

About 60 years ago, the first exploratory drill hole No. 5, located in what is now the centre of Ukhta, began producing oil. This hole, which is now marked with an historic plaque, was drilled by master-driller, communist I. Koslapkin, after whom one of the city streets is now named.

With the departure of the autonomous republic's oil-drillers to the Subarctic regions, the pace of drilling increased immediately. Since 1986, 840 holes have been drilled - 90 of which were in excess of the plan. During the past year, the net cost of drilling one metre was reduced by 15 rubles. As a result of the reduction in the cost of sinking development holes, more than 13 million rubles were saved. Thanks to the superior work of the drillers, the workers of Komineft' obtained more than a million and a half tonnes of liquid fuel above the plan.

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### The Testing of Excavators Has Begun

In Nadym, Novyi Urengoi, and Yamburg tests are being conducted on an experimental group of rotary ditch excavators, ETP-307s, built by the Moscow experimental machine-building plant of the Ministry of Oil and Gas Industry. The capacity of the new machine is 1,200 horsepower. It is capable of digging one kilometre of full-sized ditch in a day. Another experimental group of these excavators will be completed this year.

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