% in comparison with the same period of the previous year, reaching 111,096 vehicles. 67% of this figure is formed of Russian brand LCVs.

As usual, the Russian LCV market has been dominated by GAZ in August (8578 vehicles, +9.1%). Despite the decline in sales, UAZ occupied the second place (2508, -1.6%). VW is the market leader amongst foreign brands (1199, +37.8%). In this field, VW is being followed by Ford (1127, +51.5%) and Peugeot (1057, +9.8%).

The growth rates in production by the end of January-August period; Automobiles: +15.5%, Trucks: +3.7%

18.09.2012 / Rosstat

According to Russian Statistical Institute Rosstat data, the car production in the country has increased by 15.5% compared to the previous year, reaching 1.3 million vehicles. During the same period, the production of trucks has increased by 3.7% and buses by 43.3%. The eight-months production numbers for trucks and buses are; 133,000 and 34,500 respectively. August-only figures are as follows; trucks: 19 (+14.2%) and buses 4800 (+17.1%).

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.

Volvo has plans to manufacture truck cabins in Kaluga

17.09.2012 / Avtostat

Volvo Group is planning an investment of €90 million in order to manufacture truck cabins in Kaluga. The cabins will be used on Volvo and Renault trucks, manufactured by Volvo in Kaluga. Company has stated that the bonnet and paint departments will be established next to the existing factory. The facility with an annual production capacity of 15,000 cabins will commence operations in 2014.

The Volvo factory in Kaluga had been opened in 2009. Heavy tonnage trucks are currently being manufactured in the factory for the markets of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. The current annual capacity of production is; 10,000 Volvo and 5000 Renault heavy tonnage trucks. According to the statement made by the factory, the production targets for the years 2012 and 2013 are 7000 and 8000 vehicles respectively.

Haima production has stopped at Derways

17.09.2012 / RBK Daily

Chinese manufacturer Haima has stopped production at Derways factory due to dispute with partners. Derways and Haima had started cooperating following the signature of a three-year contract in Autumn 2009. 3100 automobiles have been manufactured in the factory and put on sale in the Russian market in 2011. However, a sharp decline prevails in sales and production of Haima since January 2012. Based on its own sources of information, RBK reports that the aforementioned decline has been caused by the \$2 million debt owed by Derways to the Chinese manufacturer. As a result of Derways' failure to pay off its debt due to financial troubles, Haima has called off the supply of parts and components to its partner. Chinese authorities have stated that despite the current turn of events, the parties still carry on with the negotiations.

A number of experts in the sector share the view that due to the recent desposal tax, Haima will choose not to revive its partnership with Derways and pull out of the Russian market altogether.

KamAZ and MAZ have agreed on establishing an equal-share partnership

13.09.2012 / Kommersant

Following 18-months of negotiations, Rostehnologi and Belarusian government have come to an agreement-in-principle on merging of KamAZ and MAZ on equal shares. The relevant statement has been made by the General Director of KamAZ: Sergei Kogogin. Kogogin has stated that while the supplementary negotiations continue, the Belarusian government will transfer 75% minus 1 shares of MAZ to the partnership, which will be established under the name of Rosbelavto. The rate of KamAZ shares to be transferred to the new partnership by Rostehnologi will be 49.9%, on the other hand. Kogogin has also added that although the partnership will be established on 50%-50% basis to begin with, due to the fact that KamAZ is worth more than MAZ, the option of acquiring 25% extra shares of Rosbelavto will be available to Rostehnologi in future. According to the calculations made by the Russian authorities, the market value of KamAZ is in between \$2.5-2.6 billion rubles, while MAZ is worth around \$1.6-1.7 billion.

Mazda Sollers has officially commenced operations

07.09.2012 / Avtostat

Japanese manufacturer Mazda Motor Corp. and Russian Sollers have conducted the official opening ceremony of Mazda Sollers Manufacturing Rus. The partnership will start the serial production of Mazda 6 and CX-5 models in Vladivostok in October 2012. The initial annual production capacity of the factory has been announced as 50,000 vehicles. Within the frame of the project, it's aimed to reach an annual capacity of 100,000 vehicles.

Marcopolo and KamAZ will start manufacturing buses in Bashkortostan

12.09.2011 / Vedomosti

Brazilian Marcopolo and Russian KamAZ have established an equal shares partnership and will start serial production of buses in Bashkortostan in October. The relevant statement has been made via the internet site of the President of Bashkortostan. The representative of KamAZ affiliate NefAZ: Oleg Afanasyev has confirmed that the Marcopolo buses will be manufactured at NefAZ facilities and be sold via the distribution network of KamAZ.

The 30-seater buses will be manufactured on KamAZ frames with Marcopolo bodyworks. The buses will be equipped with Cummins engines and Daimler axle shafts, both manufactured in Bashkortostan. Afanasyev states that the rate of localisation will be 40% at the first stage. An approximate amount of \$10,000,000 has been invested within the frame of the project until today. The annual production capacity will be 3000 buses.

It's expected that in between 60-80 buses will have been manufactured in the facility by the end of 2012. According to plans, the partnership will reach the full capacity by the year 2016. The Russo-Brazilian buses will have a price-tag of around 3 million rubles. (On the other hand, the major bus manufacturer of Russia: PAZ, who manufactures 70% of all small and medium size buses in the country, prices its vehicles within the range of 1-1.3 million rubles).

1.9 million vehicles have been sold in Russia by the end of the first eight months of the year

10.09.2012 / OIB Russia

According to monthly AEB data, 1,928,216 vehicles have been sold in Russia within January-August 2012 period (+14%). This figure was 1,686,062 by the end of the same period of the previous year. The August-only sales figure has increased by 15% in comparison with the previous year, reaching 258,761, on the other hand.

The Chairman of the AEB Committee of Car Manufacturers Joerg Schreiber has made the following comment on sales figures: "Again a good month result, and the best August ever recorded. Robust growth in the double-digit percentage range goes on - despite recent hikes in household utility costs, and a widespread expectation among consumers that prices of imported cars would drop following WTO entry. Now, with the introduction of the utilization fee, it becomes clear to the public that this won't happen. With that uncertainty removed from the customer's mind, and the traditionally strong autumn season just beginning, we have all reason to remain optimistic for continued sales momentum in the remaining months of the year."

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