

is doing the bulk of the work there? Of course, it is Minlesprom which has a vehicle pool containing several tens of thousands of TT-4 tractors, situated mainly in regions of Siberia and the Far East. It is logical to assume that they should be used for putting out fires. What actually happens is that when a major fire occurs, all of the TT-4s are lost, so that there is nothing with which to plough around the fire. In order to cope with such situations our institute has developed a simple piece of equipment. Now, as to the conversion, we are convinced that at the present stage this will definitely be able to turn things around in our favour."

V. Serezhin (Senior Instructor of the Standing Production Conference at Tyumen' Air Base). "With us, much of the discussion is about controlling fires by means of ground-based equipment. Everything necessary for this is on hand: the tractors, tanks and other equipment. But what have the scientists done to advance our aerial fire fighting capabilities? I have spent close to 20 years in aerial fire fighting work and yet, just as I started out with a shovel, so do I take one along today when going to a fire. We have absolutely no equipment for the mounting of mobile groups. Everything that has been developed is for parkland forests. That kind of equipment is unsuitable for our forests."

E. Artsybashev (Head of the Forest Fire Protection Laboratory of the Leningrad Forestry Research Institute - LenNIILKho). "During the last 20 years our institute alone has worked out the designs for 26 fire trucks and the necessary accessories, instrumentation, technologies and space information transmission systems. But when you ask about them at the sites, you are told that they are unavailable. We have models as good as anything produced in the world, are checking, testing and approving them, but in the end, they are set aside. Currently, we are working towards an enhanced capability for extinguishing fires from the air. We are conducting tests on an An-26P aircraft which will be able to carry 4.5 tonnes of water, however