

GAZ Group starts exports to Jordan

30.06.2017 / [RusAutoNews.Com](#)

GAZ Group will supply GAZel NEXT light commercial vehicles to Jordan. The relevant document has been signed by the managing director of the export company of GAZ Group Leonid Dolgov and the CEO of Al-Sultan company Monafhe Hashim Said.

GAZel NEXT will be the first GAZ Group model to be exported to Jordan. After receiving the first lot of automobiles, Al-Sultan will conduct a series of presentations of the GAZel NEXT model range to its local customers, who will be able to test the vehicles in real conditions. The GAZel NEXT line is formed of multi-functional commercial vehicles for different types of businesses and passenger transport, which are designed for operations on bad road conditions and hot climates.

Driverless buses will be tested on the Russian Island

27.06.2017 / [Autostat](#)

The first driverless Russian bus Matryoshka will be tested on the Russian Island (Far Eastern Federal District). The tests are being conducted in cooperation with Bakulin Motors Group company, as reported by the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) press office.

“The launch of Matryoshka on a pilot route, which will run on the campus of the FEFU, will be the first joint project. The preparations will take place in June-August 2017” - as stated by the university. As noted, the first driverless bus will be launched during the third Eastern Economic Forum, which will be held in FEFU campus on 6-7 September.

“The launch of the bus in FEFU will highlight the need for a timely preparation of the legal base for the introduction of new developments to trial operations and demonstrate the technological potential of the Russian Federation in the Asia-Pacific region” - as noted by the university. In addition, the educational institution has planned to create new laboratories for unmanned vehicles and systems for testing them on public roads, as written by Prime agency.

As announced by the director of Volgabus Alexei Bakulin previously, the driverless Matryoshka minibuses will be launched this year. The vehicles can be used as communal or freight transport. The first driverless bus model will have a capacity of 8 to 12 passengers and models for 4-6 and up to 20 passengers are on the way. The price of the prototype is near 8.5 million rubles at the moment as told by Bakulin, however, it will come down to 3.5 million rubles following serial production.

Federal-Mogul Powertrain Russia has established a new workshop

27.06.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

As reported by KAMAZ press office, Federal-Mogul Powertrain Russia has opened a new shop for casting cylinder liners, significantly expanding the production site in Naberezhnye Chelny, which is a joint venture with KAMAZ, operating since 2009. Castings for cylinder liners are now being manufactured in the new modern workshop, which makes it possible to centralise the full-cycle production of components within the frame of one production site. Thus, Federal-Mogul Powertrain has localised the production of a full range of cylinder-piston group parts for KAMAZ vehicles, which consists of: pistons, piston rings, cylinder liners and piston pins.

The completion of the existing production facilities of the plant in Naberezhnye Chelny was necessary, in order to accommodate the new workshop. The new premises include smelting furnaces for raw materials, a fully automated centrifugal casting plant and a technological robotic pre-treatment line. In the meantime, the existing equipment used for finishing, honing, washing, final checking, packing and shipping has been supplemented with new elements.

KAMAZ will invest €50 million in car production in Senegal

26.06.2017 / RNS

KAMAZ will invest €50 million in the first phase of assembly production in Senegal, as told by the general director of the company Sergei Kogogin to journalists.

“The Senegalese government is currently carrying out the final negotiations with EXIAR (Russian Agency for Export Credits and Investments - RNS), concerning the provision of a state guarantee for the investment planned by KAMAZ. The investment will exceed €50 million in the first stage” - Kogogin said.

KAMAZ has already started the production design, as told by Kogogin. “The government of the company has given us a building with a production site of 10,000 m2 at an industrial park” - Kogogin stated. According to him, the project will be implemented with the participation of a local partner.

The plans of KAMAZ on the organisation of assembly have been announced by DakarActu in March. The company plans to send 400 units of special equipment to the country.

KAMAZ is making assembly production in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Lithuania and India and has plans to update assembly in Iran and Vietnam.

Russian truck market up by 69% in May 2017

23.06.2017 / Autostat

According to Autostat, 5600 new trucks have been sold in Russia in May 2017, following an increase of 68.6% in comparison with the same period of the previous year. KAMAZ has kept the leadership of the market, with 33% share in total in April. The sales figure of the brand is equivalent to 1900 units, which indicates a 48% year-on-year rise. The leader is followed by GAZ, with 689 vehicles (+28.8% y/y). Volvo has joined the top-three with 378 units (+870% y/y). Scania (358, +211.3%) and Mercedes-Benz (350, +194%) are the remaining brands of the top-five.

Russian truck market has amounted to 25,000 units by the end of the first four months of 2017, following a 40% year-on-year growth.

Russian LCV market has grown by 19% in May 2017

23.06.2017 / Autostat

According to Autostat data, the Russian new light commercial vehicle (LCV) market has amounted to 8100 units in April, following an 18.6% year-on-year growth. The traditional leader of the market GAZ has kept its position, with approximately 45% share in total. GAZ has sold 3700 vehicles, which is equivalent to a 19.2% year-on-year rise. UAZ occupies the second place, reaching a sales figure of 1600 units (+33.5% y/y). As previously, the top-three is completed by LADA (815 units, +78.7% y/y). Ford (542, -8.6% y/y) and Mercedes-Benz (468, +4.0% y/y) came fourth and fifth respectively.

The Russian new LCV market has reached 41,000 units by the end of the first four months of the year, indicating a 26% year-on-year increase.

Mercedes-Benz lays the foundation of a new car factory in Russia

22.06.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

Mercedes-Benz will start works on the construction of a new plant for fully flexible passenger cars and SUV production. According to plans, the localised production of E-Class sedan will start at the new factory in Moscow Region in 2019. The production of GLE, GCE and GLS off-road vehicles will gradually be launched thereafter. The manufacturer will invest a total amount of approximately 16 billion rubles in the production site (more than €250 million). The production will be implemented by the newly established company Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Rus. The plant is located at the Esipovo Industrial Park, about 40 kilometers northwest of Moscow. It will be built by the Turkish company ESTA Construction. Over 1000 jobs will be created at the production site. Recruitment will start at the end of 2017 and the priority will be given to the residents of Moscow Region.

UAZ has started automobile exports to Ecuador

21.06.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

Ulyanovsk Car Factory UAZ has become the first ever Russian company to export automobiles to the Republic of Ecuador, with Patriot and UAZ pickup models.

The distribution contract for the first 150 automobiles to be exported to Ecuador had been signed between UAZ and its local partner at the end of 2016. The first party of vehicles is currently on the ocean, being transported.

“Ecuador is not the largest market in Latin America in terms of volume for UAZ, however, we expect to deliver between 300 and 500 automobiles to the country with the support of our local partner. In the medium term, we expect to sell 3000 to 5000 UAZ SUVs throughout Latin America, increasing export volumes by 25-40% annually” - as stated by the head of automobile exports at UAZ: Andrei Dorofeev.

Ulyanovsk Car Factory currently has similar distribution contracts with local partners at Bolivia, Haiti, Nicaragua, Mexico and Paraguay.

Vehicle fleet supplies to the government of Freedom Island are also being made from time to time. UAZ has plans to complete contracts with new partners from Venezuela, Honduras, Colombia, Panama and Chile in the near future.

Volkswagen plans to export 27,000 automobiles from Russia in 2017

16.06.2017 / RNS

Volkswagen Group Rus will export 27,000 automobiles this year, as told by the general director of the company Marcus Ozegovich to RNS. “A total number of VW Polo, Skoda Yeti and VW Tiguan vehicles will be exported this year” - Ozegovich said. “We have exported 10% of our production last year. The exports will increase by 20% this year. 25% of vehicles manufactured at Nizhny Novgorod production site will go for exports” - he added. “We export Skoda Yeti to Europe. Exports of Polo will continue to CIS-countries - Belarus, Kazakhstan and others” - Ozegovich stated. VW Tiguan will also be exported to CIS-countries, as confirmed by Ozegovich.

Volkswagen exports local production components as well - automobile mirrors from Kaluga, cylinder blocks from Ulyanovsk. VW Group Rus exported nearly 5000 automobiles to Mexico in 2016, replacing Volkswagen India as the supplier for the country. The remaining production is sold in the CIS-countries.

FAS has begun a large-scale inspection of auto parts suppliers against cartel collusion

19.06.2017 / RNS

The Federal Antimonopoly Service (FAS) has started a large-scale inspection of Russian auto parts market for cartel collusion, as stated by FAS press office to RNS. According to the agency, the inspection will affect the manufacturers and suppliers of car parts.

“The need for such investigations has been caused by suspicions of price fixing at the market of maintenance and supply of spare parts. The investigation has already begun. The manufacturers and suppliers of automotive glass are under scrutiny at the moment” - as told as a response to the inquiry by RNS.

Negotiable fines and possible criminal liability under the Act 178 of the Criminal Code (restriction of competition) are the measures to be implemented, in case a cartel is found, as stated by FAS.

FAS had previously received complaints about dealers and distributors, considering the cost of prices and services for the maintenance and pricing of original spare parts. A code of car manufacturers was created upon the recommendation of the Federal Antimonopoly Service in 2013, in order to regulate the mutual relationships. In particular, the code has given the right to use non-warranty parts of appropriate quality to the dealers, after the expiration of the warranty period.

Volkswagen and GAZ Group may start joint production of trucks and buses

16.06.2017 / RNS

Volkswagen Truck & Bus has signed a letter of intent with GAZ Group, in order to explore cooperation opportunities in truck and bus production. VW Group cars are assembled at GAZ Group facilities in Russia.

The main emphasis will be on the joint assembly of car components, alongside concept development on joint production, as stated in the press release by Volkswagen Truck & Bus and GAZ Group.

VW Truck & Bus is a division of Volkswagen Group, which includes Scania, MAN and VW Caminhoes Onibus. MAN and Scania trucks are currently manufactured at the joint production site of the group in St. Petersburg.

In addition, VW Group Rus and GAZ Group have extended the agreement on the contract production of Volkswagen and Skoda automobiles until 2025. The relevant agreement has been signed today. The production of Skoda Yeti had started in 2012. VW Jetta and Skoda Octavia are the other models manufactured at the site, alongside Yeti.

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