

MINERAL RESOURCES/MINING

Diamond Mines in Yakutiya Receive Latest Heavy Cargo Aircraft

Miners of the "Yakutalmaz" production association (Yakut State Trust for Diamond Mining), located in the city of Udachnyi, have first-hand knowledge of the transport potential offered by the giant air cargo ship created by the Antonov Design Bureau (OKB) in Kiev. They have been enjoying the services of the "An's" for two decades, and under very difficult conditions, as rule. For example, when they had to transport from Vladivostok to Polyarnyi BelAZ (Belorussian Automobile Plant) vehicles weighing 90 tons each, or giant modules and parts of the Japanese dump truck "Komatsu", the job was entrusted to An-22's ("antei").

A superpowered quarry dump truck produced by the American-Canadian firm "Euclid" arrived here on the wings of an An-14 working for the "Ruslan" Company, the first operational flight of which was to this northern territory.

Now the An-225 ("Mriya") has come to the Arctic. This time diamond miners have gotten from the sky the superpowered tractor T-800, built at the Chelyabinsk Tractor Plant. Ordinarily, nearly six months would have been needed to transport this tractor.

This did not suit the miners: they needed the new tractor urgently. The T-800, equipped with a ripper and a cutter, can break up the hardest rocks without difficulty. It has only been in service a short time, but it has already demonstrated its merits in mining operations in Uzbekistan and the Southern Urals. Now it will be undergoing a test in the permafrost of the Udachnyi quarry of Yakutiya.

For more than two days an engineering-technical brigade of the Antonov OKB headed by V. Tkachuk worked in Chelyabinsk to load and carefully secure the non-standard one-piece load aboard the An-225.