

Northwest Russia: Facts and Events

Newsletter by the Stockholm Region Office in St. Petersburg

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Inauguration of the Leningrad Region's Governor



On 9 July the Governor of Leningrad Region Valery Serdukov was confirmed in office for the third term. The candidate for the post was proposed by the President of Russia and appointed by the Leningrad Region's Legislative Assembly. In his inauguration speech Mr Serdukov noted that the main target in the years to come is reinforcement of the region's economy and, as a result, improvement of living standards.

Source: Government of the Leningrad Region, www.lenobl.ru

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Ombudsman Elections in St. Petersburg

On 4 July the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly elected an ombudsman. As a result of ballot vote, Igor Mikhailov, who received 31 votes, was appointed the first St. Petersburg's ombudsman. According to Mr Mikhailov, an ombudsman should protect the right for satisfactory and healthy environment, the right to know, children's and mother's rights, and also control the enforcement of civil rights.



Source: St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly, www.assembly.spb.ru

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Lappeenranta Office in St. Petersburg



In October 2007 the Lappeenranta Office is planned to be opened in St. Petersburg to help Russian and Finnish entrepreneurs market their business abroad. According to Tom Hultin – CEO of Lappeenranta City Holding Ltd. – now it will be easier for Lappeenranta officials to work with Russian and Finnish companies, planning their business abroad. Among Lappeenranta's priorities is cooperation with Russian innovation companies.

There are already several Finnish representative offices working in St. Petersburg. For instance, Juvaskula is represented by Jykes company, whose director Marina Golovko assumes that the office performs really good results with 10 joint companies launched in St. Petersburg over the last 13 years. According to Ms Golovko, the office is primarily of interest to small and medium enterprises.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, June 2007, www.dpgazeta.ru

Photo: <http://www.eu2006.fi>

New Financial Guarantees for Russian Travelers



Starting 1 June all the travel operators on the territory of Russia are obliged to obtain a financial provision in a bank or an insurance company. For the companies operating in the market of internal tourism the sum amounts to RUR 500 thousand (appr. SEK 135 thousand), for those in the international market – RUR 10 million (appr. SEK 2.75 million). The changes are primarily the website of the Federal Agency for Tourism aimed at increasing the responsibility of travel operators to their clients. It is also expected that the changes of legislation will



increase the quality of rendered services, as every traveler now has an opportunity to check their travel agency on the Uniform Federal Register of Travel Operators, published on: www.russiatourism.ru

Source: *Piter-T* e-newspaper, editor@dneprovoi.ru

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Russian Venture Forum



On 11-12 October the *Russian Venture Forum* will take place in St. Petersburg. The *Forum* is the most prominent annual event for participants of the venture and direct investment market, uniting Russian and foreign professionals.

The programme of the *Forum* will include a wide range of different activities focused on analysis of the experience accumulated by venture capitalists in Russia and abroad, prospects of the development of native venture capital and private

equity industry, and transition of the Russian economy to innovative development.

Among the main topics of the *Forum* are: Investment environment: opportunities for direct and venture investments; Public-private partnership; Overview of the venture and direct investment market; Search for perspective companies and initiation of deals in the field of technology; International cooperation in high-tech development. The *XVIII Russian Venture Fair* will also take place in the frames of the *Forum* with 50 innovative companies to participate.



The *Russian Venture Forum* is organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia, the Federal Agency for Science and Innovations, and the *Russian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (RVCA)*.

More information about the event can be found at: <http://www.rvf.ru/eng/rvf.php?id=9>

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Peterhof – Finland TACIS Project



In July the implementation of Peterhof – Finland TACIS project (*Development of Peterhof Science Park Concept and its External Connection*) was given an official start. The main participants on the Finnish part are Helsinki School of Economy and the Technology Park of Mikkeli Mickteh, on the Russian part – St. Petersburg State University.

The project is aimed at analysis and transfer of the Finnish excellence and experience in the field of technology and science parks to the Innovation Centre of the St. Petersburg State University. Within the framework of the project it is also planned to arrange a number of business seminars for entrepreneurs intending to launch innovative companies. The allocations for the project amount to EUR 167 thousand.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, July 2007, www.dpgazeta.ru

Photo: www.interpress.ru

Swedish *Human Search* Company in St. Petersburg

The Swedish *Human Search* headhunting company, with its departments in the Northern countries and Baltic States, is setting up its first Russian office in St. Petersburg. According to Henric Nilsson – Head of the St. Petersburg office – so far the company is going to render the only service, which is the recruitment of personnel for top positions and specialist roles. The company is going to focus on headhunting for international companies, establishing their plants in St. Petersburg (for car producers in particular).

According to Tatjana Grin – marketing manager of *AVANTA* Personnel company – there are approximately 200 recruitment companies operating in St. Petersburg, 35-40 of them being major. In her view the Russian recruitment market is not yet saturated, and in years to come the expansion of foreign headhunting companies in St. Petersburg and Moscow, as well as the scope of rendered services (payroll job, outstaffing etc.), are going to grow.

Source: *Delovoy Peterburg* newspaper, June 2007, www.dpgazeta.ru; *Human Search* www.humansearch.se

Cooperation between *Microsoft* and the City of St. Petersburg



On 6 July the City of St. Petersburg and *Microsoft Rus* signed a cooperation agreement in the field of IT. The agreement provides development of “e-government” and IT infrastructure for the city executive authorities, creation of a single mail server, as well as wide application of IT in education and healthcare. According to Valentina Matvienko, who signed the document, high technology should work efficiently for the benefit of the citizens, and help promote development of the city economy and social sphere. The Governor also expressed her hope that the signed agreement would be broadened by new joint projects.

Birger Steen – CEO of *Microsoft Rus* – underlined that the project, which is quite important for St. Petersburg, is also of a federal significance. The implementation of the agreement will provide necessary experience of mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of IT to all Russian regions.

Source: City of St. Petersburg, www.gov.spb.ru

Nissan Motor Plant in St. Petersburg

On 8 July the foundation stone ceremony of *Nissan* motor plant took place in Kamenka on the outskirts of St. Petersburg. Among the participants of the ceremony was the First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Sergey Ivanov, the Governor of St. Petersburg Valentina Matvienko, *Nissan Motor Co.* Executive President Carlos Tovaes, the Emergency Ambassador Plenipotentiary of Japan in Russia Jasuo Sajto, CEO of *Nissan Manufacturing RUS* Fudjio Khosaka, the Plenipotentiary Representative of the President of Russia in the North-West Federal District Ilja Klebanov, and the Minister of Transport of Russia Igor Levitin.



The motor plant is expected to start its work in 2009 with an annual production volume of 50 thousand cars, and will provide 750 workplaces. The company also plans to arrange personnel development programmes and cooperate with universities of St. Petersburg.

Source: City of St. Petersburg, www.gov.spb.ru

The archive of the newsletters can be found at http://www.stockholmregion.org/websites/stockholm/sd_page/274/3/index.php?

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