

PULP AND PAPER

Canadian Firms Propose Joint Venture for Production of Bleached Chemo-Thermomechanical Pulp at Balakhna Combine

Trade links between Canada and the USSR have a long history. However, economic relations between our countries began to develop with particular intensity in 1988. Dozens of joint ventures have come into being. While it is true that the timber industry has not been successful in this form of collaboration, there are numerous objective reasons for this. Chief among these is the capital intensiveness of the sector. Now, however, there are signs of a change for the better. A joint logging venture has been formed. Very recently, moreover, a Canadian - Soviet symposium on the production of fibrous materials took place in Moscow. Representatives of the world renowned companies Hymac Limited and Noranda Forest Sales met with officials and production workers of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry and spoke to them about their firms' achievements. Modern technologies, dependable equipment and rich experience in marketing - all this and much else exists in the arsenal of the firms. The Canadian visitors drew to the attention of Soviet specialists dozens of papers explaining in detail highly diverse aspects of the Canadian firms' activities. At the conclusion of the two-day meeting they proposed that through joint efforts a plant should be built on Soviet territory for the production of bleached chemo-thermomechanical pulp (BCTMP) from hardwood species.

"In the Soviet Union a complicated ecological situation has arisen. The pulp and paper industry is in receipt of a fair number of claims in this connection. It is common knowledge that several years ago Canada ran into similar problems, but since that time you have learned to solve them successfully. Is it not safe to say that the joint venture which you are proposing to the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry will be environmentally safe"? With this question I turned to the President and Director of Production of Hymac Ltd., Thomas Krieser.

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