

Press release

15 September 2011

Press

Katelijjn Bohez
T +32 56 23 05 71

Investor Relations

Jacques Anckaert
T +32 56 23 05 72

Local press contact

Irina Syrkina
T +7 919 254 96 93
www.bekaert.com
www.bekaert.mobi

Bekaert inaugurates plant expansion in Russia

Bekaert starts up half products manufacturing unit in Lipetsk, Russian Federation

Today, Bekaert celebrated the opening of its plant extension in Lipetsk, Russia. The inauguration event took place in the presence of Mr Bozhko, the 1st Vice Governor of the Lipetsk region, the Chairman - Baron Buysse - and the members of the Board of Directors of Bekaert, the responsible authorities of the Lipetsk Parliament and Special Economic Zone, and key customers and other business partners.

Bekaert has been present with steel cord manufacturing operations in Russia since the beginning of 2010 and has built a growing customer base in the region. In view of expected efficiency and flexibility gains, Bekaert decided to extend its production platform in Lipetsk with a half products manufacturing unit. The investment encompassed the construction of a new building covering 13 000 m², the installation of infrastructure and state-of-the-art machinery, and the hiring and training of extra personnel. The plant currently employs close to 200 employees and plans additional recruitments in line with the growth.

Bekaert also investigates future investment opportunities in view of further strengthening its position in various markets in the region.

Profile

Bekaert (www.bekaert.com) is a global technological and market leader in advanced solutions based on metal transformation and coatings, and the world's largest independent manufacturer of drawn steel wire products. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with headquarters in Belgium, employing 28 000 people worldwide. Serving customers in 120 countries, Bekaert pursues sustainable profitable growth in all its activities and generated combined sales of € 4.5 billion in 2010.

Bekaert in Central and Eastern Europe

Bekaert has been active in Central and Eastern Europe since the early nineties, and today operates five manufacturing plants there, located in Sládkovičovo and Hlohovec (Slovakia), Bohumín and Petrovice (Czech Republic), and Lipetsk (Russia). Bekaert produces a wide variety of steel cord and steel wire products in the region, serving the local needs of the automotive, energy and construction markets as well as consumer goods sectors.

Bekaert in Russia

Bekaert Lipetsk manufactures steel cord products for the tire industry in Russia and in the wider CIS region. Situated about 400 kilometers south of Moscow, Lipetsk is strategically located close to Bekaert's regional target markets, with good logistics and easy access to energy supplies and skilled labor. Bekaert also has a sales office in Moscow since 1998, serving a portfolio of customers with steel cord products for tire reinforcement, steel fibers for concrete reinforcement, and other specialized wire products.

Pictures of today's event: www.bekaert.com – [newsroom image library](#)

Related press release: [20 January 2010 - President Medvedev officially visits the new Bekaert steel cord plant in Lipetsk, Russia](#)