



IT'S TIME FOR COMPULSORY USE OF PLASTIC PIPES

IN INFRASTRUCTURE

The opening ceremony of Tobolsk Polymer, one of the largest polypropylene production plants in the world, took place on 15 October 2013 in Tobolsk, attended by President Vladimir Putin. The construction of the new plant represents the largest investment project in the Russian petrochemical industry.

Alexander Novak, Energy Minister of the Russian Federation; Vladimir Yakushev, Governor of the Tyumen Region; Leonid Mikhelson, SIBUR Holding Chairman of the Board of Directors and CEO of Novatek OJSC; Alexander Dyukov, General Director of Gazprom Neft OJSC and SIBUR Holding Deputy Chair of the Board of Directors; and Dmitriy Konov, General Director of SIBUR took part in the ceremony.

Panel discussions on the development of the petrochemical industry were chaired by Vladimir Putin. In his speech, the Head of State highlighted a number of problems holding back the development of the industry. He observed that consumption of petrochemical products in Russia is several times lower than in developed countries, saying, "We need to form and expand our national market, create incentives for widespread use of modern polymeric materials".

The President also stated, "We need to create incentives to avoid exporting raw materials and process them here, in Russia; and produce ready goods for the internal and export markets with high added value abroad".

Vladimir Putin highlighted the need for sensible customs tariff regulations, which can "completely and effectively use all competitive advantages and develop domestic petrochemical production".

The President also pointed out that "It is necessary to create and master new markets and widen the range of products". He expressed his readiness to order the Government of the Russian Federation to amend the existing regulations to extend the use of modern plastic materials. "By this I principally mean the creation of new standards, and the amendment of the existing state standards, construction codes of practice, and technical regulations, with the inclusion of clear requirements and responsibilities of implementation for modern petrochemical products with quality properties", stated the President.

The President also commented on the speech of Denis Manturov, Head of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, who pointed out that his department has drafted a new initiative standardisation law. The President agreed that the use of new technologies and polymeric materials should be compulsory. "We have to make sure these measures are implemented, as standard, because if there is no obligation to use certain technologies or materials, we will keep doing things the same old way", said the President.

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