

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Visit of Delegation of Sörmland Regional Council and Chamber of Commerce of East Sweden to St. Petersburg



Photo: Kvadrat SG, <http://kvadrat-sg.ru>

The delegation of Sörmland Regional Council, headed by Marita Bengtsson, Chairman of the Board, and the Chamber of Commerce of East Sweden, headed by Per Westerberg, Chairman of the Board, visited St. Petersburg on 28-31 October 2004. The Chamber of Commerce was also represented by Lars Erichs, Executive Director, and Anette Rogers, Regional Director.

The cooperation between Sörmland and Leningrad region started in 1997, when the first cooperation agreement was signed. In February

2004, the new protocol to this agreement was added.

The visit aimed at business development between Sörmland and the Leningrad region. It was arranged by the Stockholm Region Office in

St. Petersburg, as Sörmland County is one of the associated members of the Stockholm Region European Committee.

Ways of further cooperation were discussed during the meetings with Grigory Dvas, Vice governor of the Leningrad Region, and Mark Vybornov, First Vice President of the Leningrad Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The members of the delegation also visited the Swedish law firm *Mannheimer Swartling Advokatbyrå* and the Russian enterprise *Kvadrat SG*, one of Scania's subcontractors. Sven Lexner, Partner, *Mannheimer Swartling*, and Sergey Gadalov, Director of *Kvadrat*, made presentations of their companies and answered the questions about making business in the region.

Source: Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg, e-mail: stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru



Photo: Kvadrat SG, <http://kvadrat-sg.ru>

New Chairman of St. Petersburg Rector Council

Regular elections to the Rector Council were held in October in St. Petersburg. Vladimir Vasiliev, Rector of the St. Petersburg State University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics, was elected Chairman of the Council. He succeeded Viktor Romanov, Rector of the St. Petersburg State University of Technology and Design, who had acted as Chairman of the Rector Council during the previous 10 years. Igor Maximtsev, Pro-Rector on International Relations of the St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance, was elected Chairman of the Association of Pro-Rectors on International Relations.

Source: Stockholm Region Office, e-mail: stockholm.office@stockholm.spb.ru

New Medical Laboratory in Petrodvorets (Peterhof)



On 27 October a new medical clinic was inaugurated at the city hospital number 37 (Nikolaevsky). The inhabitants of the Petrodvorets district can

henceforth get a thorough medical check-up fast, comfortably and accurately. The new laboratory is the result of a profound reform of the whole medical service, before considered to be of sub-standard quality and not meeting the demands of the people.

From now on, the Nikolaevsky hospital will have access to new technologies. Owing to the support of the world network Rotari and the Countess Klotild Von Rintelen Fund, a modern biochemical analyzer that performs 800 tests per hour using 40 different methods has been installed. All test results are saved in a database and the progress of each patient can be closely monitored. As a result, each inhabitant of the district can obtain a "health passport" confirming his/her medical status.

Source: Irina Kotova, Medical press center, e-mail: press@kz.zdrav.spb.ru

Russian National Ecological Prize

St. Petersburg Committee on Environmental Protection and Safety was awarded a prize for its contribution to the sustainable development in ecological management in the first ever held Russian competition *National Ecological Prize*. The prize ceremony was held at Expocentre in Moscow within the frames of the international fair *Eco-efficiency 2004* and the forum *Technological Innovations of the XXI Century for the Rational Use of Environment and Ecology and Sustainable Development* that took place on 20-23 October.

More than 150 different companies and organizations participated in the competition, held jointly by the State Duma's Ecological Committee and the V. I Vernadsky Ecological Fund. At the fair, information about such large companies as Gasprom, Yamburggazdobicha, Enviro-Chemie, Lukoil-Komi, the St. Petersburg companies Ozon and Zvezdochka was provided as well as new scientific findings in the area of engineering and applied ecology contributed by the Russian Scientific Academy and the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences.



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China Investing in St. Petersburg

According to Nikolay Asaul, Vice Chairman of the St. Petersburg Committee for Investments and Strategic Projects, the government of China has confirmed the 100 mln USD investments of Shanghai Industry Investment company into the Southwest part of St. Petersburg. Shanghai Industry Investment company is supposed to present its suggestions to the City of St. Petersburg by the end of 2004. The project is financed by the Chinese company, while design and construction works will be carried out by the Russian enterprises. By 2008 a complex of houses, hotels and business-centers is planned to be built on the total area of 180 hectares in the Krasnoselsky district of St. Petersburg.

Source: Delovoy Petersburg, 13 September 2004

Increase in Investments into St. Petersburg Economy

During the first six months of 2004, the volume of investments from abroad into St. Petersburg economy comprised 441,3 million USD, which is 38,9% more than in the corresponding period of 2003. According to forecasts, till the end of 2004 investment volume will comprise approximately 900 million USD, compared to 695,8 million in 2003.

Source: www.gov.spb.ru

Russian Delegation at Conference *Geotechnical Problems in Construction of Large-scale Buildings in Kazakhstan*



Within the scope of the Russia's Year in Kazakhstan the official delegation of St. Petersburg took part in the international conference. The conference was held in September 2004 in Almaty and Astana. The St. Petersburg delegation consisted, in particular, of Nikolay Asaul, Deputy Chairman of St. Petersburg

Committee on Investments and Strategic Projects, Natalia Shaforostova, Deputy Director of the St. Petersburg Construction Center, and about 40 representatives of construction companies. At the conference, scientists and researchers exchanged their experience and visited the latest construction objects of Kazakhstan.

The conference was attended by approximately 150 delegates from Russia, the CIS, Europe, United States and Japan.



Source: Oxana Sokovnina, St. Petersburg Construction Center, e-mail: infstroy@list.ru

Official Visit of Governor of Leningrad Region to Czech Republic

On 20-23 October the delegation of the Leningrad region headed by Governor Valery Serdyukov, paid an official visit to the Czech Republic.

Bilateral cooperation with the Czech Republic has been successfully developed by the Leningrad region since 1999. During the meeting with Milan Urban, Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, in Prague the prospects of further cooperation in the economic sector were discussed.

The Agreement on Cooperation between the Leningrad region and the Southern Moravian Region was signed by Valery Serdukov, Governor of the Leningrad region, and Stanislav Juránek, President of the Southern Moravian Region, on 21 October. The letter of intent on co-operation between the regions was signed a year before, on 15 August 2003.

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Governor of St. Petersburg Visited Japan

On 11-15 October Valentina Matvienko, the Governor of St. Petersburg paid an official visit to Japan. The programme of the visit included participation in the celebrations, dedicated to the 25-years anniversary of the twin cities relations' between St. Petersburg and Osaka, as well as negotiations with Japanese business circles.

During the visit Valentina Matvienko met the Minister of Economy of Japan, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and the representatives of Japan's 12 largest companies. As a result, the City of St. Petersburg signed Agreements on cooperation with the Marubeni Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation. During the meeting the representatives of the Marubeni Corporation expressed their interest in St. Petersburg projects focused on western high-speed road construction (a part of the ring road), water station construction in the northern part of the city, waste recycling technologies etc. Sumitomo Corporation is interested in investments in express trams construction, equipment production for the city electro-transport (trams and trolleybuses) and construction of a plant for plastic bottles recycling.

As it was mentioned during the press-conference, after the statement on planning to build a new plant in Russia, Toyota company was offered 3 lots in St. Petersburg. Valentina Matvienko emphasized: 'St. Petersburg nowadays possesses competitiveness advantages that other regions of the country do not have'.

Source: Newsletter of the City of St. Petersburg, N 43(386) 25 October; Metro newspaper, 19 October; Delovoy Peterburg newspaper, 18 October

Finnish Company *Elcoteq* Came to St. Petersburg

On 25 October, the Finnish company Elcoteq Network Corporation started the construction of its first plant in St. Petersburg. The event was attended by Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg.

Elcoteq Network Corporation is a world leading electronics manufacturing services company in the communications technology field providing globally end-to-end solutions consisting of design, manufacturing, supply chain management and after-sales services. The company operates on four continents in 12 countries and employs approximately 16,500 people.

Valentina Matvienko pointed out that Elcoteq coming to the St. Petersburg market witnesses favourable conditions for investors in St. Petersburg. Antti Piippo, Chairman of Elcoteq's Board of Directors, stressed that the City of St. Petersburg's had been actively helping in facilitating of the project implementation.

Elcoteq is investing 100 million Euros into the construction of the new plant in St. Petersburg. The construction is planned to be completed by August 2005, with the project employing approximately 1200 people.

The project will be controlled by the City Agency for Industrial Investments, created in association to the St. Petersburg Committee on Economic Development, Industry and Trade.

Source: www.gov.spb.ru

New *Gillette* Plant in St. Petersburg



Photo: www.interpress.ru

The new Gillette plant started operating in St. Petersburg on 27 October 2004. Valentina Matvienko, Governor of St. Petersburg, attended the opening of the plant. Through this extension, Gillette in St. Petersburg became one of the largest manufacturing sites of the Gillette company. The new plant has given about 300 new working places, with expected payments to the city budget of 15 mln roubles (about 500 thousand USD). The volume of investments comprised about 20 mln USD.

Gillette came to the St. Petersburg market in 1998. At the moment, the company is selling its products on the local market, the markets of the CIS, as well as in 54 countries in the world.

Source: Newsletter of the City of St. Petersburg, 1 November 2004

Northwest Internet Forum — 2004



The 3rd Northwest Internet Forum will take place in St. Petersburg on 10-12 November 2004. The annual event was founded in 2002 by the City of St. Petersburg and the Office of the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Northwest Federal District. Representatives of Internet community in Northwest Russia, authorities, IT companies, researchers and foreign experts are invited to participate in the Forum. This year's Forum is united with another big event – the all-Russian joint conference *Information Society Technologies - Internet and Modern Society* (<http://conf.infosoc.ru>). The Forum is arranged by the E-Development Partnership in Northwest Russia.

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Radio Russia and Radio Sweden Launch a Competition in Celebration of the 300th Anniversary of Peterhof



Photo: www.interpress.ru

Radio Russia and Radio Sweden will together launch a competition for their listeners in order to choose the best expert on the history of the architectural ensemble Peterhof. Five Swedish and five Russian winners will be invited to Russia and Peterhof for three days in the summer of 2005.

The quiz will be organized by the State Peterhof Museum, Radio Russia in St. Petersburg, travel companies *Baltic Tours* (<http://www.baltictours.ee/eng/>) and *Eclectica* (<http://www.eclectica.spb.ru/eindex.html>) with the support of the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg.

In upcoming issues of the newsletter, we plan to give more information on the project and to publish the questions of the quiz.

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Facts and Figures

Peterhof is famous all over the world for its fountains, palaces and parks. Last year during the celebration of the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg, more than 40 presidents and prime ministers visited its premises. The former summer residence of the Russian Imperial Court, situated on the coast of the Finnish Gulf, is included into the UNESCO World Heritage List. The ensemble includes two regular parks from the Baroque epoch- the Upper Garden and the Lower Park. The whole museum occupies an area of 264 hectares.

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The archive of the newsletters can be found at <http://www.stockholmregion.org/tpl/topic.asp?ID=457>

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