

last three or four years, the interest in these vehicles has grown because of increased concern for the environment. Tracked vehicles relentlessly plough up the tundra, whereas a low pressure tire produces a much lighter pressure on the surface. During the show, the team from Arkhangel'sk demonstrated with obvious pleasure their "deadly" stunt which involved driving a six-wheeler called the "Taibola" over one of their colleagues at full speed, as he lay in the snow. To the amusement and delight of the spectators he got up smiling. Those amateur vehicles are also indispensable in swamps where they do not sink and can even swim through clear water; and they can go through deep, wet snow. In addition, these vehicles can also pull a half-tonne trailer. This type of transport is necessary for hunters, reindeer breeders, fishermen, geologists, oilmen and for the northern postal service.

The national shows of amateur custom automobiles, organised by the NSID (National Society of Inventors and Developers) and the Central Committee of the National Voluntary Society for Support for the Armed Services, have done much to popularise these sorts of vehicles. In the first such show in Nadya, there were only three entrants, but now in Yaroslavl' there are custom car designers from fifteen republics and provinces.

The USSR Ministry of Agricultural Machinery and the USSR Ministry of Oil and Gas Construction have joined forces with the organisers of the Yaroslavl' show, because they themselves need this sort of transportation and because the huge demand guarantees an unlimited market for any successful design.