

Technology Park for Auto Parts Producers

A technology park for motor vehicle parts producers including those European-based is being created in Togliatti. The construction, estimated at 10 billion rubles, is scheduled for 2009. Preliminary agreements with Opel dealers and representatives of the machine-building sector in Belgium's Wallonia region have been reached. Nissan and Renault traders showed interest towards the project, too.

Although the project is at its initial stage, it's highly important for Russia's motorcar industry. Lean auto parts businesses causing car owners to visit car service stations a bit too often could retard the development of import substituting industrialization. Many car producers that have to establish local industrial assembly plants complain of unsatisfactory state of the production and technology facilities of Russia's motor vehicles parts sector.

The technology park is expected to provide good conditions for development of this sector and, furthermore, for opening of more local assembly plants and enhancement of import substitution.

The trouble is that no privileges for the park residents are so far stipulated, which can postpone the park launch or even scare off foreign car parts producers.

By Kirill Lebedev