Growth Point - "The Great Stone"

In June 2014, a ceremony was held in the Smolevichi District of the Minsk Region to lay the cornerstone for the China-Belarus Industrial Park, named "The Great Stone." At that time, it was announced that construction of this large-scale project would take 30 years. Today, this industrial park already plays a central role in relations between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China. As of February 2026, it already had more than 170 residents. Four core clusters are being formed here: mechanical engineering; pharmaceuticals and medicine, including traditional Chinese medicine; electronics; and integrated logistics. In 2025, a record number of residents—34—were attracted to the park; they plan to implement initiatives in the fields of mechanical engineering, medical device manufacturing, research and development, healthcare, and e-commerce. This year, the authorized capital of "Great Stone" is planned to be increased to $250 million. How is this large-scale project continuing to develop and build its industrial, innovative, export, and financial capabilities? This paper addresses these questions.

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Growth Point - "The Great Stone"

The Industrial Park as a Tool for a Strategic, All-Weather Partnership Between Belarus and China

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Boris Zalesskii

A Growth Hub – 'The Great Stone'

The industrial park as a tool for a strategic, all-weather partnership between Belarus and China

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A project that will shape the future

May 2020 marked the fifth anniversary of the visit to **the China–Belarus Industrial Park 'Great Stone'** by the leaders of the two countries – A. Lukashenko and S. Jinping. This event became a kind of starting point in the park's history for its rapid development. And indeed, in such a short space of time, roads were laid here, and water, electricity, heating and gas supply; erected over 60,000 square metres of standardised production buildings; constructed the first office block, a residential building and a research centre; and attracted around 60 investment projects, with a declared investment volume exceeding one billion dollars. All this supports the conclusion that 'over the past five years, the China–Belarus Industrial Park has become a successful testing ground for bilateral cooperation, has fostered mutual understanding between China and Belarus and strengthened ties between their enterprises, and has promoted cultural exchange. It is precisely for this reason that 'Great Stone', as a comprehensive strategic platform for trade and economic cooperation between China and Belarus, has attracted the attention of potential partners from both our two countries and from other states, and has become a model of cooperation within the 'Belt and Road' initiative'[1] .

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It should be noted that such high praise for 'The Great Stone' is now being voiced not only in Belarus or China. In November 2019, the World Federation of Free and Special Economic Zones (FEMOSA) held a summit in Monaco, the main theme of which was strengthening cooperation and transforming the successful experience of free economic zones (FEZs) into practical tools. Over 400 representatives of SEZs from the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland, Latvia, Poland, Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, and countries in Asia and Africa, as well as

[1] Zheng, H. "The Great Stone" symbolises the strong friendship between Belarus and the PRC / H. Zheng // [Online resource]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.belta.by/comments/view/velikij-kamen-simvoliziruet-tverduju-druzhbu-belarusi-i-knr-hu-chzhen-7289/

chambers of commerce and industry, government bodies and potential foreign investors. It should be noted that FEMOSA is a non-governmental and non-profit organisation supported by the United Nations, which was founded in 1999 in Geneva with the aim of supporting and promoting free and special economic zones worldwide, and in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to assist FEZ residents' projects in entering the international market and to attract foreign investment. FEMOZA's functions include developing standards, regulations and guidelines for the development of FEZs, providing them with technical, legal and economic assistance, and training specialists. Statistics show that 'there are currently 3,500 free zones in 130 countries worldwide, accounting for over 70 million jobs'[2] . However, 'despite the incentives and preferential treatment granted to them in all countries, <…> only 300–400 are effective. All this is due to a technological lag, which prevents SEZs from becoming part of the global economy"[3] .

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The Republic of Belarus has been actively involved in FEMOZA's activities for several years now. The summit in Monaco proved to be a truly landmark event for the Belarusian side, as it was there that the Sino-Belarusian 'Great Stone' Industrial Park was honoured with the FEMOZA Awards 2019, winning the 'Fastest-Growing Industrial Park' category. What makes this category special is that "the key factors in determining the winner were 'Great Stone's' potential for global investment and its rapid

[2] Barcelona to become the capital of free zones in 2019 [Online resource]. – 2017. – URL: https://ru.wikinews.org/wiki/%D0%91%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%81%D0%B5%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%B0_%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B5%D1%82_%D1%81%D1%82%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%B9_%D1%81%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BD%D1%8B%D1%85_%D0%B7%D0%BE%D0%BD_%D0%B2_2019_%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D1%83

[3] Grigorieva, V. Juan Torrents Tolosa, President of the World Federation of Free and Special Economic Zones (Femoza), visited Gomel [Online resource]. – 2015. – URL: https://www.sb.by/articles/vse-sezy-v-gosti-k-nam.html

pace of development"[4] . Indeed, the Belarusian authorities have now established substantial incentives for residents at "Veliky Kamen" – both in terms of tax relief and the acquisition of land ownership – as well as a favourable regime under which businesses can be registered in the shortest possible time via a "one-stop shop" system. As a result, "today this park is showing stunning growth, with investors coming to us from all over the world"[5] .

The facts show that "Velikiy Kamen" has already become an international hub for the establishment of high-tech enterprises. As of early November 2019, 57 residents were registered there. And there is every reason to believe that their number "could rise to 80 by the end of 2020"[6] . A project to set up a solar panel production facility is already underway here. In July 2019, construction began in the industrial park on a Belarusian-Chinese factory for the production of mechanical gearboxes , with an investment of 17 million dollars. In October 2019, the **"MAZ-Weichai" Ltd** engine manufacturing plant opened here, where "sub-assembly of Euro 5 and Euro 6 standard engines for lorries, specialised vehicles and buses" is carried out. Production capacity on a single-shift basis will be 10,000 engines per year"[7] . But even more impressive plans are already being put into action here for the near future.

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At the end of October 2019, the 12th meeting of the Working Group on the China–Belarus 'Great Stone' Industrial Park was held in Beijing,

[4] "Velikiy Kamen" recognised as the world's fastest-growing industrial park [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-priznan-samym-bystrorastuschim-industrialnym-parkom-v-mire-369159-2019/

[5] Mega-incentives at "The Great Stone" and IT records – Rumas spoke about opportunities to invest in Belarus [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/megalgoty-v-velikom-kamne-i-rekordy-it-rumas-rasskazal-o-vozmozhnostjah-investirovat-v-belarus-370269-2019/

[6] The number of residents at 'Great Stone' could rise to 80 by the end of 2020 [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kolichestvo-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-k-kontsu-2020-goda-mozhet-uvelichitsja-do-80-365696-2019/

[7] Opening of the 'Maz-Weichai' LLC engine manufacturing plant in the 'Velikiy Kamen' China-Belarus Industrial Park [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: http://www.government.by/ru/content/9051

during which participants focused their attention on the following areas of development for this special economic zone: improving the park's legal framework; establishing additional favourable conditions to attract investment in the creation of competitive manufacturing facilities; creating a sustainable engineering and transport infrastructure; digital construction; developing the park as a smart city; and implementing projects through technical and economic assistance. Among the objectives for the industrial park's development in 2020, the following were highlighted: 'prioritising export orientation, attracting anchor investors with high-tech projects, and expanding international activities'[8] . At the same time, the park intends to continue to be guided by four key principles of development: "Firstly, globalisation, as the industrial park is neither Chinese nor Belarusian, but international. Secondly, industrialisation. The main objective is to attract international industrial clusters. Thirdly, digitalisation, which should bring significant benefits to the park's development. <…> Fourthly, environmental sustainability. Environmental protection and compliance with environmental requirements are the key to sustainable development"[9] .

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It should be noted that, as of the start of 2020, 60 residents from 15 countries had already been registered at 'Veliky Kamen', including: 33 from the People's Republic of China; 15 involving companies from Austria, Germany, Israel, Canada, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, the United States of America, Switzerland and Estonia; and 12 established by Belarusian business entities. In just under five years, 32 kilometres of roads have been built here, around 400 kilometres of water and gas pipelines, power lines and sewerage networks have been laid, and the construction of

[8] The "Velikiy Kamen" Industrial Park will be presented at the China International Import Expo in November [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/industrialnyj-park-velikij-kamen-v-nojabre-predstavjat-na-kitajskoj-mezhdunarodnoj-vystavke-importa-367476-2019/

[9] Zheng, H. 'The Great Stone' becomes a strategic platform for Belarusian-Chinese cooperation / H. Zheng // [Online resource]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.belta.by/interview/view/velikij-kamen-stanovitsja-strategicheskoj-platformoj-dlja-belorussko-kitajskogo-sotrudnichestva-7152/

25 buildings with a total area of around 300,000 square metres has been completed. The total value of contracts signed and investments made exceeded one billion dollars from 11 countries around the world.

When discussing the trends currently observed in the industrial park, several key ones can be identified. One of these is the development of 'Veliky Kamen' as a smart city with an innovative industrial sector and a high quality of life. To achieve this goal, in February 2020, an agreement on the development of 5G technology in the industrial park was signed by the Ministry of Communications and Informatisation of the Republic of Belarus, CJSC "Industrial Park Development Company" and the administration of "Great Stone". It was noted that one of the most promising areas for the development of 5G technology here is autonomous transport. Ultimately, the China–Belarus Industrial Park is set to become "Belarus's first model base for the implementation of 5G technologies"[10] .

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It should be noted that the priority areas for the development of "Great Stone" remain mechanical engineering, electronics and telecommunications, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, new materials and logistics. At the same time, the emphasis is on the innovative activity of the park's residents. Around 20 projects are already yielding results. Among them is the commercial and logistics company "China Merchants", which has been granted a licence to operate Belarus's only public bonded warehouse. In November 2019, the production facility of **"Hess Great Stone" LLC** – a subsidiary of the Swiss company Garrosserie Hess AG – was opened in "Great Stone" to manufacture electric passenger vehicles. "This type of transport will be characterised by zero carbon dioxide emissions and quiet operation. The batteries on the roof will be charged at

[10] Nemankova, Yu. Pilot project to develop 5G is being implemented in 'Veliky Kamen' / Yu. Nemankova // [Online resource]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/pilotnyj-proekt-po-razvitiju-5g-realizujut-v-velikom-kamne-381000-2020/

the terminus in a matter of minutes"[11] . This industrial park resident plans to reach full production capacity in 2021, by which time up to fifty bus bodies will be manufactured here.

The following fact also speaks volumes about the innovative activity of the park's residents: in March 2020, **'Assomedica' LLC**, a manufacturer of a wide range of medical products registered as a resident at 'Veliky Kamen' in 2017, 'launched a new production line for respiratory masks and single-use bacterial and viral filters for adults, children and newborns'[12] – products that provide maximum respiratory protection against microbes and viruses, and which can be used for 12–24 hours.

The industrial park is also looking to the future. This is evidenced by the fact that in March 2020, **the** Chinese **company Sinomach** registered as a resident of 'Great Stone' with a project to create a zone for scientific and technical cooperation and innovative development, under which there are plans to build a complex of administrative buildings for scientific research and supporting infrastructure. In the first phase, the company intends to "implement four research projects related to developments such as optical devices, automotive sensors, semiconductor devices and new materials. The company also plans to implement the second phase of the project"[13] .

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In terms of expanding the international activities of the 'Great Stone' Industrial Park, one highly effective tool for attracting new residents could be the creation of sub-parks within the park, which are defined as 'the arrival not of a single investor, but of a cluster of leading companies under the leadership of a separate management company. This opens up broad

[11] Alexander Turchin: Belarusian-Swiss cooperation has significant potential [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: http://www.government.by/ru/content/9136

[12] Production of face masks has commenced at the 'Veliky Kamen' industrial park [Online resource]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/proizvodstvo-dvhatelnvh-masok-otkryto-v-industrialnom-parke-velikij-kamen-383799-2020/

[13] New resident with Chinese capital registered at 'Velikiy Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-s-kitajskim-kapitalom-zaregistrirovan-v-velikom-kamne-384192-2020

prospects specifically for large corporations'[14] . We should add that the park's administration is directing this proposal not only at Chinese provinces, "but also at investors from Europe, in particular Switzerland, as well as Japan"[15] . The main condition for future residents, which must be met, is the establishment of high-tech enterprises within the industrial park. And there will be plenty of space and opportunities here for everyone to develop technology clusters and sub-parks based on national affiliation.

It should be noted that the sub-park format is already being used in practice at 'Veliky Kamen'. Back in May 2017, the first phase of a trade and logistics sub-park was opened here, covering 29 hectares. This comprises 100,000 square metres of property, half of which is taken up by warehouse space, and almost a quarter by an exhibition centre. "Around $120 million has been invested in the construction of the sub-park. Construction of the second phase is due to begin shortly. In total, the sub-park will cover an area of more than 90 hectares, with a total investment of $500 million"[16] .

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At the 11th meeting of the Working Group on the China–Belarus Industrial Park, held in November 2018 in Beijing, it was noted that the necessary support would soon be provided for the practical implementation, within the 'Great Stone' complex, of sub-parks for the city of Harbin in Heilongjiang Province, and Guangdong Province. It was also planned to "work out the details of establishing sub-parks within the industrial park in collaboration with Sichuan and Shaanxi Provinces, as

[14] Konoga, P. Oleksandr Yaroshenko spoke about new tenants at the 'Great Stone' industrial park, the satellite town and plans for 2019 / P. Konoga // [Online resource]. – 2018. – URL: https://www.sb.by/articles/vvsech-pribyl-iz-kamnya.html

[15] "Velikiy Kamen" offers foreign partners the opportunity to set up sub-parks [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-predlagaet-zarubezhnym-partneram-sozdavat-subparki-365694-2019/

[16] Anatoly Kalinin took part in the opening of the first phase of the trade and logistics sub-park in the China–Belarus Industrial Park "Great Stone" [Online resource]. – 2017. – URL: http://www.government.by/ru/content/7228

well as the city of Hangzhou, by the end of 2019"[17] . As regards Guangdong Province , back in January 2017, in its administrative centre – the city of Guangzhou – "a signing ceremony was held for an agreement on the establishment of the China (Guangdong) LED Products Sub-park within the 'Great Stone' Industrial Park"[18] , along with five further documents setting out specific companies' intentions to join this sub-park.

Another landmark document in this context was signed in November 2018 at the first China International Import Expo in Shanghai. This was an agreement to establish the Chengdu-European Industrial Sub-Park within the 'Great Stone' area. The fact is that Chengdu – the administrative centre of Sichuan Province – possesses significant industrial potential, including well-developed automotive and aerospace sectors, which aligns with the priorities of the China-Belarus Industrial Park. Furthermore, 'Chengdu is the Chinese city most economically aligned with Europe'[19] .

It is worth noting an important detail: a series of significant meetings and negotiations have recently taken place, during which the establishment of national sub-parks for European countries within the 'Great Stone' project was discussed. In particular, in August 2019, this topic was discussed by the Government of the Republic of Belarus with representatives of the Swiss business community, including the management of Ceres Group Holding AG and the Swiss industrial park BUSS, who responded positively to the Belarusian proposal not only to establish a Swiss sub-park in "Veliky Kamen", but also "to act as a developer there, undertaking construction work and attracting Swiss

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[17] Minutes of the 11th meeting of the Working Group on the China–Belarus Industrial Park [Online resource]. – 2018. – URL: http://belaruschina.by/data/fck/file/minekonomiki/protocol_11.pdf

[18] An LED products sub-park is to be established in the 'Velikiy Kamen' Industrial Park [Electronic resource]. – 2017. – URL: https://industrialpark.by/novosti/2017/v-industrialnom-parke-velikij-kamen-budet-sozdan-subpark-svetodiodnoj-produkcii.html

[19] Chengdu, China, is considering the possibility of establishing high-tech manufacturing facilities in 'Velikiy Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2018. – URL: https://interfax.by/news/policy/ekonomicheskaya_politika/1251824/

businesses to cooperate with Belarus"[20] . It is noteworthy that as early as December 2019, the 60th resident was registered in the industrial park – the aforementioned "Swiss company 'Hess Great Stone', which manufactures electric passenger transport"[21] . And in January 2020, the issue of 'the possible future creation of an Italian-Belarusian sub-park in "Veliky Kamen"'[22] was discussed in practical terms at a meeting in Rome with the owners and managers of Italian companies interested in investing in the industrial park's projects.

Undoubtedly, all these facts highlight the very rapid development of the 'Veliky Kamen' industrial park – a project whose role in the Belarusian economy will very soon become landmark, both in terms of innovation and investment and in terms of technology.

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[20] Kryzhevich, I. A Swiss sub-park may be established within the "Great Stone" industrial park / I. Kryzhevich // [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.sb.by/articles/na-territorii-velikogo-kamnya-mogut-sozdat-shveytsarskiy-subpark-.html

[21] The 60th tenant has joined the Sino-Belarusian "Veliky Kamen" Industrial Park [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://interfax.by/news/biznes/businesses/1268182/

[22] Belarus and Italy to consider establishing a joint sub-park in "Veliky Kamen" [Online resource]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-italija-rassmotrjat-vopros-sozdanija-sovmestnogo-subparka-v-velikom-kamne-376060-2020/

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In order to develop the existing potential for cooperation

In 2021, the People's Republic of China began implementing its 14th Five-Year Plan for the country's socio-economic development up to 2025, under which new steps will be taken in reform policy and the formation of a new framework for mutually beneficial international cooperation, in order to 'comprehensively enhance the country's openness to the outside world, promote the liberalisation and facilitation of trade and investment, foster innovation and trade development, and advance the high-quality development of the joint construction of the "Belt and Road" initiative'[23] . At the same time, the Chinese side will aim to create new advantages in international cooperation and competition, as it believes that 'international economic interaction and exchanges remain objective requirements for global economic development. Openness to the outside world is the country's fundamental state policy'[24] . As regards Belarus, the Chinese side expresses confidence that both states should continue to capitalise on the strengths of their economies, which are largely complementary, develop existing potential for cooperation – including within the framework of the "One Belt, One Road" and **the Sino-Belarusian "Great Stone" Industrial Park**, as well as to expand cooperation "in areas such as epidemic control, trade and the economy, education, science and technology, culture, and inter-regional ties"[25] .

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It should be noted that, to date, the Republic of Belarus has established sufficiently strong and open relations with the People's

[23] Communiqué of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL: http://ru.china-embassy.org/rus/ggl/t1832267.htm

[24] Qi Ming, C. China intends to implement a new development plan for 2021–2025 / C. Qi Ming // [Online]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.belta.by/comments/view/kitaj-v-2021-2025-godah-nameren-realizovat-novyj-plan-razvitija-7479/

[25] Xiaoyun, S. Taking the Bull by the Horns / S. Xiaoyun // [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/interview/view/vzjat-byka-za-roga-sovety-posla-knr-kak-pravilno-vstretit-kitajskij-novyj-god-7657//

Republic of China – a level of relations currently characteristic of only three countries: Russia, Pakistan and the United Kingdom. This is confirmed by the following figures. "The PRC is Belarus's second-largest foreign trade partner after Russia, with an annual turnover of $5 billion. <…> Around 500 Belarusian exporters have already established a foothold in this competitive market. More than 100 agricultural enterprises have been accredited. Thanks to funding from the PRC, 24 projects worth almost $4.5 billion have already been implemented in Belarus"[26] .

Undoubtedly, the flagship project in this context is ***the China–Belarus Industrial Park 'Great Stone'****, which, in just under six years of existence, has already attracted $650 million in investment; 68 residents from 14 countries have registered there with declared investments totalling $1.2 billion, of which around half have commenced operations. As a result, "supercapacitors, mobile cranes, laser equipment, drones, Euro 6 engines and heavy-duty gearboxes, a 5G pilot zone and a multimodal container terminal are just a few examples of projects currently being implemented in the park"[27] . In 2021, the plan is to attract a further 17 new residents to the park. High hopes in this regard are pinned on the project to create a multimodal rail terminal involving Germany, China and Switzerland, on which construction is due to begin shortly, as well as on the arrival of the American company Ivy Global, which is considering the possibility of opening a "pharmaceutical plant in Veliky Kamen" "a pharmaceutical plant to produce a wide range of medicines, including those to combat COVID-19"[28] . This year, "when the second phase of the park's*

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[26] Yaroshenko: Belarus has built strong and open relations with China [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/jaroshenko-belarus-vystroila-prochnye-i-otkrytye-otnoshenija-s-kitaem-428410-2021

[27] Investment in 'Great Stone' during the project's implementation totalled $650 million – Yaroshenko [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/investitsii-v-velikij-kamen-za-vremja-realizatsii-proekta-sostavili-650-mln-jaroshenko-428432-2021/

[28] US company Ivy Global is considering opening a pharmaceutical plant in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/amerikanskaja-

development begins, plans also include the construction of a second residential complex with 173 flats and a second substation"[29] .

Continuing on the subject of construction, it is worth noting that in 2021, the construction in Belarus of a national football stadium and an international-standard swimming pool, funded by China's grant-based technical and economic assistance, will also come to the fore, with these projects due for completion in 2023, as well as the start, in the first half of 2021, of the third phase of social housing construction on Belarusian soil, again utilising Chinese grant aid. It should be noted that during the first two phases of this project, 38 blocks comprising 3,286 flats were built across six regions and in Minsk, thereby improving the housing conditions of more than ten thousand people. As part of the third phase, 'it is planned to build 1,166 social housing flats in 20 blocks. The total floor area will be approximately 66,000 square metres. The flats will be allocated to citizens registered with who are in need of improved housing conditions and are eligible for social housing"[30] .

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Finally, with regard to the coronavirus pandemic, the two countries have joined forces from the very outset to combat it, providing mutual assistance and support. As a result, '40 tonnes of humanitarian medical supplies have been sent from Belarus to China. From China came two consignments of emergency medical supplies worth approximately 32.6 million yuan, provided by the Chinese government, as well as 110 tonnes from sister regions and partner companies'[31] . Given the current situation

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[29] The "Velikiy Kamen" Industrial Park expects to attract around 17 tenants in 2021 [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/industrialnyj-park-velikij-kamen-rasschitvvaet-v-2021-godu-privlech-okolo-17-rezidentov-423412-2021/

[30] China plans to build a further 20 social housing blocks in Belarus [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kitaj-sobiraetsja-postroit-v-belarusi-esche-20-sotsialnyh-domov-426882-2021/

[31] Qiu Yan, C. Covid is no obstacle – trade between Belarus and China has proved resilient / C. Qiu Yan // [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/comments/view/kovid-ne-pomeha-torgovlja-belarusi-i-knr-okazalas-stressoustojchivoj-7641/

with recurring outbreaks of the epidemic, the parties intend to continue to actively cooperate in tackling this global challenge, reaffirming through concrete actions the existing level of their comprehensive strategic partnership based on trust and mutually beneficial cooperation.

As regards cooperation between the regions of the two countries, as far back as January 2021, the parties "proposed, with a view to developing inter-regional cooperation, to declare a Year of the Regions of Belarus and China and to hold it over a three-year period, from 2021 to 2023"[32] . A number of Belarusian and Chinese regions are already taking active steps to strengthen these partnerships. For instance, back in 2020, **the** Belarusian **Grodno Region** and the Chinese province **of Hainan** signed an agreement establishing a sister-region relationship , which provides for a significant expansion of cooperation between the regions in the economic, trade and cultural spheres. For the Grodno Region, this is not its first partner in China.

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Back in 2007, the people of Grodno established a sister-city relationship with **Gansu** Province. In 2014, "the parties signed a memorandum of cooperation on strengthening economic and trade ties and drew up the Programme of Cooperation between the Grodno Region and Gansu Province for 2014–2020, in which they endeavoured to systematically address the most important aspects of developing bilateral partnership and sister-city ties"[33] .

Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno has become one of the active participants in this interregional cooperation, having established wide-ranging cooperation with 10 Chinese universities. Today, Chinese students are studying in Grodno "at all levels – from the preparatory

[32] Telephone conversation with Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://president.gov.by/ru/events/telefonnyy-razgovor-s-predsedatelem-kitayskov-narodnov-respubliki-si-czinpinom

[33] Zaleski, B. The Vector of Partnership – China. Collection of articles / Boris Zaleski. – Palmarium Academic Publishing, 2019. – p. 105.

department to postgraduate studies. Several joint research projects in the field of biochemistry are also under development. A project in the field of mechanical engineering was previously implemented; we are now also looking forward to a project in the field of logistics"[34] . In August 2018, a training centre for workers from Gansu Province opened in the building of the Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno. By 2019, four investment projects based on Chinese investment were already being implemented in the Grodno region. In particular, the former "Grodno" hotel was undergoing renovation. A Chinese resident registered in the "Grodnoinvest" Free Economic Zone , planning to implement a logistics project there. Furthermore, "a centre for traditional Chinese medicine and a trade and exhibition centre, showcasing goods from the region's Chinese partners, have also opened in Grodno"[35] .

In 2018, the Grodno Region signed a Memorandum of Understanding on establishing friendly ties with **Fujian** Province. To put it in official terms, "the document outlines key areas of inter-regional complementary cooperation – trade, investment, logistics and culture"[36] . It may be added that the rapprochement between the regions was facilitated by the fact that the Chinese province has a well-developed industrial sector – electronics and mechanical engineering – whilst the Belarusian region specialises in agriculture. And this is 'just one of the areas of complementary cooperation that can be established in the trade and economic sphere'[37] . Furthermore, Belarusian flax and wood products are

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[34] Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno is developing joint research projects with Chinese universities [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/grgu-im-janki-kupaly-razvivaet-s-kitajskimi-vuzami-sovmestnye-nauchnye-proekty-344391-2019/

[35] Four investment projects with Chinese capital are being implemented in the Grodno Region [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/v-grodnenskoj-oblasti-realizujutsja-4-investproekta-s-kitajskim-kapitalom-344505-2019/

[36] On the establishment of regional ties between the Grodno Region and the Chinese province of Fujian [Online resource]. – 2018. – URL: http://shanghai.mfa.gov.by/ru/o_generalnom_consulstv/news/b1e61ad9861a3f9c.html

[37] Grodno Region and Fujian Province of the People's Republic of China to develop cooperation more actively [Online resource]. – 2018. – URL:

in demand on the Chinese market, and the Chinese side has declared its readiness to increase investment in the Grodno Region across a wide range of sectors: from nuclear power stations to high technology. The parties are currently working on implementing the agreements reached.

In short, the People's Republic of China has become a strategic partner for Belarus's western region, as the figures show. In the first 10 months of 2020, enterprises in the Grodno Region's ' ' exported goods worth more than 160 million dollars to the Chinese market. These were mainly foodstuffs and oil refining products. The emergence of new Chinese partners, namely Hainan Province, means that Grodno can now expand its cooperation into other areas – such as high technology and electrical engineering – as well as undertake more global and ambitious projects. These include "the construction of a logistics centre at Grodno Airport and the launch of direct flights between Grodno and Hainan Province. This will, firstly, enable the more active development of tourism and cooperation in the cultural sphere, and, secondly, facilitate the mutual supply of goods"[38] . Furthermore, the logistics centre could, in the long term, become a transport hub and gateway for the distribution of Chinese goods not only to Belarus but also to neighbouring European countries. Moreover, it is safe to say that the establishment of sister-city ties between the Grodno Region and Hainan Province will foster cooperation between cities in the Belarusian and Chinese regions. Agreements between cities such as **Lida** and **Sanya**, and **Ostrovets** and **Qionghai**, are already at the drafting stage. The administrative centres – **Grodno** and **Haikou** – will not be left out of this process either.

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https://www.belta.by/regions/view/grodnenskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-knr-futszjan-budut-aktivnee-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-313085-2018/

[38] Grodno Region and the Chinese province of Hainan have signed a sister-city agreement [Online resource]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/grodnenskaja-oblast-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-hajnan-podpisali-soglashenie-o-pobratimskih-svjazjah-421086-2020/

Another interesting example in this regard is **the Gomel Region**, which in April 2021 signed an agreement with the Chinese province **of Sichuan** to establish sister-city ties, providing for the expansion of cooperation in the economic, social and cultural spheres. It should be recalled that the Belarusian and Chinese regions established friendly relations six years ago, when, in May 2015, they signed a cooperation agreement providing for 'the organisation of interaction based on the principles of partnership, equality, trust and mutual benefit in areas such as the economy, agriculture, healthcare and culture, education, sport and tourism'[39] , and also agreed to establish direct contacts and twinning arrangements between cities in the region and the province. Just three years later – in August 2018 – the administrative centres of the regions – the cities **of Gomel** and **Chengdu** – signed an agreement to establish twinning relations.

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By this time, Gomel Region's inter-regional cooperation with China was developing in three further areas – with the autonomous regions **of Inner Mongolia** (2011) and **Xinjiang Uyghur** (2016), as well as with **Jiangsu** Province (2016). This enabled enterprises in the region to increase their exports of goods to China by almost three and a half times by the end of 2018 – from 3.9 to 13.5 million dollars. The main export items at that time were dairy products, flax, wool and sawn timber. And even then, the list of accredited enterprises authorised to supply dairy products to the Chinese market already included "five Gomel-based producers: 'Milkavita', the Rogachev Dairy and Canning Plant, the Turov and Kalinkovich Dairy Plants, and 'Mozyr Dairy Products'"[40] .

[39] Zaleski, B. The Potential of Multidirectional Cooperation. A Chronicle of International Cooperation / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2020. – p. 63.

[40] Enterprises in the Gomel Region increased their exports of goods to China by almost 3.5 times in 2018 [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predpriiatiia-gomelskoj-oblasti-v-2018-godu-uvelichili-eksport-tovarov-v-kitaj-pochti-v-35-raza-338253-2019/

The following two years saw even more impressive growth in exports from the Gomel Region to China, clearly demonstrating just how much demand there is for these products on the Chinese market. In particular, 'in 2020, with a 32 per cent increase, goods worth $91 million were exported to that country'[41] . These exports were primarily composed of wood pulp, timber, meat and dairy products, and confectionery. And it must be assumed that the current level of cooperation with Chinese regions is still far from reaching its full potential, as 'Gomel-based manufacturers are ready to meet the Chinese side's demand for flax, confectionery, chocolate, alcoholic beverages, carbon fibres, non-woven carbon fibre fabric, sawn timber and furniture'[42] . Furthermore, there is considerable interest in expanding supplies to China of Gomselmash's grain and forage harvesters.

It should be noted that there is great potential for development in the Gomel Region through cooperation with virtually every Chinese region – whether a partner or a sister region – with which agreements reached previously now need to be updated. For instance, in Sichuan Province, which has a population of over 90 million, in its administrative centre – Chengdu – the Belarusian National Pavilion opened back in November 2019. Divided into seven zones, it began selling Belarusian goods, including food and drink, agricultural produce and products from subsidiary industries. At the same time, the Belarusian and Chinese sides declared their readiness, on the basis of the pavilion, to 'create a comprehensive bilateral platform for cooperation covering such areas as the

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[41] Enterprises in the Gomel Region have increased their exports to China by a third [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/predprijatija-gomelskoj-oblasti-na-tret-uvelichili-eksport-produktsii-v-knr-434841-2021/

[42] The Gomel Region and the Chinese province of Sichuan have signed agreements on sister-city relations [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-oblast-i-kitajskaja-provintsija-sychuan-podpisali-soglashenie-o-pobratimskih-svjazjah-436511-2021/

economy, culture, education, tourism, investment and services'[43] . Let us hope that the agreement signed in April 2021 on establishing sister-city ties between the Gomel Region and Sichuan Province will become yet another practical tool for achieving this objective.

Interesting opportunities may arise in 2021 through cooperation between the Gomel Region and the Chinese autonomous region **of Inner Mongolia**. After all, in 2019 the regions had already adopted a cooperation programme for 2020. At the same time, they reinforced this document with a Memorandum of Understanding on establishing sister-city ties between the administrative centres of the region and the autonomous region – the cities **of Gomel** and **Hohhot** – which provided for the development of cooperation in the fields of the economy, trade, science, technology, the environment, culture, education, sport, tourism and healthcare. Further opportunities for expanding this cooperation are offered by the fact that Inner Mongolia is a region rich in 'natural resources: forests in the east, iron ore in the west, a well-developed livestock sector in the north, and grain cultivation in the south'[44] . On the part of Hohhot, the priority areas for cooperation identified at the time included 'mechanical engineering, in particular the production of agricultural machinery'[45] , as well as the food industry and construction. The seriousness of the Gomel enterprises' intentions to enter the Inner Mongolian market with their products is evidenced by their participation in the Belarus-China Regional Forum, held in Hohhot in June 2019, where "separate presentations highlighted the investment potential of the Gomel Region, <…> the Gomel Meat and

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[43] Mozgov, E. Belarusian National Pavilion opens in Chengdu, China / E. Mozgov // [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.sb.by/articles/v-kitayskom-chendu-otkrylsya-belorusskiy-natsionalnyy-pavilon.html

[44] Memorandum of Understanding signed [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: http://gomel.gov.by/ru/news/podpisano-soglashenie-o-namerenivakh/?NEWS_FILTER_TYPE=sotrudnichestvo

[45] The authorities of the Chinese city of Hohhot intend to develop industrial relations with Gomel [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vlasti-kitajskogo-goroda-huh-hoto-namereny-razvivat-otnoshenija-s-gomelem-v-promyshlennosti-366222-2019/

Dairy Company, and OJSC 'Spartak'"[46] . It is reasonable to assume that all these intentions for cooperation on the part of the parties are now entering the phase of implementing specific joint projects.

In conclusion, we would emphasise that all the facts cited once again confirm the correctness of the course chosen in Belarus to establish and develop a variety of twinning and partnership ties between Belarusian regions and their counterparts in other countries; existing experience of implementing such ties shows that this is 'an important and effective sector of international cooperation, characterised by openness, mutual trust, tolerance and goodwill'[47] ; through the consistent and steady development of which, partners move on to encouraging mutual investment and expanding industrial cooperation in the creation of highly efficient production facilities.

FOR AUTHOR USE ONLY

[46] Grishkevich, A. Belarusian-Chinese regional forum held in Hohhot / A. Grishkevich // [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/belorussko-kitajskij-regionalnyj-forum-proshel-v-gorode-xux-xoto_i_99900.html

[47] Batura, B. The Sister City Movement – Small Links in a Great Friendship / B. Batura // [Online resource]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.belta.by/interview/view/pobratimskoe-dvizhenie-malenkie-zvenija-bolshoi-druzhby-7603

The development of the industrial park and inter-regional cooperation

Directive No. 9 "On the Development of Bilateral Relations between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China", adopted in December 2021, identifies the strengthening of trade, economic, financial and investment cooperation, as well as the expansion of inter-regional ties, as priority tasks up to 2025. As part of the declared policy to elevate the status of Belarusian-Chinese relations to the level of an ironclad brotherhood, exemplary comprehensive strategic cooperation and an all-weather partnership, a key component is the work of **the China-Belarus "Great Stone" Industrial Park**, one of whose main objectives is *to ensure the effective operation of its residents, attract new ones, actively develop innovation, start-ups and cluster cooperation, as well as to involve Belarusian enterprises in 'Great Stone' projects. A specific target has been set: 'To ensure that the park has at least 170 resident companies by 2025...'*[48].

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It should be noted that a whole range of specific measures to achieve this objective were already undertaken at "Veliky Kamen" back in 2021. In particular, over the first three quarters of this year, the industrial park's residents increased their investment in fixed assets by more than a third. At the same time, 'the volume of industrial output grew more than 2.5-fold to Br222.6 million. <...> Exports of residents' goods and services grew by more than 16 per cent and are being shipped to 20 countries around the world'[49]. *An important detail: whilst "by the end of 2020, 68 companies*

[48] Directive of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 9 "On the Development of Bilateral Relations between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China". – Minsk, 2021. – p. 6.

[49] Investment in fixed assets at 'Great Stone' has increased by more than a third over nine months [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-za-9-mesjatsev-bolee-chem-na-tret-uvelichilis-investitsii-v-osnovnoj-kapital-470611-2021/

from 14 countries were registered [in the park]"[50] *, by mid-November 2021, 81 companies from 15 countries were already listed as residents there. Work on expanding the "Great Stone" continues.*

For instance, in October, ***the*** *Belarusian-Latvian* ***limited liability company 'SMD Bai'*** *was registered here; it 'plans to set up a high-tech production facility for electronic products (circuit boards) in small and medium-scale batches'*[51] *, which are widely used in telecommunications, medicine, the automotive industry and instrument engineering, for supply to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. In November, several more businesses joined the list of residents at the industrial park. One of them is* ***"Rufais" LLC****. The new resident's investment project involves the production and application of cutting-edge polymer materials in the construction industry. The innovative approach here lies in the fact that 'the composite material is the company's own development and differs from its counterparts in having superior performance characteristics. It has a wide range of applications, including the manufacture of roofing and other elements of buildings and structures"*[52] *, which provides strong grounds for hoping that these products will be sold not only on the domestic market, but also in Russia and the countries of the European Union.*

Among the new residents is ***the*** *Belarusian* ***company 'InKata' LLC****, which was previously registered at 'Veliky Kamen' as an investor with the aim of constructing facilities there to support the industrial park's innovation-driven enterprises. "The project will provide services in design, prototyping and the development of technical documentation, as well as*

FOR AUTHOR USE ONLY

[50] Zalesky, B. Towards Sustainable Development. A collection of articles / Boris Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2021. – p. 13.

[51] New 'Great Stone' tenant to manufacture electronic circuit boards [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-elektronnye-platy-465743-2021/

[52] New 'Great Stone' resident to produce composite materials [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-kompozitnye-materialy-469205-2021/

providing workplaces and equipment"[53] *. Another November resident of "Veliky Kamen" is "Sino-Belarusian Centre for Innovative Bioengineering Technologies" LLC, which intends to collaborate closely with the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. "The company will produce reagents for diagnosing coronavirus and certain other diseases, as well as for food safety testing"*[54] *, which are expected to be exported to countries in the Eurasian Economic Union and the European Union, as well as to China.*

In the first half of December, a new innovation-focused organisation – ***Needle Med Ltd*** *– was registered in the industrial park. It plans to launch a project in 'Veliky Kamen' to develop the ideal training simulator for practising manual skills by professionals in various fields – surgeons, tattoo artists and medical students. Interestingly, this project was conceived in 2019 by a group of students. 'The idea is to create a simulator that closely resembles real human tissue, to prepare specialists for practical work'*[55] *. Thanks to the opportunities the industrial park offers innovators, the young specialists' development is likely to find widespread application in real life.*

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In the second half of December, 'Great Stone' registered another resident – ***'Tianyu Changying (MSK) UAV Scientific and Technical Company' Ltd****, whose founder is one of China's leading enterprises in the development and manufacture of intelligent unmanned systems – 'Beijing Tianyu Changying UAV Science and Technology Company'. The aim of this investment project in the industrial park is "to establish a high-tech*

[53] InKata LLC has become a resident of 'Velikiy Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ooo-inkata-stalo-rezidentom-velikogo-kamnja-471320-2021/

[54] New 'Velikiy Kamen' resident to produce reagents for the diagnosis of kidney diseases [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-reagenty-dlja-diagnostiki-zabolevanij-471849-2021/

[55] 'Great Stone's' new company will develop simulators for practising manual surgical skills [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/tech/view/novaja-kompanija-velikogo-kamnja-budet-sozdavat-trenazhery-dlja-otrabotki-manualnyh-navykov-v-hirurgii-474239-2021/

production facility for versatile unmanned aerial vehicle logistics systems and related equipment"[56] .

When discussing the development of cluster cooperation in "Great Stone", it is worth recalling that as far back as June 2021, a decree was adopted in the Republic of Belarus to improve the legal framework aimed at enhancing the investment climate in the China–Belarus "Great Stone" Industrial Park. In particular, this document provides for:

1) granting greater autonomy to the park's administration by transferring additional powers from local authorities regarding the implementation of administrative procedures;

2) expanding the range of activities permitted within the industrial park;

3) support for start-ups;

4) the creation of preferential conditions for large-scale investment projects with a total investment of over 50 million dollars.

Among the new areas of activity for 'Great Stone', the creation and development of manufacturing facilities in the fields of biopharmaceuticals, medical products and healthcare services are particularly noteworthy. A particularly attractive innovation in this regard is the special framework for the development of medical activities within the park, where it will be possible to provide medical services using medicines, medical equipment and devices, and treatment methods from other countries without the need for mandatory registration in Belarus or a licence to provide medical services. For manufacturers, the timeframes will be significantly reduced and the procedures for the registration and re-registration of medicines and medical devices, as well as for conducting clinical trials, will be simplified. In other words, all these changes 'open up vast opportunities for

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[56] New resident at 'Veliky Kamen' to begin manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-nachnet-proizvodit-bespilotnye-letatelnye-apparaty-476043-2021/

the development of a medical and pharmaceutical cluster within the park, particularly in the field of traditional Chinese medicine'[57] .

The focus on developing Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in the field of medicine whilst combating the coronavirus pandemic is highly timely. After all, traditional Chinese medicine 'offers unique advantages in the prevention and treatment of diseases, as well as in post-illness rehabilitation. <...> Not only does it have a positive therapeutic effect on mild cases of COVID-19, but it also offers clear advantages in the treatment of critically ill patients, thanks to which the mortality rate in severe cases has fallen from 21 per cent to 5 per cent'[58] . *Using the "Great Stone" platform to realise the existing potential of Belarusian-Chinese cooperation in the field of healthcare could yield significant positive results in terms of preventing new "waves" of the coronavirus pandemic.*

It should be noted that the "Great Stone" industrial park is home to 12 residents operating in the medical sector. "These are companies from Belarus, China, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Russia and the USA"[59] . *An important component of the medical cluster being established here will be the company* ***"Novoera Biotech"****, which became a resident of the industrial park in March 2021. Its founders include the Jingtai Institute of Culture and Economics, 'Xishan Qingxue Clinic of Chinese Medicine' (Beijing) Ltd and 'Xishan Qingxue Pharmaceutical Technology Company' (Beijing) Ltd. The new resident will undertake a project related to traditional Chinese*

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[57] Koroteev, K. Support for start-ups, incentives for investors, simplification of land relations – on the innovations in the decree on the development of the 'Velikiy Kamen' park / K. Koroteev // [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/comments/view/podderzhka-startapov-preferentsii-investoram-uproschenie-zemelnyh-otnoshenij-koroteev-o-novatsijah-ukaza-po-7805/

[58] Xiaoyun, S. Belarus and China: growing business cooperation and collaboration in the production of medicines for the treatment of coronavirus / S. Xiaoyun // [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/interview/view/belarus-i-kitaj-rost-delovogo-sotrudnichestva-i-vzaimodejstvie-v-vypuske-lekarstv-pri-lechenii-koronavirusa-7873/

[59] The Centre for Expertise and Testing in Healthcare and the 'Great Stone' Park have agreed to cooperate [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/tsentr-ekspertiz-i-ispytanij-v-zdravoohranenii-i-park-velikij-kamen-dogovorilis-o-sotrudnichestve-441421-2021/

medicine. "The medicines and supplements planned for production are based on environmentally friendly natural materials. They will be in demand not only to aid in the treatment of coronavirus, but also for the treatment of colds, flu and asthma"[60] *. In particular, production will be organised for the drug "Linlan Yizhen", designed for the effective treatment of coronavirus infection. It was envisaged that, in the initial phase, the medicines produced – with production scheduled to begin in 2021 – would be exported to Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and India.*

In March 2021, plans were also announced to establish, within the "Great Stone" a Eurasian Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine, which would provide medical services to residents of the industrial park, its Chinese and foreign staff, and would also collaborate with research institutions and healthcare organisations in Belarus and neighbouring countries to exchange expertise in the field of traditional Chinese medicine. In May 2021, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Closed Joint-Stock Company "Industrial Park Development Company" and the State Unitary Enterprise "Centre for Expertise and Testing in Healthcare". And in July, an agreement was concluded at the 'Great Stone' industrial park to establish a Sino-Belarusian zone of in-depth cooperation and an international park for traditional Chinese medicine and healthcare, which represent a new model of cooperation between Belarus and China in this field.

All these facts point to active steps being taken to develop, within the industrial park, "a large-scale cluster that will bring together expertise in the field of Chinese medicine. <...> A medical centre offering diagnostic services is expected to be established in the future. Work on this project is

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[60] New resident of 'Great Stone' launches project in the field of Chinese medicine [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-nachinaet-proekt-v-sfere-kitajskoj-meditsiny-433283-2021/

already underway [61] *. In addition, plans are in place to develop the medical tourism sector, for which a unique 'medical village' – comprising clinics and various medical facilities specialising in rehabilitation – will be built near the Volmyansky Reservoir. It should also be noted that, as part of the set of measures for the development of the national innovation system in Belarus for 2021–2025, the Sino-Belarusian Industrial Park 'Great Stone' has been designated 'as a site for the establishment of innovative production facilities'* [62] *. Judging by the facts set out above, this site is developing quite successfully, confidently and dynamically during the current five-year plan.*

Turning to the task of expanding inter-regional ties—which is one of the priorities in the development of Belarusian-Chinese relations—it is worth noting the successful experience of Belarusian regions such as Minsk and the Gomel Region in addressing this issue. As regards the Belarusian capital, it suffices to say that 'in January–May of this year [2021], Minsk's trade turnover with the PRC amounted to $730.6 million, compared with $613.8 million for the same period last year'[63] . The main exporters were RUE "Bellesexport", LLC "Best Meat Company", CJSC "Meat and Dairy Company", CJSC "Mobiora" and OJSC "Integral" – UKH "Integral". The bulk of Minsk's exports to China consisted of timber, meat and poultry by-products, milk and condensed cream, rapeseed oil, integrated circuit boards and microassemblies, tanned or finished fur skins, measuring or control instruments, zoological collections and collectables, equipment for measuring or monitoring electrical quantities, and ready-made sound

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[61] Kryzhevich, I. Two new 'Great Stone' residents will focus on the development of artificial intelligence and the design of equipment for data processing and storage / I. Kryzhevich // [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.sb.by/articles/zvanvv-biznes.html

[62] Measures have been identified for the development of the national innovation system up to 2025 [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/opredelenv-meroprijatija-po-razvitiju-natsionalnoj-innovatsionnoj-sistemy-do-2025-goda-475735-2021

[63] Kukharev and the Chinese Ambassador discussed cooperation between Minsk and cities in the PRC [Online resource] – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/kuharev-i-posol-kitaja-obsudili-sotrudnichestvo-minska-s-gorodami-knr-453612-2021/

recording media. Strengthening the Belarusian capital's ties with its Chinese sister cities – of which Minsk has four: Changchun (1992), Shenzhen (2014), Beijing (2016) and Shanghai (2019) – appears to be crucial for consolidating this trend in the future.

Changchun, the administrative centre of Jilin Province, holds a special place on this list of twin cities. Located in north-eastern China, it is a hub for science, the automotive industry and optical instrument manufacturing, and is home to around eight million people. May 2022 will mark the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Agreement on the establishment of sister-city relations between Changchun and the Belarusian capital. In 2010, a Belarusian-Chinese technology park opened in the high-tech industrial zone of this Chinese city, intended to serve as a platform for working on joint projects and further promoting products not only to the Chinese market but also to neighbouring countries. It was founded on the basis of around 15 enterprises located within the zone that had long-standing, stable ties with Belarusian scientific and innovation-driven enterprises. At that time, the joint projects planned for the technology park included 'the establishment of a company to manufacture medical laser equipment' and 'an agreement to set up a joint venture for the production of high-precision electric motors'. In the first phase, around 30 hectares of land have been allocated for the project to build office and production premises; a further 30 hectares may be allocated in the future [64] . To be more specific, the technology park is divided into six functional zones: a research and development centre, a project incubator, a museum, and three complexes – for international cooperation, regional interaction and services. In addition, there are plans to create an art gallery, a bookshop, and exhibition and concert halls on its premises. But the key

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[64] Polezhai, T. Belarusian-Chinese technology park opens in Changchun / T. Polezhai // [Online resource]. – 2010. – URL: https://www.belta.by/president/view/belorussko-kitajskij-tehnopark-otkrylsja-v-gorode-chanchun-134192-2010

point is that here, 'the developments are based, amongst other things, on a portfolio of 80 Belarusian projects'[65] .

Today, "a complex of buildings for the technology park has already been constructed there, and one of the pressing issues at present is to fill it with joint high-tech projects"[66] . And the first three residents have already been accepted: the Sino-Belarusian Centre for Research and Development of Precision Medical Equipment at the BNTU "Polytechnic" Technopark and the Sino-Belarusian Technopark in Changchun; the Belarusian-Chinese Centre for the Joint Development and Application of Carbon-Carbon Composite Materials, established between SvetlogorskKhimvolokno OJSC and Jilin Lenke; The Belarusian-Chinese Centre for the Development of Functional Berry Crops, established between the Central Botanical Garden of the National Academy of Sciences, 'Polesskie Zhuraviny' LLC and the North-East Institute of Agricultural Geography and Ecology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. To support this growing momentum in bilateral cooperation, the Belarusian and Chinese sides have set themselves the task of 'focusing on improving the conditions for mutually beneficial cooperation, and on expanding and deepening contacts, including amongst young people'[67] . Today, the technology park's main thematic areas already include 'optoelectronics, laser technology, new materials, construction and energy, agricultural technologies and biotechnology, and information technology'[68] .

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[65] A China–Belarus Technopark is being built in Changchun [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://primgazeta.ru/news/v-chanchune-stroyat-kitajsko-belorusskij-tehnopark-08-07-2019-05-00-12

[66] The Changchun Technology Park will make a significant contribution to the development of relations between Belarus and China – Shumilin [Online resource]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tehnopark-v-chanchune-vneset-suschestvennyj-vklad-v-razvitie-otnoshenij-belarusi-i-kitaja-shumilin-405335-2020/

[67] Around 300 applications submitted for the China–Belarus youth competition for innovative projects [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/okolo-300-zajavok-podano-na-kitajsko-belorusskij-molodezhnyj-konkurs-innovatsionnyh-proektov-442132-2021/

[68] Belarus-China Science and Technology Park in Changchun [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: http://changchun.park.bntu.by/about-technology-park/

The Belarusian-Chinese technology park in Changchun is not the only area of cooperation between Minsk and this twin city. Back in June 2014, the parties agreed to develop business cooperation, for which they planned to hold business forums. 'During such events, businesspeople will have the opportunity to agree on the implementation of specific projects. Furthermore, the forums will help to further strengthen the economic foundation of our cooperation'[69] . In June 2017, with the aim of expanding sister-city ties, the Minsk City Executive Committee and the Changchun Municipal People's Government signed an agreement to establish cooperation in the field of tourism and the development of cultural ties. And as part of the bilateral business forum held at the same time in the Chinese city, "memoranda of cooperation with Chinese partners were signed by SOAO 'Kommunarka', KUP 'Minskkhlebprom', KUP 'Melkooptovaya Baza na Zapadnaya', OJSC "Belryba" and OJSC "Minotel"[70] . So there are undoubtedly vast opportunities for expanding cooperation between the two twin cities. We simply need to make the most of them without wasting any time, and to our mutual benefit.

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As for the Gomel Region, it has already signed agreements on bilateral cooperation with four Chinese regions – the Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Regions (2011 and 2016 respectively), and the provinces of Sichuan (2015) and Jiangsu (2016). Mentioning Sichuan Province in this list, it is worth noting that in April 2021 the parties elevated the level of their friendly relations by signing an 'agreement on

[69] Minsk and Changchun, China, plan to develop business cooperation [Online resource]. – 2014. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minsk-i-kitajskij-chanchun-planirujut-razvivat-biznes-sotrudnichestvo-47498-2014/

[70] Minsk and Changchun, China, have signed a cooperation agreement in the field of tourism and culture [Online resource]. – 2017. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/minsk-i-kitajskij-chanchun-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-v-sfere-turizma-i-kultury-250871-2017/

the establishment of sister-city ties, which provides for the expansion of cooperation in the economic, social and cultural spheres'[71] .

Such a diversity of partnership and sister-city ties could not fail to have an impact on the Gomel Region's overall interaction with China. Suffice it to say that over the past three years, exports from this Belarusian region to the Chinese market have increased twenty (!) times. Furthermore, 'exports by Gomel-based enterprises to the PRC for the period January–November of last year [2021] exceeded $100 million. The main export items to China are wood pulp, timber, wool, meat and dairy products, and confectionery'[72] . And this level is not considered the ceiling for the region, as there is seen to be significant potential for increasing supplies to this East Asian country of beef, meat and poultry by-products, whole milk products, milk, condensed and dried cream, and dried whey. To this end, 16 enterprises from the region have already been accredited in China: 6 meat-processing plants, 7 dairy-processing plants, 2 distilleries and one confectionery factory. Meanwhile, three enterprises with Chinese capital have already been registered in the Belarusian region itself – one producing electricity via hydroelectric power stations, one producing concrete, and one operating in the restaurant sector.

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An important detail: the Gomel region continues to actively expand its ties with Chinese regions in 2022. For instance, in January, a 'round table' was held here on multifaceted cooperation with Hebei Province, whose businesses have been collaborating with Gomel partners on production cooperation for quite some time. In particular, back in September 2015, the joint venture 'Chongqing Zongsheng – Gomel

[71] Zalesky, B.L. The Gomel Region: The Chinese Dimension of Partnership / B.L. Zalesky // Proceedings of the 18th International Scientific and Practical Conference "Effective Tools of Modern Sciences – 2021". Volume 5: Prague. "Education and Science" Publishing House. – p. 16.

[72] The Gomel Region has increased its exports to China twentyfold over three years [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomelskaja-oblast-za-tri-goda-uvelichila-eksport-v-kitaj-v-20-raz-481090-2022/

Agricultural Machinery Manufacturing Co., Ltd.' was established in Hebei Province, which began assembling maize harvesters, forage harvesters and grain combine harvesters. The investor on the Belarusian side was OJSC "Gomselmash", whilst on the Chinese side it was Zongsheng Industrial Corporation Ltd. This cooperative project enabled the Belarusian manufacturer to strengthen and expand its presence in the Chinese market. "In 2016, the value of machinery kits supplied to the PRC amounted to approximately US$2.6 million; in 2017, US$10 million; and in 2018, US$7 million"[73] .

As part of this project, in March 2017, construction began in Weixian County, Handan City, in the same province of Hebei, on a new factory for the production of combine harvesters for maize, grain and rapeseed by the Belarusian-Chinese joint venture 'Chongqing Zongsheng Agricultural Machinery Manufacturing Company – Gomel". At the same time, "the first contracts were signed with agricultural companies in Hebei and Heilongjiang provinces for the purchase of Belarusian-Chinese-made harvesters"[74] . Then, in June 2019, a new contract was signed for the supply to China of a further batch of forage harvester kits worth more than one and a half million dollars. By mid-2019, "the company had produced 500 harvesters"[75] .

A logical continuation of these partnerships was the signing in October 2019 of a memorandum of understanding between the cities of Gomel and Handan regarding the establishment of sister-city ties, with a view to fostering mutually beneficial cooperation. In particular, for the

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[73] Interregional ties between Belarus and China: current status, challenges and prospects for development / T.S. Vertinskaya [et al.]. – Minsk: Belaruskaya Nauka, 2020. – pp. 221–222.
[74] Grishkevich, A. Construction of a new Belarusian-Chinese combine harvester factory has begun in Hebei Province / A. Grishkevich // [Online resource]. – 2017. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-belorussko-kitajskij-zavod-po-proizvodstvu-kombajnov-nachali-stroit-v-provintsii-hebei-237889-2017
[75] Gomselmash to supply China with forage harvester kits worth over US$1.5 million [Electronic resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://export.by/news/gomselmash-postavit-v-kitay-mashinokomplekti-kormouborochnih-kombaynov-na-summu-bolee-15-mln-doll

Gomel side, the issue of increasing exports of food products, such as beef, was highly relevant in this context. It was also noted that 'the parties should develop industrial cooperation on a partnership basis, in particular between "Gomselmash" and the Hebei agricultural machinery manufacturer "Zongsheng – Gomel". There are prospects for implementing joint initiatives in the fields of tourism, culture and education'[76] .

In this regard, it should be noted that the twinning arrangements between towns in the Gomel Region and their Chinese partners complement very naturally the entire range of inter-regional cooperation between this Belarusian region and China. By early 2022, seven bilateral agreements had been concluded between administrative-territorial units in the Gomel Region and China. The eighth was an agreement signed in January 2022 to establish a sister-city relationship between Svetlogorsk District and the city of Baoding, located in Hebei Province and with a population of over ten million. This document "provides for the development of mutually beneficial cooperation in various spheres – the economy, trade and cultural exchanges"[77] . The parties certainly possess the necessary potential to develop effective cooperation. And let us hope that the next step in the development of the Gomel Region's foreign economic ties with China will be the establishment of sister-city relations with the entire province of Hebei.

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[76] Gomel and Handan in China intend to develop sister-city relations [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/gomel-i-kitajskij-handan-namereny-razvivat-pobratimskie-svjazi-366580-2019/

[77] Svetlogorsk District and Baoding in China have signed a sister-city agreement [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/svetlogorskij-rajon-i-kitajskij-baodin-podpisali-soglashenie-o-pobratimskih-otnoshenijah-481071-2022/

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Prospects for cooperation have been identified

In May 2022, the sixth meeting of the Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation took place, at which participants discussed the state of and prospects for bilateral trade and investment cooperation, transport and logistics partnerships, as well as the implementation of a joint project – the **China-Belarus 'Great Stone' Industrial Park**. It should be noted that, by the end of 2021, the volume of mutual trade in goods and services between the two countries had come very close to six billion dollars, whilst the share of Belarusian exports to China had more than doubled. At the same time, "the capabilities of Belarusian manufacturers make it possible to ship Belarusian-made goods worth almost $2 billion to the Chinese market by the end of this [2022] year. This requires the parties to join forces to accelerate, as far as possible, the opening up of the Chinese market to new Belarusian manufacturers, the establishment of joint trading companies, and the development of China's largest e-commerce platforms"[78] .

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During the commission meeting, the Belarusian side proposed deepening trade cooperation in five promising areas. The first is the expansion of direct contacts between the business communities of the two countries. The second is increasing the range of products supplied to China from Belarus. The third is the promotion of new mechanisms for expanding bilateral trade, with a focus on establishing joint export-import companies, and the promotion of Belarusian goods on Chinese e-commerce platforms. The fourth is the development of logistics through the efficient delivery of goods by rail. Fifth – strengthening investment cooperation within the framework of existing bilateral projects and joint work on the creation of

[78] Chervyakov: Friendly and partnership relations with China are particularly significant for Belarus [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervjakov-druzhestvennye-i-partnerskie-otnoshenija-s-kitaem-osobo-znachimy-dlja-belarusi-504062-2022

new import-substituting enterprises 'through the prism of the development of the "Great Stone" industrial park and the deepening of inter-regional cooperation'[79] .

The results for the first quarter of 2022 demonstrate that work in these areas is proceeding quite actively. In particular, Belarusian-Chinese trade turnover for this period amounted to 1.2 billion dollars. Another telling fact is that Belarus has become one of the top ten suppliers to China of potash fertilisers, whey, meat products and rapeseed oil. The agreements reached during the commission's work should contribute to the successful implementation of the planned areas of cooperation. For instance, the Belarusian Ministry of Industry intends to work closely with the China Chamber of Commerce for the Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products. The memorandum signed by the parties "aims to strengthen the Belarusian-Chinese partnership in industry"[80] . A memorandum of cooperation in the field of the import and export of woodworking products was also adopted by the "Bellesbumprom" concern and the China Timber and Forest Products Trade Association. The document aims to enhance the effectiveness of the partnership, "analyse issues in mutual trade and seek mutually acceptable solutions"[81] through the organisation of joint exhibitions, trade fairs and business meetings, as well as the exchange of economic, legal and scientific-technical information across all areas of cooperation.

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Within the framework of measures to develop a national innovation system in Belarus for 2021–2025, the **Sino-Belarusian "Velikiy Kamen"**

[79] Trade turnover between Belarus and China in the first quarter amounted to $1.2 billion [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/tovarooborot-belarusi-i-kitaja-v-i-kvartale-sostavil-12-mlrd-504056-2022/

[80] Belarus and China are strengthening their industrial partnership [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-ukrepljajut-partnerstvo-v-promyshlennosti-504071-2022/

[81] "Bellesbumprom" to cooperate with the Chinese Association for the Export of Wood Products [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bellesbumprom-budet-sotrudnichat-s-kitajskoj-assotsiatsiej-po-eksportu-produktsii-derevoobrabotki-504024-2022

Industrial Park has been designated as a platform for establishing innovative production facilities. *One of the main tasks set for the park for the coming five-year period is "to ensure the effective operation of its residents, attract new ones, and actively develop innovative activities, start-ups and cluster cooperation…"*[82] *. The record increase in the number of residents in 2021 – 21 – demonstrates how this task is being addressed here. To be more precise, by the end of 2021, 85 residents were registered here. By the start of 2022, "more than $718 million had already been invested in the park; 37 companies are manufacturing products, conducting research and development, and providing services. The enterprises at "Great Stone" have created over 1,700 jobs <…>. Export volumes have also risen – by almost 17 per cent compared with 2020. Deliveries are made to 20 countries worldwide"*[83] *. In the final days of 2021,* ***the*** *Belarusian* ***company SinRubEnergo LLC*** *became the 85th resident,* ***with*** *a research and development project focused on the creation of digital energy facilities and a smart city. "The company will develop integrated automation and dispatch systems"*[84] *.*

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With the arrival of 2022, active work continued in the industrial park both to expand the number of residents and to increase the scale of their business activities. Thus, by mid-April 2022, "89 residents from 15 countries around the world had already been registered here. The total declared investment amounts to $1.24 billion. Of this, more than $750 million has already been invested in the park's development. Residents

[82] Zaleski, B.L. The 'Velikiy Kamen' Industrial Park: new projects bring the future closer / B.L. Zaleski // Proceedings of the 18th International Scientific and Practical Conference 'Key Aspects of Scientific Activity – 2022', Volume 1. Przemysl: Nauka i studia. – p. 3.

[83] Yaroshenko: 'Velikiy Kamen' enterprises supply products to 20 countries worldwide [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/jaroshenko-predprijatija-velikogo-kamnja-postavljajut-produktsiju-v-20-stran-mira-479114-2022/

[84] New 'Great Stone' tenant to develop digital energy facilities [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-zajmetsja-sozdaniem-tsifrovyh-energoobjektov-477402-2021/

have created more than 1,800 new jobs. Furthermore, almost half of the companies have commenced business operations in the park"[85] .

In March 2022, ***"Bel Samoyed Cloud" Scientific and Technical Company LLC*** *became the 86th tenant of the industrial park; it "will develop digital financial technologies and mobile payment systems. There are also plans to establish an e-commerce centre in Belarus and provide services in this field to Belarusian and Chinese companies"*[86] *. An important detail: the initiator of this project is one of China's largest providers of cloud solutions – Samoyed Cloud Technology Group Holdings Limited.*

April 2022 proved particularly 'fruitful' for the 'Great Stone' in terms of registering new residents. For instance, at the start of this month, ***the*** *87th resident was* ***"South China University of Technology Scientific and Technical Company" Ltd*** *from Hong Kong, whose founder works in the field of product targeting and branding and has branches in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing, Hangzhou and Wuhan. The new resident "plans to establish a centre for the digital promotion of goods to facilitate e-commerce using internet marketing technologies"*[87] *, will collaborate with Belarusian manufacturers to promote their goods in China, and intends to provide training on organising e-commerce.*

Shortly afterwards, the industrial park registered its 88th tenant – the Belarusian ***company "KUBY RND" LLC*** *– with an investment project to manufacture equipment and components for the modular construction of*

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[85] Yakimov, P. "The Great Stone" opens up vast opportunities for strengthening cooperation between Belarus and China / P. Yakimov // [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/comments/view/velikij-kamen-otkryvaet-shirokie-vozmozhnosti-dlja-ukreplenija-sotrudnichestva-belarusi-i-kitaja-8150/

[86] New 'Great Stone' tenant to focus on digital technologies and mobile payment systems [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-zajmetsja-tsifrovymi-tehnologijami-i-sistemami-mobilnyh-platezhej-490657-2022/

[87] New tenant at 'Veliky Kamen' to focus on digital marketing of goods [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-zajmetsja-tsifrovym-prodvizheniem-tovarov-493650-2022/

smart homes. "Production is based on the innovative Cuby technology, which was developed in-house by the company. It enables the production of high-tech structures with excellent environmental performance"[88] *. It is anticipated that 90 per cent of the products manufactured by the new resident at "Veliky Kamen" will be exported.*

The 89th resident is another Belarusian enterprise – ***HomeLand Group LLC*** *– which plans to manufacture 'Aerocapsule' multifunctional soundproof cabins in the industrial park, featuring an automated control system based on the Internet of Things – a data transmission concept. Interestingly, this project took second place in the national competition for innovative developments in 2021. Aerocapsules, , created using smart technologies and equipped with innovative built-in features, "can be widely used in open-plan offices, airports, shopping centres and manufacturing plants, and enable the creation of optimal conditions for rest and work"*[89] *.*

By mid-May 2022, the number of tenants had risen to 90, with a declared investment volume of 1.24 billion dollars. In May 2022, the Chinese company ***Transport Complex – AF LLC*** *became a new resident of the industrial park; it will establish a transport monitoring centre here using Internet of Things technology. At the same time, a memorandum of understanding was signed regarding the entry into the park* ***of JSC "Hongju Corporation"****, which "plans to engage in biotechnology activities at 'Great Stone'"*[90] *. According to the results for the first quarter of 2022, the industrial park managed to achieve "a 1.8-fold increase in revenue from the sale of goods compared with the first quarter of last year (Br123.4*

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[88] New 'Great Stone' tenant to begin manufacturing smart home equipment [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-nachnet-vypuskat-oborudovanie-dlja-umnyh-domov-495324-2022/

[89] New 'Great Stone' tenant to produce innovative aerocapsules [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-innovatsionnye-aerokapsuly-495913-2022/

[90] New 'Great Stone' tenant to set up a centre for monitoring cross-border transport [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-tsentr-monitoringa-transgranichnyh-perevozok-501098-2022/

million), a 1.7-fold increase in industrial output by residents (Br95.4 million), exports of goods – by a factor of 1.4 ($22.6 million), and investment in fixed assets – by a factor of 1.1 (Br30.4 million)"[91] .

An important area of activity for the "Great Stone" is the creation ***of sub-parks****, which are understood to involve not just a single investor but a pool of flagship companies managed by a separate management company, opening up broad prospects for large corporations. Cooperation with the Chinese province of Guangdong is developing particularly well in this regard. It should be recalled that 'as far back as January 2017, in its administrative centre – the city of Guangzhou – a signing ceremony took place for an agreement to establish the Chinese (Guangdong) LED Products Sub-Park within the "Great Stone" Industrial Park, as well as five further memoranda of understanding regarding specific companies' intention to join this sub-park"*[92] *. Today, the sub-park is already home to 15 tenants specialising in areas such as LED product manufacturing, integrated logistics, electric transport, unmanned systems and research and development. They will soon be joined by a joint innovation centre, established by the Guangdong Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, which will carry out research and development in the fields of industrial and digital technologies, as well as new materials, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. So in this area too, we are seeing the successful implementation of plans drawn up several years ago.*

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The forthcoming cooperation between the China-Belarus Industrial Park and similar preferential economic zones in other countries should also

[91] The number of 'Great Stone' residents has risen to 90, with a declared investment volume of $1.24 billion [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chislo-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-vozroslo-do-90-s-zajavlennym-objemom-investitsij-v-124-mlrd-502265-2022/

[92] Zalesky, B.L. "The Great Stone": Prospects for Development – Sub-parks / B.L. Zalesky // Proceedings of the XVI International Scientific and Practical Conference "Science and Civilisation – 2020", 30 January – 7 February 2020. Economic Sciences. Sheffield: Science and Education Ltd. – p. 21.

help to further unlock the potential of the 'Great Stone' innovation initiatives. In particular, in Cuba and Uzbekistan. Thus, back in January 2021, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Cuban Special Development Zone (SDZ) "Mariel", which provides for cooperation "in the field of attracting investment, strengthening ties between the business communities of Belarus and Cuba, as well as information exchange"[93] . The priority areas of activity for the Cuban ZED, established in November 2013 and located 45 kilometres from Havana – where, as of the end of 2021, there were more than 60 residents from 21 countries – are electronics, logistics, pharmaceuticals, energy, and the financial and banking sectors. In January 2022, the parties had already begun discussing specific areas of cooperation, 'in particular, in the field of attracting residents and developing cooperation with Cuban pharmaceutical companies'[94] . Given that the pharmaceutical sector in "Great Stone" is currently, as they say, on the up, it is not difficult to imagine that concrete results from this collaboration will not be long in coming.

Another interesting example in this context is the Uzbek free economic zones (FEZs) 'Jizzakh' and 'Syr Darya'. In early April 2022, the administration of 'Great Stone' discussed areas of potential cooperation with their representatives, including 'establishing cooperation between residents of the park, free economic zones and enterprises in the field of importing and exporting component materials and finished products'[95] . The parties agreed to sign a memorandum of cooperation, which will formalise their commitment to implementing joint projects. The

[93] 'The Great Stone' and the Cuban Special Development Zone 'Mariel' will cooperate in attracting investment [Electronic resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-i-kubinskaja-zona-osobogo-razvitija-mariel-budut-sotrudnichat-v-privlechenii-investitsij-426316-2021/

[94] "Velikiy Kamen" intends to develop cooperation with Cuban pharmaceutical companies [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-nameren-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-s-kubinskimi-farmpredprijatijami-487548-2022/

[95] "Velikiy Kamen" and Uzbekistan's Special Economic Zones intend to develop cooperation [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-i-sez-uzbekistana-namerenv-razvivat-sotrudnichestvo-493658-2022/

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specialisation of Uzbek FEZs suggests that such projects are entirely feasible.

In particular, the 'Jizzakh' SEZ was established in March 2013 in the Jizzakh region to attract direct investment in the creation of high-tech and innovative manufacturing facilities. And today there are already several interesting examples in this regard. For instance, in March 2020, an agreement was signed here to establish a production facility for Volkswagen light commercial vehicles at the 'Jizzakh Automobile Plant' LLC. The implementation of this project is divided into two phases. In 2020–2021, German vehicles were supplied here in finished form to study the market and conduct marketing analysis. From 2022, a 'full production cycle' will begin, which includes welding, painting and assembly <…>. The dealer and service networks in every region of Uzbekistan will also be expanded'[96] .

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Another interesting example is the Uzbek company ADM Jizzakh, located in the 'Jizzakh' Free Economic Zone, which manufactures KIA and Lada models there. In October 2021, it announced that it would commence sub-assembly of these vehicles in early 2023. In total, "plans are in place to organise the production of 314 parts and components, as well as to launch welding and painting workshops"[97] . This will enable the company to reach an annual production of 100,000 of these models, create 3,000 new jobs and increase localisation of production to 30 per cent. It seems, , that such an initiative could be of considerable interest to the Belarusian side as well.

As for the 'Syrdarya' SEZ, it was established on the basis of a branch of the 'Jizzakh' SEZ in the Syrdarya Region in April 2018. One of its main objectives is to ensure the comprehensive and effective utilisation of the

[96] Production of Volkswagen cars in Uzbekistan to begin in 2022 [Online resource]. – 2020. – URL: https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/06/26/volkswagen/

[97] The plant in Uzbekistan producing KIA and Lada vehicles will increase localisation to 30 per cent in 2023 [Online resource]. – 2021. – URL: https://uz.sputniknews.ru/20211022/zavod-v-uzbekistane-po-vypusku-kia-i-lada-v-2023-godu-povysit-lokalizatsiyu-do-30-21019614.html

production and resource potential of this Uzbek region 'through the deep processing of mineral resources and the expansion of production of goods in demand on foreign markets, as well as import-substituting products with high added value'[98] . The key production sectors identified here for attracting investment and advanced technologies include deep processing, storage and packaging of fruit, vegetables and other agricultural produce, as well as the textile, footwear, leather goods, chemical, food, electrical engineering, agricultural machinery and building materials industries. Through the SEZ, there are plans to significantly strengthen the region's export sector, where 'more than 80 exporting enterprises are already operating, supplying over 50 types of products abroad'[99] . Thus, here too, the range of shared interests with 'Great Stone' could be quite extensive. All this indicates that the China–Belarus Industrial Park retains its strategic importance as a national-scale growth hub for Belarus.

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As regards inter-regional cooperation, in the Joint Declaration on the Establishment of an All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, adopted in September 2022, the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China welcomed the expansion of in-depth trade and economic cooperation between Belarusian regions and Chinese cities and provinces. Turning to the task of expanding inter-regional ties, 'which is one of the priorities in the development of Belarusian-Chinese relations'[100] , it is worth noting the successful experience of Belarusian regions such as the Vitebsk, Grodno and Brest regions in addressing this in 2022.

Thus, in October 2022, **the Vitebsk Region** and **the** Chinese **province of Jiangxi** signed a cooperation agreement covering the

[98] A new free economic zone is being established in Syrdarya [Online resource]. – 2018. – URL: https://kun.uz/ru/94899784?q=%2Fru%2F94899784

[99] Mirzaev, G. Syrdarya opens its doors to investors / G. Mirzaev // [Online resource]. – 2019. – URL: https://rg.ru/amp/2019/08/29/v-syrdarinskoj-oblasti-uzbekistana-gotovy-k-millionnym-investiciiam.html

[100] Zalesky, B. Time for Concrete Decisions. A Chronicle of International Cooperation / Boris Zalesky. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – p. 100.

economy, education, healthcare and sport, and will establish contacts in trade, science and technology. The parties will engage in comprehensive cooperation. For example, there are plans to organise video conference meetings at which leading enterprises in the Vitebsk Region will be presented to their Chinese partners, along with their developments and technologies that may be useful and of interest to companies from Jiangxi. In particular, this concerns joint projects on the development of agriculture and mechanical engineering, as well as on topics relating to science parks and university research. It should be noted that the two regions – Belarus and China – have previously held events together: a conference on vocational education and the training of engineering and technical specialists, as well as on measures to combat COVID-19. Furthermore, "in Nanchang – the urban district where the Jiangxi provincial authorities are based – container trains run regularly, organised in part by a logistics company from Orsha. Nanchang and Orsha have established partnership ties, whilst another city in the province – Fuzhou – has established ties with Polotsk[101] ". The agreement that has been signed will, it appears, help the northern region of Belarus and the Chinese province, located in south-eastern China, to take their relations to a new level. In the context of this topic, it is interesting to note that in September 2022, as part of the Year of the Regions of Belarus and China, the Vitebsk Region Days were held in yet another Chinese province – **Heilongjiang** – where the "potential for cooperation between the sister regions in the trade, economic, manufacturing, tourism and investment sectors" was presented[102] . Incidentally, this region of China is home to over 30 million people.

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[101] Pushnyakova, A. Trade, Science, Sport: The Vitebsk Region has signed a cooperation agreement with Jiangxi, China / A. Pushnyakova // [Electronic resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/torgovlja-nauka-sport-vitebskaja-oblast-podpisala-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-s-kitajskoj-tsziansi-532401-2022

[102] Vitebsk Region Days are taking place in the Chinese province of Heilongjiang [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/dni-vitebskoj-oblasti-prohodjat-v-kitajskoj-provintsii-hejluntszjan-525147-2022/

And in October 2022, an agreement on establishing friendly exchanges and cooperation was also signed by the cities of **Grodno** and **Lanzhou** – the administrative centre of the Chinese province of Gansu – under which the parties envisaged "deepening bilateral interaction and expanding exchanges and cooperation between the regions in the fields of trade and the economy, science and technology, culture and tourism, and other areas. The document also aims to strengthen friendly ties between the residents of the two cities"[103] . It should be recalled that a memorandum on establishing sister-city relations between **Gansu Province** and **Grodno Region** was signed in 2007. Over the past 15 years, more than 10 different agreements have been concluded between the regions, with trade and economic cooperation developing particularly dynamically. In April 2022, Gansu and the Grodno Region signed a Cooperation Programme for 2022–2023, which is packed with specific joint projects. It "further elaborated on those areas where cooperation is not yet developing as actively <…>. These include agriculture, tourism, technology exchange and traditional Chinese medicine"[104] . Meanwhile, the Novogrudok District and the Chinese city of Dunhuang in Gansu Province agreed to "conclude an agreement on establishing cooperation"[105] . For reference, it should be noted that the Grodno Region has also signed a twinning agreement with **Hainan Province**.

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And here is another interesting example: **the Brest Region and Hubei Province**. In May 2022, the parties signed an Action Plan for the Development of Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical and Cultural

[103] Grodno and Lanzhou in China have signed an agreement on establishing friendly exchanges [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/grodno-i-kitajskij-lanchzhou-podpisali-soglashenie-ob-ustanovlenii-druzhestvennyh-obmenov-532444-2022/

[104] The Grodno Region intends to expand its cooperation with the Chinese province of Gansu [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/grodnenskaja-oblast-namerena-rasshirjat-sotrudnichestvo-s-kitajskoj-provintsiej-gansu-498323-2022/

[105] The Novogrudok District and the Chinese city of Dunhuang intend to sign an agreement on establishing cooperation [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/novogrudskij-rajon-i-kitajskij-gorod-dunhuan-namereny-zakljuchit-soglashenie-ob-ustanovlenii-495725-2022/

Cooperation for 2022–2024, which sets out plans to develop international inter-regional cooperation in four key areas: mutual trade, investment, healthcare and education. In particular, foodstuffs and wood products from manufacturers in the Brest region have been supplied to the Chinese province for several years now. However, there are plans to significantly expand this cooperation, including by establishing direct business links between economic entities. For example, this involves establishing investment cooperation between the "Brest" Free Economic Zone and automotive industry enterprises in Hubei Province, as well as between the Berezovo Engine Repair Plant and manufacturers of diesel engines in that region of China. Furthermore, "the possibility of Chinese investors participating in projects in the Brest Region will be explored, including the organisation of production facilities for electric vehicle charging stations, the manufacture of powder and liquid detergents at OJSC 'Barkhim', the technical modernisation of the Baranovichi Cotton Production Association, the production of clinker products at the Gorynsky Building Materials Plant, and the development of the 'Gorodnoye' glass sand deposit'[106] . As regards the medical sector, prospects for cooperation between the Brest Region and Hubei Province are linked to the joint production of ultrasound diagnostic equipment and the organisation of the manufacture of disposable systems for blood transfusions and medical solutions. There are also plans to establish a centre for traditional Chinese medicine at the Brest Regional Clinical Hospital, for which the physiotherapy wing may be refurbished.

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All these facts serve as a good illustration of how multifaceted Belarusian-Chinese cooperation is now reaching the level of comprehensive strategic cooperation and an all-weather partnership, as set out in Directive No. 9 "On the Development of Bilateral Relations between

[106] The Brest Region and Hubei Province have signed a roadmap for cooperation for 2022–2024 [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/brestskaja-oblast-i-provintsija-hubei-podpisali-dorozhnuju-kartu-sotrudnichestva-na-2022-2024-gody-503065-2022/

the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China", signed in December 2021.

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The strategic partnership is entering a new era

In March 2023, the leaders of the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China adopted **a joint statement** on the fundamental principles for developing exemplary relations of an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries in a new era, which include mutual support for each other's state policies and on issues affecting each other's core interests. In addition to this joint statement, 'during the state visit, Belarus and China concluded 27 intergovernmental, inter-agency and inter-regional agreements, as well as more than 10 commercial agreements in various fields'[107] , and the total economic impact of this visit is estimated at more than three and a half billion dollars.

Among the documents signed, it is worth noting **the Programme of Belarusian-Chinese Scientific and Technical Cooperation for 2023–2024**, which sets out a plan for the two countries to establish joint innovative production facilities. After all, "a well-developed engineering base, a modern system for training highly qualified personnel, and the long-standing cutting-edge experience of leading Belarusian design bureaux – all this forms the foundation for future high-tech industries"[108] . In this regard, we would like to emphasise that in 2022, Chinese investors injected over 100 million dollars into projects in Belarus. Furthermore, more than forty projects were implemented with the participation of Chinese companies , and this year a further twenty or so promising initiatives are being developed.

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[107] Ministry of Foreign Affairs: The Belarusian President's state visit to Beijing was a significant event in relations with the PRC [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/politics/view/mid-gosvizit-prezidenta-belarusi-v-pekin-stal-znachimym-sobytiem-v-otnoshenijah-s-knr-557851-2023/

[108] Belarus and China aim to establish joint innovative production facilities [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-natseleny-na-sozdanie-sovmestnyh-innovatsionnyh-proizvodstv-556688-2023/

In this context, it is worth noting **the "Velikiy Kamen" industrial park**, *where, in 2022, "Belarusian resident enterprises launched production of glass for all types of land transport, innovative photographic printing products, and automated process control systems for industry and the energy sector.* ***The "InKata" science and technology park****, which houses companies engaged in scientific research and experimental development, has been commissioned"*[109] .

It should be noted that in the final days of 2022, the number of residents at the Sino-Belarusian "Velikiy Kamen" Industrial Park reached the 100 mark. For reference, "at the end of 2021, 85 residents were registered here"[110] *. In particular, the 99th resident was* ***Yunchenbel LLC****, founded by the major Chinese* ***company SUMEK International Technology Trading****. "The new resident will create an e-commerce platform enabling the import and export of mechanical and electrical equipment"*[111] *. Meanwhile,* ***the*** *Belarusian* ***company "Human Craft"*** *will manufacture medical products – customised bone tissue prostheses based on 3D printing technologies – which will be used in surgery, traumatology, dentistry and the treatment of cancer. Furthermore, at the end of December 2022, memoranda of understanding were signed regarding the entry into the industrial park as residents of* ***"Information Technologies Foryu" LLC*** *and* ***"Information Technologies Tontun" LLC*** *(People's Republic of China).*

Furthermore, at the end of 2022, resident company ***"IPD Group" LLC*** *signed a lease agreement for a multi-purpose production facility with*

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[109] Abramenko: 'The Great Stone' offers enormous opportunities for doing business within the 'Belt and Road' initiative [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-velikij-kamen-eto-kolossalnye-vozmozhnosti-dlja-vedenija-biznesa-na-platforme-pojas-i-put-556679-2023/

[110] Zaleski, B. Partnerships of Flexible Forms. Features of the Eurasian Cooperative Dialogue in the Context of Global Threats / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2022. – p. 5.

[111] The number of residents at 'Great Stone' has reached 100 [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/kolichestvo-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-dostiglo-100-542481-2022/

an area of 5,500 square metres within the industrial park. This transaction was one of the largest in the Belarusian industrial property market in 2022. "A project for the development and mass production of high-tech data processing and storage devices will be implemented on these premises. In particular, the company will manufacture computer hardware, server equipment, monitors and interactive smart panels. In the future, the resident plans to expand the range of import-substituting products"[112] *. In total, by the end of 2022, 19 residents had been registered at 'Veliky Kamen'. Furthermore, last year the park's residents exported more than $100 million worth of their products to 20 countries.*

In 2023, "Velikiy Kamen" is expected to attract at least 20 residents. Several investors from Belarus have already been registered in January alone. In particular, "there are some very interesting projects in the field of veterinary products. And the second project is in the field of science, <...> in the field of nuclear energy"[113] *. At the end of January, a new resident was registered at "Great Stone" –* ***BaikalGroup LLC****. "The Chinese-owned company will establish a transport and logistics centre in the park <...>. The park resident plans to provide warehousing and logistics services, including storage, packaging, tracking and labelling..."*[114] *. Goods will be supplied to countries within the Eurasian Economic Union.*

In February 2023, three more new tenants were registered in the industrial park: two with capital from Belarus and one from China. ***HeProTrade LLC*** *will produce environmentally friendly thermal paper, the*

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[112] 'Velikiy Kamen' ended the year with its biggest deal [Online]. – 2022. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-zavershili-god-krupnejshej-sdelkoj-542635-2022/

[113] "Velikiy Kamen" plans to attract at least 20 residents this year [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-v-etom-godu-planiruet-privlech-ne-menee-20-rezidentov-547180-2023/

[114] A new resident of "Great Stone" will establish a transport and logistics centre [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-transportno-logisticheskij-tsentr-547574-2023/

products of which will be widely used in the sales and services sector. "Production capacity will be up to 300 tonnes per month. Implementation of the project will enable us to supply the domestic market with such products and reduce imports, as well as to export them,"[115] *. The second resident to join in February –* ***Riveks LLC*** *– will produce innovative dressing materials and sterilisation products intended for both the domestic market and the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union.* ***Bel-Nord Logistics LLC****, founded by a Chinese international logistics company based in Inner Mongolia—one of the largest in the region—plans to "develop logistics infrastructure by constructing warehouse facilities and introducing a wide range of services in this field. In addition, road freight transport of goods along the China–Europe route will be organised"*[116] *. This initiative will also help to address a key strategic objective – expanding the presence of Belarusian products on the Chinese market.*

In just one and a half months of 2023, seven new residents have already been registered at 'Great Stone'. Overall, since the industrial park began operating, 'the total number stands at 107 residents with a planned investment volume of $1.3 billion'[117] *. It is expected that, with a view to creating additional conditions to attract new investors, work will continue in 2023 to further improve the park's special legal regime, with a focus on implementing new high-tech projects, including in the field of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine. Promising projects are also planned in logistics, e-commerce, fine chemicals, biotechnology, instrument engineering, and research and development. In February 2023, at a*

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[115] Two more tenants with Belarusian capital have been registered in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/esche-dva-rezidenta-s-belorusskim-kapitalom-zaregistrirovany-v-velikom-kamne-549664-2023/

[116] A new resident of 'Veliky Kamen' will develop international logistics [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-razvivat-mezhdunarodnuju-logistiku-551642-2023/

[117] This year, 'Great Stone' has registered seven new tenants [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/v-etom-godu-velikij-kamen-zaregistriroval-7-novyh-rezidentov-551821-2023/

meeting of the working group on the China–Belarus Industrial Park, it was noted that at the "Great Stone" sites, "it is possible to rapidly increase the level of localisation in the production of medical and technological equipment, transport and other sectors, and promptly replace lost imports with these products. "To make the fullest possible use of the existing potential, it is necessary to continue actively developing the park, building infrastructure and promoting the project on a global scale"[118] *. In short, the current challenges present a window of opportunity for residents of the industrial park – in particular – and also create additional competitive advantages for the long-term development of the Belarusian economy as a whole.*

Another important document adopted in March 2023 is **the Comprehensive Strategy for Joint Industrial Development**, implemented by the Ministry of Industry of Belarus and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China, which provides for the creation of mechanisms to incentivise Belarusian and Chinese enterprises to intensify and strengthen their technological cooperation. A roadmap setting out specific projects and initiatives has been drawn up to implement this strategy. "Plans include the establishment of joint ventures in China, the use of Chinese technologies and expertise to modernise Belarusian production facilities, and the attraction of Chinese investment for projects in Belarus"[119] in key sectors such as mechanical engineering, electronics, wood processing, optical-mechanical, pulp and paper, and chemical manufacturing.

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[118] Chervyakov: Current economic challenges present a window of opportunity for 'Great Stone' residents [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervjakov-tekuschie-vyzovy-ekonomiki-okno-vozmozhnostej-dlja-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-550498-2023/

[119] Abramenko, A. On the Specifics of Doing Business in the KNO, Joint Projects and Prospects for Cooperation / A. Abramenko // [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/interview/view/ob-osobennostjah-vedenija-biznesa-v-knr-sovmestnyh-proektah-i-perspektivah-sotrudnichestva-8633/

In particular, **the Minsk Tractor Works** is ready to step up cooperation with the Chinese side. A project is currently underway in China to organise the assembly of 350-horsepower BELARUS tractors. The first prototype underwent testing in 2020–2021. Last year, a further two BELARUS 3523 tractors were delivered to China for certification, following which a decision will be made on localising the assembly of Belarusian tractors. Meanwhile, testing of the BELARUS 3523 model fitted with a diesel engine from the Chinese corporation Weichai is continuing in Minsk. It is expected that 100 such engines will arrive at the plant in the near future at . "Another area relates to the supply of components from the PRC. Last year, imports from China totalled $1.8 million; in the first two months of this [2023] year, they amounted to $400,000."[120] . The parties are therefore interested in joint investment projects.

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As part of the Belarusian delegation's state visit to China, several documents were signed concerning the development of manufacturing and **the agro-industrial sector.** In particular, "Belarus's largest pig farming complex, with a capacity of 300,000 head, will be built in the Minsk Region." <...> We will also be modernising our beef cattle farming operations in the Mogilev Region. First and foremost, this involves the construction of a dedicated slaughterhouse. Around a thousand lightweight sheds will be built to house Aberdeen Angus or Limousin cattle"[121] .

Belarus also plans to almost double the volume of food supplies to China in 2023. Last year, these exports exceeded 500 million dollars. At the same time, Belarusian exports "saw growth in poultry meat (threefold), rapeseed oil (3.1-fold), and milk and cream (1.4-fold) <…>. Currently, 148

[120] MTZ CEO discusses stepping up cooperation with China [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/ob-aktivizatsii-sotrudnichestva-s-kitaem-rasskazal-gendirektor-mtz-553348-2023/

[121] Belarus expects to almost double the volume of food exports to China [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-rasschitvvaet-pochti-v-dva-raza-narastit-objemy-postavok-prodovolstvija-v-kitaj-553023-2023/

Belarusian producers across 171 product categories are accredited to supply goods to China"[122] . Furthermore, the target has been set to reach $900 million in food exports by the start of 2024. Overall, in terms of trade and economic cooperation with Chinese partners, the Belarusian side has every chance of increasing the volume of goods exports to $2.2 billion this year.

Two further interesting documents, signed in Beijing in early March 2023, relate to **regional cooperation**. The first is **the plan for the Year of the Regions of Belarus and China for 2023,** which "contains more than 80 bilateral agreements and initiatives"[123] aimed at attracting at least 150 million dollars of direct Chinese investment to each Belarusian region and Minsk by 2026. The second is **the Agreement between the Ministry of Economy of Belarus and the Ministry of Commerce of China on deepening trade and economic cooperation between the regions of the two countries**, in which the parties place particular emphasis on three Chinese regions. Firstly, **Tianjin** – a city under central government jurisdiction, where the focus is predominantly on manufacturing and logistics. Secondly, the city **of Qingdao,** located in **Shandong** Province, where manufacturing and medical enterprises are particularly well-developed and where the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's** free trade zone is actively utilised. Thirdly, **Chongqing –** another city under central administration. "This is the heart of logistics and transit. E-commerce is the main activity here, with an emphasis on transport and logistics, including green corridors. This is where a train is not inspected at

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[122] In 2022, exports of Belarusian goods to China almost doubled [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/za-2022-god-eksport-belorusskih-tovarov-v-kitaj-prakticheski-udvoilsja-556681-2023/

[123] Abramenko: Belarus and China are seeking to deepen bilateral cooperation in all areas [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/abramenko-belarus-i-kitaj-stremjatsja-k-uglubleniju-dvustoronnego-vzaimodejstvija-vo-vseh-oblastjah-556675-2023/

the border but is checked at its destination, which offers significant advantages in terms of cost and time"[124] .

Furthermore, in early March 2023, Belarus and China signed **a plan for the development of cooperation in the field of healthcare for 2023–2025**, which states that 'the parties will develop cooperation in the fields of healthcare, science and education, based on the principles of the countries' national legislation, as well as on the principles of mutual benefit and mutual assistance'[125] . The two countries will give priority to cooperation in areas such as: organising joint medical research; exchanging expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases; organising seminars and masterclasses for experts; cooperating in the fields of epidemiology and microbiology and exchanging data on the spread of infectious diseases; cooperation in the fields of surgery, transplantation and haematology; and participation in international medical exhibitions held in the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Belarus. It is important to note that, as early as in the Joint Declaration on the Establishment of an All-Weather and Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, published in September 2022, Belarus and China agreed to develop cooperation in the field of high-tech medicine, vaccines and medicines, and 'identified as priorities the formation of a joint pharmaceutical cluster, the commercialisation of new pharmaceutical products and technologies, as well as the creation of a high-quality centre for traditional Chinese medicine on the territory of Belarus'[126] .

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[124] Nikolai Snopkov: The total economic impact of Belarusian-Chinese agreements is estimated at over $3.5 billion [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: http://www.government.by/ru/content/10547

[125] A plan for the development of cooperation in the field of healthcare for 2023–2025 has been signed between Belarus and China [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://minzdrav.gov.by/ru/sobytiya/podpisan-plan-po-razvitiyu-sotrudnichestva-v-oblasti-zdravookhraneniya-na-2023-2025-gody-mezhdu-bela/

[126] China and Belarus have adopted a Joint Declaration [Online resource]. – 2022. – URL: https://zviazda.by/ru/news/20220916/1663330543-kitav-i-belarus-prinvali-sovmestnuvu-deklaracivu

For reference: the two countries have long-standing ties in the field of medicine. The first agreement on cooperation in the field of healthcare and medical science between the Belarusian and Chinese Ministries of Health was signed as far back as 1994. In 2021, the Belarusian government adopted a resolution "On the state registration of strategically important medicinal products", which allows for their fast-track registration to combat the pandemic. At the same time, the Ministry of Health carried out the first-ever state registration of a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) product – the 'Qingyi' soft capsules. Today, '810 types of medical equipment, 502 medical devices and 480 medicinal products manufactured in the PRC are registered in Belarus. From April 2020 to the present, the PRC has provided grant aid equivalent to $30 million. Personal protective equipment, medical and diagnostic equipment, and a COVID-19 vaccine have been supplied to Belarus'[127] .

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) centres have already been established in our country, along with the necessary conditions for business operations to set up pharmaceutical production facilities. In particular, for residents of the 'Velikiy Kamen' park, the Belarusian Ministry of Health has produced a handbook entitled 'Key Aspects of Marketing Authorisation for Medical Devices and Medicinal Products' in Russian and Chinese, with the aim of providing information on opportunities and preferential arrangements. Furthermore, work has already been completed on the architectural design 'Construction of a polyclinic on the premises of the "Velikiy Kamen" Park, taking into account the establishment of a regional centre for the promotion of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine within it'; work is also nearing completion on the inclusion in of the job

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[127] The Belarusian Ministry of Health and Weigao have signed a cooperation agreement [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/minzdrav-belarusi-i-kompanija-weigao-podpisali-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-552445-2023/

title "traditional Chinese medicine practitioner", which will provide a further impetus for promoting this field in Belarus.

At the end of February 2023, the Belarusian Ministry of Health and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of China announced that they were preparing a memorandum on TCM, which is to address the establishment of a TCM centre in Belarus, a pharmaceutical cluster and the development of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the **'Great Stone' Sino-Belarusian Industrial Park**. It should be noted that 'in Belarus, methods such as reflexotherapy, diagnostic techniques, therapeutic exercises, classical acupuncture, Chinese massage, as well as treatment methods based on modern technologies – electroacupuncture, laser acupuncture and ultrasound acupuncture <…>. Centres for traditional Chinese medicine have been established in regional centres across Belarus. Cooperation has been established with a number of universities – Tianjin University, Changchun University, and Zhejiang University of Traditional Chinese Medicine…'[128] . Furthermore, training in this specialism is provided at the Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education within the Department of Reflexotherapy. On average, more than 200 doctors undergo training each year. Staff members of the department have repeatedly undertaken training placements in Beijing, Taiyuan and Tianjin. These methods have proven their effectiveness, including in the treatment of post-COVID syndrome. Every year in Belarus, reflexologists carry out around 900,000 reflexotherapy procedures.

In 2023, the parties continue to engage actively in this area. In February, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus signed a number of cooperation agreements with Chinese partners. Firstly, in Weihai, Shandong Province, with Weigao International Medical Trading

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[128] Belarus and the PRC are preparing a memorandum on traditional Chinese medicine [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-i-knr-gotovjat-memorandum-po-voprosam-traditsionnoj-kitajskoj-meditsiny-552902-2023/

Company, which supplies Chinese-manufactured medical devices and spare parts. Secondly, in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, an agreement was signed with the pharmaceutical company North China Pharmaceutical Company Limited (NCPC). "This company has been selected as a strategic partner to represent the interests of the Belfarmprom holding company in the procurement of pharmaceutical substances in the People's Republic of China, as well as to analyse market conditions and submit proposals to the holding company's management regarding the supply of substances and raw materials in accordance with requests'[129] .

As regards the development of cooperation between Belarus and China in the new era in **the field of education**, the China Education Expo, an international education exhibition, took place in Beijing in February 2023. As part of this event, a themed exhibition entitled 'Education in Belarus' was organised, at which leading Belarusian universities gave presentations on their educational programmes: Belarusian State Economic University, Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, Minsk State Linguistic University, Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts, Gomel State Technical University named after P.O. Sukhoi, the Belarusian National Technical University, Polotsk State University named after Euphrosyne of Polotsk, and Mogilev State University named after A.A. Kuleshov. It should be noted that the Belarusian exhibition was the only foreign one represented at this educational forum, which was visited by over two thousand young men and women from China interested in studying in Belarus.

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Furthermore, during talks held in the Chinese capital at Peking University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, the possibility of Belarusian higher education institutions joining the International

[129] The Ministry of Health of Belarus and a Chinese pharmaceutical company have signed a cooperation agreement [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-podpisali-minzdrav-belarusi-i-kitajskaja-farmkompanija-552543-2023

Engineering and Architecture Consortium of Educational Institutions was discussed. Overall, "following meetings between representatives of Belarusian higher education institutions and Chinese universities and consultancy firms, 17 cooperation agreements in the field of educational services were signed, and 16 agreements were finalised for signing"[130] . For reference, it should be noted that "Belarusian and Chinese partners have already signed more than 540 direct cooperation agreements. To date, nearly 500 citizens of the Republic of Belarus are studying in the PRC, whilst the number of Chinese students at Belarusian universities has reached 8,000"[131] . Furthermore, the establishment of joint educational institutions is being actively promoted in both Belarus and China. For example, seven joint projects are already operational: three laboratories, two centres and two institutes. Forty joint educational programmes at the first and second levels of higher education are being implemented, 10 of which have been developed over the past two years.

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In this context, **the Belarusian State University** (BSU) is a key player in international cooperation with the People's Republic of China in the field of education; it already collaborates with more than 50 Chinese higher education institutions, and its lecture theatres currently host over three thousand students from China. In March 2023, BSU identified new areas and forms of cooperation with leading Chinese universities in order to strengthen, revitalise and expand the scope of its partnerships.

In particular, BSU is taking its cooperation with Peking University to a new level. Founded as far back as 1898, Peking University is China's oldest university; its library houses over eight million books and it has a student body of over 46,000, including more than 4,000 international

[130] Belarus – China: 17 new agreements signed in the field of education [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/belarus-kitaj-podpisano-17-novyh-soglashenij-v-oblasti-obrazovanija-553144-2023/

[131] Zaleski, B. The Path to Cooperation – Asia. Intensifying Belarus's multifaceted ties with key economic partners on the continent / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2023. – p. 19.

students. It should be noted that the two universities signed a memorandum of understanding in 2019. In March 2023, the parties initiated cooperation in the field of mathematical sciences. 'The development of joint research projects and academic exchanges for delivering lectures on the latest advances in probability theory, mathematical statistics and data analysis appear to hold great promise'[132] . In addition, cooperation in the joint training of master's and doctoral students will be expanded. To this end, this issue will be analysed in detail in the near future to identify the specialisms and academic fields in which cooperation is planned.

Another of BSU's partners in China is Beijing Foreign Studies University – one of the country's leading universities in the training of linguists. Building on the agreements in place since 2017, BSU signed a student exchange agreement in March 2023 with the aim of promoting academic mobility for undergraduates and postgraduates studying Chinese, Belarusian and Russian. The parties will also develop joint innovative teaching methods.

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Following meetings held in March 2023, the Chinese University of Political Science and Law became a new partner of BSU. The universities signed a memorandum of understanding, which will enable cooperation in the field of law across a wide range of areas. "This includes student exchanges, the launch of joint educational programmes, the implementation of joint research and educational projects, the exchange of information, teaching materials and research reports, the organisation of conferences, seminars, workshops and courses, and the preparation of joint publications"[133] .

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[132] BSU takes cooperation with Peking University to a new level [Electronic resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/bgu-vyhodit-na-novyj-uroven-sotrudnichestva-s-pekinskim-universitetom-557082-2023/

[133] Student exchanges, joint programmes: BSU and leading Chinese universities have identified new areas of cooperation [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/obmen-studentami-sovmestnye-programmy-bgu-i-veduschie-vuzy-kitaja-opredelili-novye-vektory-557224-2023/

Among the active Belarusian higher education institutions developing cooperation with Chinese partners is **Brest State Technical University** (BrSTU). In January 2023, BrSTU signed a cooperation agreement in the fields of education, science and culture with the Guangdong Construction Vocational and Technical Institute, with a view to combining the efforts of the two educational institutions to jointly train qualified specialists in the interests of both countries' economies. The parties plan to establish a joint educational programme to train Chinese students. The plan is to recruit study groups where students will spend the first two years studying in China and then in Belarus. The Chinese side showed particular interest in the 'architecture' specialism. 'These joint educational programmes are very popular because they allow students to obtain two diplomas in a single course of study'[134] .

It should be noted that the Guangdong Construction Vocational and Technical Institute is the largest and only state-run higher vocational education institution that trains builders and architects, and is located in the industrial centre of southern China. It has 22,000 students. With the support of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China, a production-education integration centre has been established at the institute, where students study various innovative and traditional construction technologies, design methods, water supply systems, BIM technologies and property management. As for Brest State Technical University, more than 200 Chinese nationals are currently studying in Brest. The most popular courses among them are in the fields of economics, construction and mechanical engineering.

Finally, another set of documents, signed in early March 2023 in Beijing, concerned cooperation in **the media sector**. These included **a**

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[134] Brest University and Guangdong Institute to jointly train architects and construction engineers [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/brestskij-universitet-i-guandunskij-institut-budut-sovmestno-gotovit-arhitektorov-i-stroitelej-543128-2023/

cooperation agreement between the Belarusian and Chinese news agencies – BELTA and Xinhua. In this regard, it is worth noting that the first cooperation agreement between BELTA and Xinhua was signed back in January 1993, and was subsequently renewed in June 2018. The new document – now the third – "envisages the exchange of text news, photos and videos, as well as mutual support and promotion on the internet and social media"[135] . The agencies have agreed to exchange expertise and provide training for journalists, editors and technical staff to improve their professional skills.

All these initiatives and projects, adopted this spring in the relevant documents, indicate that cooperation between Belarus and China is generally strengthening across the board, but there remains significant untapped potential, which will be realised in the new era – an exemplary relationship of an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership between the two states.

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[135] BELTA and Xinhua have signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation and boost the exchange of news [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/societv/view/belta-i-sinhua-podpisali-soglashenie-ob-ukreplenii-sotrudnichestva-i-aktivizatsii-obmena-novostjami-553192-2023/

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Building on new ideas

In July 2023, the fifth meeting of the Belarus–China Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation (IGC) took place, during which a new model of strategic partnership between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China was established, creating unique opportunities and mechanisms for deepening practical cooperation across the full spectrum of areas. The participants in the meeting agreed that 'our common goal should be to achieve a new growth target for trade turnover of at least 120 per cent compared with last year [2022]'[136] . To be more specific about the most important areas of Belarusian-Chinese economic cooperation, four key issues should be highlighted in this regard.

Firstly, the expansion and diversification of trade, the systematic accreditation of Belarusian food producers, and the launch of procurement channels for essential goods via Chinese operators. Secondly, increasing rail container transport to deliver Belarusian goods to China and Chinese equipment to Belarus, ensuring the operation of green rail corridors, and organising subsidised return trains from Belarus to major logistics centres in China and back. Thirdly, 'deepening investment cooperation, joint industrial development, and technological cooperation in licensed automotive manufacturing, the assembly of electric vehicles, machine tool manufacturing, the joint production of medical equipment, and the development of bio- and digital technologies'[137] . Fourthly, the financing of strategic investment projects under China's preferential credit lines, their effective implementation, and the expansion of credit, financial, technical and economic cooperation, including the procurement of necessary

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[136] Snopkov: A new model of strategic partnership between Belarus and China has been established [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-sformirovana-novaja-model-strategicheskogo-partnerstva-belarusi-i-kitaja-576417-2023/

[137] Chervyakov highlighted key areas of cooperation for strengthening relations between Belarus and China [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/chervjakov-vydelil-vazhnye-napravlenija-sotrudnichestva-dlja-ukreplenija-otnoshenij-belarusi-i-kitaja-576438-2023/

equipment. It should be noted that 'by the end of 2022, trade in goods between the two countries [Belarus and China] reached a record volume of $5.8 billion. The first five months of this year saw a 1.5-fold increase in trade turnover. Exports of Belarusian goods to China are growing at a record pace: by 1.8 times in 2022 and by 1.6 times in the first five months of 2023"[138] .

During the fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission, the parties agreed to focus their efforts on implementing major projects in the field of development and cooperation, including the provision of grant aid from the Chinese government. In this context, it should be emphasised that 15 major socially oriented projects, totalling more than one and a half billion Chinese yuan, have already been implemented in Belarus. "Around a dozen new strategic projects are currently underway, including infrastructure development for the 'Great Stone' industrial park and the supply of necessary technological equipment, with total funding exceeding 900 million Chinese yuan"[139] . The parties also plan to accelerate the implementation of these projects, including two world-class sports facilities – a stadium and a swimming pool – by September 2024.

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As for other industrial cooperation projects, in July 2023 the Belarusian Ministry of Industry and the Chinese corporation China National Machinery Industry Corporation (Sinomach) signed an action plan to develop cooperation "in priority areas of collaboration in the production of agricultural and municipal machinery, machine tool manufacturing, as well as the implementation of investment projects at Belarusian

[138] Snopkov: Belarus and China are setting an exemplary example of cooperation for the whole world [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/snopkov-belarus-i-kitaj-demonstrirujut-vsemu-miru-obraztsovyj-primer-sotrudnichestva-576412-2023/

[139] Belarus and China have agreed to implement major projects in the field of development and cooperation [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-dogovorilis-o-realizatsii-krupnyh-proektov-v-oblasti-razvitija-i-sotrudnichestva-576096-2023/

enterprises'[140] and even discussed the development of specific models of agricultural machinery, opportunities for organising the production of various types of equipment, the participation of Sinomach's subsidiaries in the modernisation of Belarusian industrial enterprises, and the supply of components to Belarusian manufacturers of agricultural machinery.

In the same month of July 2023, the Chinese company Baimen and OJSC "Slutsk Cheese Factory" signed a strategic commercial agreement to establish a joint venture for the production of dairy products as early as this year in Shenyang, the administrative centre of Liaoning Province. It should be noted that this Chinese company is a major exporter of "Belarusian dairy products (in 2022, products worth approximately $50 million were exported). It is implementing a project to process colostrum and produce whey protein at the 'Velikiy Kamen' industrial park site"[141] . By establishing a joint venture in Shenyang, Baimen and the Slutsk Cheese Factory intend to scale up the project in the future, systematically expanding the range of dairy products manufactured for the Chinese market.

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And here is another interesting fact. In the same month of July 2023, OJSC "Management Company of the 'Bobruiskagromash' Holding" held talks with YTO Group Corporation – a Chinese manufacturer of agricultural and construction machinery, part of the Sinomach integrated engineering conglomerate – "regarding the organisation of joint production of self-propelled mowers and municipal machinery; issues relating to the supply of components for 'Bobruiskagromash' machinery from the PRC

[140] Belarus' Ministry of Industry and the Chinese company Sinomach have signed an action plan to develop cooperation [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minprom-belarusi-i-kitajskaja-kompanija-sinomach-podpisali-plan-meroprijatij-po-razvitiju-576228-2023/

[141] A Belarusian-Chinese dairy production enterprise is to be established in the PRC this year [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belorussko-kitajskoe-predprijatie-po-proizvodstvu-molochnoj-produktsii-sozdadut-v-knr-v-etom-godu-576098-2023/

were also discussed"[142] . The parties will prepare the necessary documentation for this project in the near future.

A separate point ***to mention*** *in this context is the* ***Sino-Belarusian "Great Stone" Industrial Park****. It is worth recalling that 2023 marks the tenth anniversary of the announcement by Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China (PRC), of the 'Belt and Road' initiative, which heralded a new era in economic relations between nations and brought together more than a hundred countries across the globe. The Republic of Belarus was among the first participants in this mega-project, where the "Velikiy Kamen" industrial park is being actively developed; it serves as a key hub for this initiative and already brings together over a hundred residents from 15 countries. Suffice it to say that "the volume of actual investment in the park has already exceeded $830 million, whilst the volume of declared investment stands at $1.34 billion"[143] . In the first quarter of 2023 alone, 11 new companies have already been registered here with investment projects in the fields of logistics, e-commerce, medicine, biotechnology, instrument engineering, and research and development. To be more precise, 'the number of residents at the "Velikiy Kamen" industrial park has now reached 108 <...>. Production volume [for the first three months of 2023] has increased by a factor of 1.3, revenue from the sale of goods by a factor of 1.8, exports of goods by a factor of 1.2, net foreign direct investment by a factor of 2, and tax payments by a factor of 3.5"[144] .*

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[142] "Bobruiskagromash" and the Chinese company YTO Group Corporation discussed prospects for cooperation [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/bobruiskagromash-i-kitajskaja-kompanija-yto-group-corporation-obsudili-perspektivy-sotrudnichestva-575895-2023/

[143] The declared investments by residents of the 'Great Stone' zone are estimated at over $1.3 billion [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/zajavlennye-investitsii-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-otsenivajutsja-bolee-chem-v-13-mlrd-568784-2023/

[144] Ministry of Economy: 11 new companies registered in 'Great Stone' in the first quarter [Online source]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-za-i-kvartal-v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovano-11-novyh-kompanij-567541-2023/

One of the priority sectors for "Great Stone" today is mechanical engineering. It is worth noting that the cluster of enterprises operating in this sector is the largest in the park and comprises more than 20 projects. In particular, it includes joint Belarusian-Chinese ventures producing internal combustion engines and gearboxes for passenger and freight transport. Some of the Chinese residents manufacture construction machinery based on chassis from the Minsk Automobile Plant, whilst a Belarusian resident produces glass for all types of land transport, which is in high demand in the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Another key area of focus for "Veliky Kamen" is high-tech and competitive manufacturing – companies engaged in research and development. There are now more than 25 such companies registered in the park.

Speaking of new residents, it is worth noting that in March 2023, another company – ***IRBI LLC*** *– was registered at the "Velikiy Kamen" industrial park; its investment project is of an innovative, import-substituting nature. "The park's resident will manufacture all-in-one PCs, mini-computers for offices and industrial computers, as well as components for computer equipment. In addition to manufacturing, the company will implement its own application software suites"*[145] *. These products will be intended for the domestic market in Belarus, as well as for export to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union.*

In April 2023, another resident was registered in the industrial park – ***SinobelMedica LLC****, initiated by the Chinese company Shanghai Electric Medical Group, which forms part of Shanghai Electric Group Company Limited, the largest manufacturer of energy and industrial equipment. The new resident "will implement a project to establish a modern, high-tech X-ray tube production facility within the industrial park. The sale of these*

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[145] A new resident of 'Veliky Kamen' will manufacture computers and components [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-kompjjutery-i-komplektujuschie-558151-2023/

products on the Belarusian market will contribute to import substitution"[146] .

In May 2023, during talks between the park's management and a delegation from Gansu Province, discussions centred on the development of traditional Chinese medicine in Belarus, and 'the possibility of establishing a centre for traditional Chinese medicine and developing pharmaceutical production facilities within the park' was also discussed[147] *. In June 2023, a cooperation agreement was reached between the Belarusian Ministry of Health and the Chinese pharmaceutical company 'Jifei' to explore 'the establishment of a biotechnology cluster within the "Great Stone" industrial park for the production of medicines, vaccines, insulin, CAR-T technologies <...>. Work is underway to assess the prospects for localising Jifei's range of medicines"*[148] .

And in that same June 2023, the Belarusian and Chinese sides stated that they would continue to attract investors with major projects to the 'Great Stone' industrial park, with particular attention being paid to the development of traditional Chinese medicine within the park. Furthermore, 'the ministries of economy of both countries and the largest shareholder companies of the Industrial Park Development Company agreed to continue working actively to attract anchor investors with major projects to "Great Stone", to set up new, in-demand production facilities, particularly in the fields of mechanical engineering and automotive components, medical equipment, and to increase the localisation of existing production

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[146] New 'Great Stone' tenant plans to manufacture X-ray tubes [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-planiruet-proizvodstvo-rentgenovskih-trubok-560903-2023/

[147] A delegation from the Chinese province of Gansu will explore the possibility of developing pharmaceutical production in "Great Stone" [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/delegatsija-kitajskoj-provintsii-gansu-izuchit-vozmozhnost-razvitija-farmproizvodstv-v-velikom-kamne-567520-2023/

[148] The Ministry of Health and the Chinese pharmaceutical company 'Jifei' intend to sign a cooperation agreement [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/minzdrav-i-kitajskaja-farmkompanija-dzhifei-namereny-podpisat-soglashenie-o-sotrudnichestve-569796-2023/

facilities operated by park residents"[149] *. The parties will, on a systematic basis , pragmatically improve the investment environment, consistently eliminate emerging development risks and raise the park to a new level of development, strengthening its position as a key Belarusian-Chinese project and an international industrial cluster targeting the Eurasian Economic Union market.*

At the aforementioned fifth meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation, which took place in July 2023, the parties discussed, amongst other things, the dynamics of mutual contacts in the field of education, with a view to strengthening direct inter-university links and implementing a number of large-scale joint educational and scientific projects. Among the promising areas for cooperation, the meeting participants highlighted the following: staff training and the expansion of joint educational programmes in innovative specialisms by leading universities in Belarus and China; cooperation on the creation of digital platforms providing the public with access to educational resources; joint efforts to develop norms and standards for the digitalisation of education; exploring the possibility of establishing an association of higher education institutions from both countries.

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It should be noted that, to date, more than 560 direct cooperation agreements have been signed between educational institutions in Belarus and China, accounting for around 10 per cent of the total number of active inter-university agreements held by Belarusian higher education institutions. 'Nine joint educational and research bodies (three laboratories, four centres and two institutes) are also operating within educational institutions of the two countries, and 40 joint educational programmes are being implemented, 10 of which have been developed over the last two

[149] Belarus and China will continue to attract anchor investors with major projects to the "Great Stone" [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/belarus-i-kitaj-prodolzhat-privlekat-v-velikij-kamen-jakornyh-investorov-s-krupnymi-proektami-569986-2023/

years, with six of them having commenced in the 2022/2023 academic year. The possibility of implementing a further 20 joint educational programmes and organising joint training for highly qualified scientific personnel is currently being explored'[150] . This autumn, the education authorities of the two countries plan to approve a plan for the development of academic and scientific exchanges for 2023–2025, under which new concrete steps will be taken to foster constructive cooperation between Belarusian higher education institutions and their Chinese partners.

The Belarusian State Technological University (BSTU) is one of the active participants in this collaboration. Back in April 2023, the Belarusian university discussed promising areas of partnership with members of the Guangdong Union for Scientific and Technical Cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States. In particular, BSTU signed an agreement on cooperation and the establishment of a joint laboratory for applied technologies with the Guangdong Vocational and Technical College of Light Industry. "The parties agreed to organise academic exchanges and summer schools, and discussed prospects for collaboration in the fields of polymers, functional coatings, paper production technology and other areas"[151] . Documents were also signed on the implementation of joint educational programmes with the Guangdong Nanhua Vocational College of Industry and Trade and the Guangdong Vocational and Technical College of Communications. Furthermore, a bilateral agreement on scientific and technical cooperation was concluded with the Ningbo International Science and Innovation Centre ( ) to jointly develop modern

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[150] Bahanovich: Education fosters intellectual, cultural and linguistic rapprochement between Belarus and China [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/bahanovich-obrazovanie-obespechivaet-intellektualnoe-kulturnoe-i-jazykovoe-sblizhenie-belarusi-i-kitaja-576391-2023/

[151] The educational and scientific potential of the Belarusian State Technological University was presented in the Chinese province of Guangdong [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/obrazovatelnyi-i-nauchnyi-potentsial-bgtu-prezentovan-v-kitajskoj-provintsii-guandun-563887-2023/

polymer composite materials, elastomers and plastics, as well as additive technologies.

In May 2023, BSTU signed a cooperation agreement with the Kunshan Institute of Industrial Technology to establish joint Belarusian-Chinese technology transfer centres in the fields of high technology and 3D modelling. The agreement stipulates that "each year, the Belarusian side will select at least 10 projects to be funded by the PRC in order to develop cooperation in the field of high technology"[152] . In addition, the parties have agreed to establish a joint "Kunshan-Minsk" university based at the Belarusian State Technological University so that students can study part of the time in China and part in Belarus, ultimately receiving two degrees. And here is another interesting idea: in collaboration with Chinese companies, a biomedical centre will be set up at the Minsk City Technopark, where testing technologies and medicines aimed at treating diseases in humans and various animals will be developed. In short, the agro-industrial sector linked to vaccines will be developed.

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Another Belarusian university that is continuing its close cooperation with Chinese partners in 2023 is the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (BSUIR). In July this year, in Minsk, in collaboration with the North China Research Institute of Electromagnetic Protection, BSUIR opened the Belarusian-Chinese research laboratory for external electromagnetic effects. One of the key objectives of the new laboratory is to develop a finished product of practical interest and in demand on the global technology market, 'to conduct fundamental and applied research, implement its results, to facilitate training and professional development, as well as the organisation of work placements

[152] Investments, the establishment of a joint university and a biomedical centre. A delegation from Kunshan visited BGTU [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/investitsii-sozdanie-sovmestnogo-universiteta-i-tsentra-biomeditsiny-delegatsija-kunshanja-posetila-569539-2023/

for engineering staff and researchers at BSUIR and the partner institute'[153] , and to strengthen international cooperation between scientists and specialists for joint research within the framework of China's 'Belt and Road' initiative.

As for Chinese higher education institutions, Liaoning University has shown a keen interest in cooperating with Belarusian partners; in July 2023, it became a partner of Brest State University named after A.S. Pushkin, as well as Brest State Technical University (BrSTU). In particular, the agreement between BrSTU and Liaoning University "provides for academic exchanges, joint educational programmes, the implementation of research projects and socio-cultural interaction. "We plan to give substance to the agreement through concrete initiatives and, in the long term, to draw up a roadmap"[154] . For example, we plan to train Chinese students in the specialism 'Smart Transport' at the Faculties of Mechanical Engineering and Information Technology.

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Returning to the fifth meeting of the Belarusian-Chinese Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation, it is worth noting that the participants in this discussion proposed taking scientific and technical cooperation to a new level and explored the possibilities of establishing joint high-tech production facilities in a number of areas. 'Such areas <…> could include robotics, electric transport, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, and laser technology'[155] . By establishing a complete innovation cycle – from concept to the production of high-tech products – the parties will expand promising areas of partnership, building on the

[153] Belarusian-Chinese research laboratory opens at BSUIR [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/society/view/belorussko-kitajskaja-nauchno-issledovatelskaja-laboratorija-otkrylas-v-bguir-576810-2023/

[154] Brest universities have signed cooperation agreements with Liaoning University [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/regions/view/vuzy-bresta-podpisali-soglashenija-o-sotrudnichestve-s-ljaoninskim-universitetom-576902-2023/

[155] Shlychkov: implementing joint projects with China will pave the way for the creation of new high-tech manufacturing facilities [Online resource]. – 2023. – URL: https://www.belta.by/economics/view/shlychkov-realizatsija-sovmestnyh-proektov-s-kitaem-pozvolit-vyjti-na-sozdanie-novyh-576315-2023/

educational foundation of new ideas that fosters intellectual convergence between Belarus and China. Furthermore, all these facts indicate that the new model of strategic partnership between the two countries – encompassing trade and economic, scientific and technical, and educational cooperation – which was established during the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Cooperation, is beginning to take on concrete, innovative form for the benefit of both nations.

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An initiative that looks confidently looks to the future

In 2024, the China–Belarus Industrial Park "Great Stone" saw growth in all key performance indicators of its tenants, including a rise of almost 14 per cent in goods exports, a 1.2-fold increase in production volumes, and a rise of more than seven per cent in fixed capital investment. By the second half of February 2025, the park was home to "144 resident companies with declared investments totalling $1.5 billion and plans to create over 15,500 jobs. More than 50 organisations have commenced operations and are beginning to reach full capacity"[156] . Last year, around thirty new companies with capital from Belarus, China, Israel, Russia and Germany were granted resident status; they are implementing projects in the fields of integrated logistics, research and development, instrument engineering, medicine, biotechnology, and big data storage and processing. Let's take a look at some of them.

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As early as January last year, several residents were registered at the park. Firstly, **the** Chinese **company 'Bel-Jinghe Medical Technologies' LLC**, which 'will implement a project to manufacture biomedical materials and conduct scientific research'[157] . Secondly, **the** Belarusian **limited liability company 'Servercom'**, which will carry out the design, manufacture and installation of server equipment and data storage systems. Thirdly, **the** Belarusian **limited liability company 'Eurasian Biotechnology Company'**, which intends to produce enzyme preparations and other active substances of microbiological origin. Planned export markets include the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, "as well as countries in North Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. In the long

[156] 30 new residents were registered at 'Velikiy Kamen' in 2024 [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-v-2024-godu-zaregistrirovali-30-novyh-rezidentov-697242-2025/

[157] New 'Great Stone' resident to manufacture medical products [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-meditsinskuju-produktsiju-610123-2024/

term, the company plans to significantly expand its product range through research and development carried out by its own research centre"[158] .

In February 2024, two new residents and an innovation entity were registered at "Velikiy Kamen". Firstly, **the** Belarusian **limited liability company "LeanGroupAlutub"** will set up a production facility to manufacture aluminium tubes for the pharmaceutical, cosmetics and other sectors, thereby replacing imports. Secondly, **the** Chinese **company "BatteryFly Engineering" LLC**, which "plans to develop highly efficient equipment and control systems for charging stations, including a suite of software"[159] . Thirdly, the innovation-focused company **Dilatech LLC** from Belarus intends to create programmable lighting installations and manage such projects.

Last spring, five more new residents from Belarus were registered at the industrial park. Firstly, there is **"Digna-NTR" LLC**. This company will manufacture metal-ceramic casings for integrated circuits, which "ensure the safety and ease of their installation. The products are intended for the domestic market and will also be exported to EAEU countries"[160] . Secondly, there is **LLC "Gerknon Plant"**, which "plans to implement a project for the production of automotive electrical and electronic systems"[161] . These products will be in demand by the country's leading engineering firms – the Minsk and Belarusian Automobile Plants, and the Minsk Tractor Plant. Thirdly, there is **Investment Financing CJSC**, which is establishing 'a modern production facility for the manufacture of

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[158] New 'Great Stone' tenant to implement a biotechnology project [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-realizovyvat-proekt-v-sfere-biotehnologij-610997-2024/

[159] 'Great Stone' has registered two new residents and an innovation entity [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/velikij-kamen-zaregistriroval-dvuh-novyh-rezidentov-i-subjekt-innovatsionnoj-dejatelnosti-613444-2024/

[160] A new resident of "Velikiy Kamen" will implement a project in the field of electronics [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-realizovyvat-proekt-v-sfere-elektroniki-619654-2024/

[161] Since it began operations, 'Great Stone' has paid over $120 million in taxes to the state budget [Online source]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-s-nachala-dejatelnosti-uplatil-v-bjudzhet-bolee-120-mln-nalogov-619525-2024/

composite materials for high-tech industrial sectors, in particular the aircraft industry'[162] , intended both for the Belarusian market and for supply to countries of the Eurasian Economic Union. Fourthly, there is **'VostokTechno Group' LLC**. 'The company is organising the production of video-endoscopic systems at the industrial park. It plans to manufacture variants such as video gastroscopes, video colonoscopes and video bronchoscopes'[163] , which are designed to replace imports. Fifthly, there is a new innovation-focused entity – **Gvadis Group LLC** – which will carry out an innovative project to develop, design and manufacture metal heat treatment equipment for industrial systems.

The summer of 2024 saw an influx of new residents to the industrial park. In particular, **'Micrologistic' Ltd** intends to build a 13,000-square-metre warehouse complex based on modern technological and design solutions. Advanced technologies will be implemented, which 'will improve the efficiency of warehouse operations. In addition, the company will provide a range of logistics services'[164] . **The company 'Transport Aviation Logistics'** will also establish a modern transport and logistics centre in 'Veliky Kamen' with a total area of 10,000 square metres for handling cargo at Minsk National Airport. A new resident of the park, **Doctor Med LLC**, which specialises in the manufacture of medical products, will set up a centre to supply medical facilities of various specialisms. "The production process will utilise 3D modelling technologies incorporating the company's own technological

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[162] A new resident of 'Great Stone' will manufacture products from composite materials [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://industrialpark.by/novosti/2024/novyj-rezident-parka-budet-vypuskat-produkciyu-iz-kompozitnyh-materialove/

[163] A new tenant and innovation entity have joined 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/society/view/novye-rezident-i-subjekt-innovatsionnoj-dejatelnosti-pojavilis-v-velikom-kamne-637930-2024/

[164] A new resident of 'Veliky Kamen' is implementing a project in the field of integrated logistics [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-realizuet-proekt-v-sfere-kompleksnoj-logistiki-641593-2024/

developments, as well as environmentally friendly materials"[165] . Meanwhile, the industrial park's roster of innovative enterprises has been expanded by **'Plag Carbon' LLC**, which "has been accepted into the innovation centre's incubation programme with a project related to biotechnology and developments in the field of artificial intelligence for the implementation of climate-related projects"[166] . Finally, in August, a heating equipment manufacturing plant opened in 'Veliky Kamen'. 'The investment project was implemented by a park resident with Chinese capital – **SAS Industrial LLC**. The total area of the facility is 12,200 square metres'[167] . In addition, **the** Chinese **company Bel Yanlin Technology LLC** will carry out a project to establish a centre for integrated automation solutions for industrial robotics and smart equipment. "In the future, based on the results of this development work, there are plans to produce heavy-duty and explosion-proof industrial robots"[168] .

In early autumn last year, 'Velikiy Kamen' registered three more residents from Belarus. **Strategic Technologies LLC,** based at the innovation centre for the commercialisation of scientific and technical achievements within the industrial park, "will implement a project to manufacture multispectral electro-optical night-vision equipment for all

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[165] New 'Great Stone' tenant to manufacture copper-based products [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-zajmetsja-vypuskom-produktsii-mednaznachenija-646420-2024/

[166] A new resident and innovation entity have joined 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-rezident-i-subjekt-innovatsionnoj-dejatelnosti-pojavilis-v-velikom-kamne-646714-2024/

[167] A heating equipment manufacturing plant has opened in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-otkryli-zavod-po-proizvodstvu-otopitelnogo-oborudovanija-656417-2024/

[168] A new tenant at 'Veliky Kamen' will establish a centre for integrated solutions in industrial robotics [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-tsentr-integrirovannyh-reshenij-dlja-promyshlennoj-robototehniki-657837-2024/

types of vehicles"[169] . Another **company**, **"Heprotrade" LLC** – a manufacturer of thermal paper in Belarus – has launched an import-substitution production facility. Production capacity will be around 600 tonnes of thermal paper per month. The product can be used to manufacture thermal tape for cash registers, terminals and ATMs, as well as for the production of thermal labels. "The products will be supplied both to the domestic market and abroad – primarily to EAEU countries"[170] , as the company manufactures its products using the latest automated equipment based on its own technological developments, and also carries out laboratory quality control, ensuring that the products meet the highest international standards. The third tenant of the park, registered in September 2024, is **GammaComponent LLC**, which will establish a modern production complex for the manufacture of automotive components made from composite materials, including parts for specialised civilian vehicles. "The second area of focus is the manufacture of metal products and structures for lorries. The products are intended for the domestic market and will also be exported"[171] . The project involves the implementation of innovative solutions, such as 3D printing for prototyping and small-batch production of complex parts, which will reduce production lead times and improve product quality.

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It should be noted that over the first three quarters of last year, the industrial park's tenants demonstrated positive trends in key financial and economic indicators. 'Based on the results for the first nine months of 2024, investment in fixed assets increased by 1.5 times, revenue from

[169] New resident at 'Veliky Kamen' to manufacture night-vision equipment [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/society/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-oborudovanie-nochnogo-videnija-660454-2024/

[170] A new import-substituting production facility has opened in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/society/view/v-velikom-kamne-otkryto-novoe-importozameschajuschee-proizvodstvo-664698-2024/

[171] New 'Veliky Kamen' tenant is implementing an investment project in the engineering sector [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-realizuet-investitsionnyj-proekt-v-sfere-mashinostroenija-664958-2024/

product sales by 1.4 times, production volumes by 1.3 times, net foreign direct investment by 1.2 times, and exports of goods and employees' wages by 1.1 times. A record 19-fold increase in enterprises' net profit was recorded"[172] . By that time, more than 50 residents had already commenced business operations within the "Great Stone" territory. During this period, 21 new enterprises with capital from Belarus, China, Israel and Russia were established in the park. New investors are implementing projects in the fields of integrated logistics, instrument engineering, medicine, biotechnology, and big data storage and processing.

In the fourth quarter of 2024, around ten more residents were registered at "Veliky Kamen". Four were registered in November. **The company "People and Numbers"** is working on a project to set up innovative production of dental scanners and medical furniture. 'The start-up project being implemented by the new innovation entity, **Deviar AI Ltd**, involves the development and implementation of agents (online assistants utilising artificial intelligence and neural networks) to optimise the organisation's business processes'[173] . The idea behind the new start-up project **by the company "Vitaem"** is to create an interactive booking and management system for guests and owners of tourist accommodation using artificial intelligence. Meanwhile, **"KhorthSystems" LLC** plans to organise the production of modular heating and cooling units and direct-flow air treatment equipment at the industrial park. "The production process utilises innovative technologies that enable products to be manufactured more quickly and at a lower cost. Areas of application include housing and communal services, industrial and manufacturing

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[172] Ministry of Economy: the performance of 'Great Stone' residents is steadily improving [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/minekonomiki-effektivnost-raboty-rezidentov-velikogo-kamnja-stabilno-rastet-676502-2024/

[173] A new resident and two innovation entities have been registered at 'Great Stone' [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovany-novyj-rezident-i-dva-subjekta-innovatsionnoj-dejatelnosti-677811-2024/

facilities and other sites"[174] . The products will be supplied for export as well as to the domestic market.

In December, seven more new residents joined the park. In particular, **Sanitary Defence CJSC** will implement a project to manufacture active pharmaceutical ingredients, medical products and new-generation disinfectants. **The** project **by "KN-Logistics"** involves the construction of a multi-temperature warehouse with an administrative and amenity complex. **"Innovative Technological Solutions"** will begin manufacturing endoprostheses and orthopaedic devices. 'A new resident of the park**, "Bel Sinhui Scientific and Technical Company for Assistive Devices",** will establish a research and production centre for smart prostheses, whilst **'Eurasian Commercial, Trade, Cultural, Tourism and Wellness Industrial Corporation' Ltd** will open an innovative Eurasian wellness centre specialising in traditional Chinese medicine in 'Great Stone'"[175] . And on the eve of 2025, it was announced that **the company 'CNC Corporation'** would be implementing a project in the field of mechanical engineering within the industrial park – to manufacture 'high-precision metal-cutting machine tools that meet modern standards, incorporating cutting-edge control and automation technologies'. Production will be organised in partnership with a Chinese company specialising in the development and manufacture of intelligent equipment'[176] . **The company 'Biokhim Medtech'** will open a high-tech production facility in 'Veliky Kamen' to manufacture specialised haemodialysis filters and bicarbonate cartridges for dialysis. These medical

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[174] New 'Great Stone' resident to manufacture industrial climate control equipment [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-promyshlennoe-klimaticheskoe-oborudovanie-678919-2024/

[175] Medicine, pharmaceuticals, logistics: five new tenants registered at 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/meditsina-farmatsevtika-logistika-v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovany-piat-novyh-rezidentov-680725-2024/

[176] New residents of 'The Great Stone' are implementing projects in the fields of mechanical engineering and medicine [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-rezidenty-velikogo-kamnja-realizujut-proekty-v-sfere-mashinostroenija-i-meditsiny-686162-2024/

products are widely used in the treatment of chronic and acute kidney diseases.

Already this year, in January, two new residents were registered at the industrial park. Firstly, "the investment project of the company **'StanOk CNC'** is related to mechanical engineering. The enterprise will manufacture numerically controlled equipment for the manufacturing industry"[177] . The Swiss-owned **company "NITSAET"** will carry out research and development in the energy sector. It will develop high-tech energy storage solutions for use in electric transport, conduct research into graphene production, and work on smart energy management systems.

In March, three more new tenants moved into "Velikiy Kamen". These are **Alsinor LLC,** which will set up a high-tech production facility for industrial aluminium cooling radiators based on plate-and-bar technology. This innovative technology "consists of a multi-layered system of alternating plates, which ensures high heat transfer efficiency, compactness and mechanical strength of the product"[178] . The company's products will be intended for use in the construction, agriculture, energy and oil and gas sectors and will be supplied primarily to the markets of the Eurasian Economic Union, as well as to the domestic market. This is **MotEra LLC**, which will implement an investment project in the field of mechanical engineering and "will manufacture quad bikes based on modern solutions. The range comprises six models for different age groups. They are distinguished from similar products by their higher engine power and

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[177] Mechanical engineering and developments in the energy sector. What the new residents of 'Great Stone' will be doing [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/mashinostroenie-i-razrabotki-v-energetike-chto-budut-delat-novye-rezidenty-velikogo-kamnja-692642-2025/

[178] New resident of 'Great Stone' to set up high-tech aluminium radiator production [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/amp/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-vysokotehnologichnoe-proizvodstvo-aljuminievyh-radiatorov-703870-2025/

greater load-carrying capacity"[179] . The products will be supplied mainly for export, as well as to the domestic market in Belarus. This is the first resident with Turkish capital – **BelTurMed LLC** – which will establish a modern production facility for medical consumables. "The products will be manufactured using cutting-edge technologies and automated quality control processes. Modern polymer materials complying with international standards will be used in production"[180] . This investment project is designed to replace imports, as these products will be intended for the Belarusian market and other post-Soviet countries.

Meanwhile, in April, a new resident was registered at the park – **the** Belarusian **company Ingribel LLC**, which will produce complex food supplements and "introduce processing technology that is innovative for the EAEU for the production of natural ingredients that improve the texture and consistency of food products. Pilot production facilities will enable the development and testing of new formulations, whilst automated control systems will boost production efficiency'[181] . The new enterprise will utilise renewable energy sources in its operations. The new resident's products will be intended for the Belarusian market as well as for export.

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Overall, as of early April 2025, there were already around 150 tenants operating in the industrial park, which can be grouped into four clusters. The engineering cluster comprises around 30 manufacturers producing, amongst other things, mobile cranes, excavators, loaders, gearboxes, diesel engines and machine tools, with a growing focus on the production of automotive components for the light vehicle sector. The

[179] New 'Veliky Kamen' tenant is implementing a project in the mechanical engineering sector [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-realizuet-proekt-v-sfere-mashinostroenija-704576-2025/

[180] First resident with Turkish capital registered in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/pervyj-rezident-s-turetskim-kapitalom-zaregistrirovan-v-velikom-kamne-704373-2025/

[181] New 'Great Stone' resident to introduce innovative technologies for the production of food supplements [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-vnedrit-innovatsionnye-tehnologii-proizvodstva-pischevyh-dobavok-707627-2025/

electronics cluster comprises manufacturers of server and computer equipment, as well as monitors, all-in-one PCs and plastic products. The logistics cluster is home to 'the distribution centre of a major marketplace, which will be the largest in Belarus. The second-largest facility is a 53,000 square metre warehouse complex belonging to the China Merchants Group, as well as a customs bonded warehouse, two hotels and an exhibition centre'[182] .

The medical cluster deserves special mention, as it already comprises more than twenty manufacturers of medical devices, equipment and medicines. The Belarusian side is keen for Chinese businesses to participate in the development of this cluster, as "Belarus is the only country in the region where the conditions for the development of traditional Chinese medicine are enshrined in law"[183] . And today, every effort is being made to deepen Belarusian-Chinese cooperation on joint technological development, the active establishment of production facilities in medicine, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, and participation in the modernisation of Belarusian enterprises using innovations in the healthcare sector, with the aim of doubling the number of residents in this cluster in the near future and injecting new energy into joint initiatives. To be more specific, the medical cluster is already 'producing breathing circuits and catheters, and one of the tenants has built a factory to manufacture medical devices and equipment for operating theatres. Furthermore, a Belarusian-Russian company has launched its own production of test systems for

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[182] Koroteev, K. From the forest to a mini-town. What achievements has 'Velikiy Kamen' made as it marks its 10th anniversary? / K. Koroteev // [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/interview/view/iz-lesa-v-mini-gorod-s-kakimi-dostizhenijami-velikij-kamen-vstrechaet-10-letie-9581/

[183] Belarus is keen to see Chinese businesses participate in the development of the medical cluster in 'Great Stone' [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/belarus-zainteresovana-v-uchastii-kitajskogo-biznesa-v-razvitii-medklastera-v-velikom-kamne_i_177698.html

analysing and identifying blood glucose levels'[184] . And in September 2024, an exhibition of Chinese medical equipment was held at the industrial park, which demonstrated new opportunities for localising the production of this equipment in Belarus and establishing joint ventures. All the more so because "the 'Velikiy Kamen' industrial park is a venue where all this can be realised. As a result, the availability of Chinese technologies to the Belarusian healthcare system will increase significantly, and new jobs will be created…'[185] .

Let's summarise. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the 'Velikiy Kamen' Industrial Park. During this time, 85 buildings and structures have been built there, 20 facilities are under construction, and 49 are still at the design stage. Last year, the second phase of development for this area began, with the aim of increasing the number of people employed there from three and a half thousand to eleven thousand by 2030. This indicates that "'Velikiy Kamen', as an international industrial and logistics cluster with a focus on investment, technology, and the development of traditional and innovative Chinese medicine"[186] , which is proving its worth in every sense, is looking confidently to the future to continue developing this Sino-Belarusian project in all areas.

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[184] Manufacturing and service provision: how the medical cluster is developing in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/proizvodstvo-i-okazanie-uslug-kak-v-velikom-kamne-razvivaetsja-meditsinskij-klaster-662559-2024/

[185] You can find out about China's latest achievements in the field of medical technology at an exhibition in 'Great Stone' [Online resource]. – 2024. – URL: https://belta.by/society/view/poznakomitsja-s-poslednimi-dostizhenijami-kitaja-v-sfere-medtehnologij-mozhno-na-vystavke-v-velikom-663544-2024/

[186] Zaleski, B. The Belarusian–Chinese Partnership in a Volatile Global Economy / Boris Zaleski. – LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2024. – pp. 53–54.

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The focus is on the swift implementation of specific projects

The Sino-Belarusian "Great Stone" Industrial Park occupies a central place in relations between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China. It currently has more than 170 residents. "Four core clusters are taking shape here: mechanical engineering, pharmaceuticals and medicine – including traditional Chinese medicine – electronics, and integrated logistics"[187] . Last year, a record number of residents – 34 – joined the park; they plan to implement initiatives in the fields of mechanical engineering, the manufacture of medical devices, research and development, healthcare and e-commerce.

In May 2025 alone, four new participants were registered at "Great Stone". The 149th resident was **the** Belarusian **company OPENI LLC,** with a project to develop an innovative software and hardware platform for car head units, which will provide enhanced capabilities for vehicle control, technical condition monitoring and multimedia interaction. "One of the key components will be the creation of a universal T-BOX telematics module, enabling two-way communication between the vehicle and cloud services and a mobile app"[188] .

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The 150th tenant to be registered at the park was **the** Belarusian **company 'MedStone'**, which "will establish a multidisciplinary medical centre for the diagnosis of malignant tumours and the treatment of cancer using innovative methods and technologies"[189] . In the same month of May,

[187] Over 150 enterprises are implementing projects in the 'Great Stone' industrial park [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/society/view/bolee-150-predprijatij-realizujut-proekty-v-industrialnom-parke-velikij-kamen-733790-2025/

[188] New park resident to develop a software platform for cars [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-parka-razrabotaet-programmnuju-platformu-dlja-avtomobilej-713923-2025/

[189] During the celebrations marking the anniversary of 'The Great Stone', the park's 150th resident was registered [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/vo-vremja-prazdnovanija-jubileja-velikogo-kamnja-v-parke-byl-zaregistrirovan-150-j-rezident-714546-2025/

the park also welcomed its 151st and 152nd residents with capital from Belarus – **Kitgroup Plus LLC** and **EKOTRADE LLC**. In the first case, there are plans to establish an engineering design centre within the park, which will produce production lines for flax processing. In the second case, the plans include "the production of ingredients for the food industry based on biologically active substances and elements"[190] , as well as the establishment of a research centre with a testing laboratory and the development of new product types.

At the end of May, a resident of the 'Velikiy Kamen' industrial park – **BelAgroGen Scientific and Production Centre LLC** – opened a plant for the production of innovative veterinary medicines. This enterprise 'specialises in the production of innovative veterinary medicines for the treatment and prevention of diseases in animals and poultry'[191] . Many of the medicines are the company's own innovative developments and have no equivalents on the market in the Commonwealth of Independent States. The production facility in the industrial park holds a certificate confirming compliance with the Eurasian Economic Union's Good Manufacturing Practice regulations.

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Meanwhile, a Turkish resident company – **BelTurMed LLC** – has acquired a plot of land in the industrial park as private property in order to implement an investment project for the production of medical consumables using innovative technologies and automated quality control systems. The project is aimed at import substitution, and the products will be supplied to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) market. It should be noted that "the signing of the contract for the sale of the plot of land into

[190] New residents of 'Veliky Kamen' will produce flax processing lines and ingredients for the food industry [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-rezidenty-velikogo-kamnja-budut-vypuskat-linii-po-pererabotke-lna-i-ingredienty-dlja-pischeproma-717204-2025/

[191] Plant producing innovative veterinary medicines opens in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/zavod-po-vypusku-innovatsionnyh-preparatov-dlja-veterinarii-otkryt-v-velikom-kamne-718202-2025/

private ownership was made possible by the unique legal regime in force within the industrial park. This is the only area in Belarus where investors can acquire land for private ownership to build their own production facilities"[192] .

In July last year, "Velikiy Kamen" welcomed two new residents. A joint Russian-Chinese venture – **"Silk Road of the Future" LLC** – plans to set up an e-commerce platform here, which will offer consumer goods as well as industrial, agricultural and pharmaceutical products. "The company will also build its own infrastructure for warehousing, storage and the provision of services"[193] . Meanwhile, the Belarusian **company KBMotors LLC** will be implementing a project in the engineering sector relating to personal mobility solutions.

In early August 2025, three more new tenants joined the park. The Belarusian company **'Belosinzh'** intends to set up a full production cycle there for metal structures and pylons for overhead power lines, hull components and fittings for shipbuilding, as well as assemblies and units for mechanical engineering. **"The** joint Belarusian-Russian venture **'Elastotek'** plans to set up production in the industrial park of a wide range of polymer products for the industrial and consumer sectors"[194] . The Chinese-owned resident **'Bel Denair'** will carry out the design and manufacture of compressors and generators for industrial use.

And in the last ten days of this month – three more new tenants. **ABC Investment Ltd** plans to implement an investment project in the field of biotechnology. The company "will establish an export-oriented, high-

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[192] Turkish company acquires plot of land in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/turetskaja-kompanija-priobrela-zemelnyj-uchastok-v-velikom-kamne-717664-2025/

[193] E-commerce platform and mobility solutions. Two new tenants in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/elektronnaja-torgovaja-platforma-i-sredstva-mobilnosti-v-velikom-kamne-dva-novyh-rezidenta-724161-2025/

[194] Three new residents registered at 'Great Stone' [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://www.belarus.by/ru/business/business-news/v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovany-tri-novyx-rezidenta_i_0000195499.html

tech production facility for products of animal and plant origin for the pharmaceutical industry in China and other countries in the Asian region, as well as for traditional Chinese medicine"[195] . The company **"Cosmos Technology Innovation"** plans to establish a high-tech, import-substituting production facility for precision mechanical components using injection moulding. "The products will be intended for sectors such as electronics and telecommunications, medicine and the automotive industry"[196] . Meanwhile, **LLC "Zhao Rui Xian-Bi-Wai"** will implement a project in the field of traditional Chinese medicine based at the Aden Hotel & Business Centre in "Great Stone".

In the same month of August 2025, another significant event took place in the industrial park. **The Qi Huang Academy** opened at the "Expert" Medical Centre of the Centre for Expertise and Testing in Healthcare under the Belarusian Ministry of Health, which will promote professional education in the field of traditional Chinese medicine. This "medical centre will serve as a platform for the exchange of knowledge, the strengthening of professional ties and the implementation of joint projects"[197] .

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Last autumn, a number of new tenants moved into the industrial park. In October – **Bel Lantian Supply Chain Technology LLC**, a Chinese-owned company, which will establish a "multi-functional complex utilising the most advanced technologies in the field of integrated logistics, meeting A+ class standards" on the territory of "Veliky Kamen"[198] . It is

[195] New 'Veliky Kamen' resident plans to implement a biotechnology project [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-planiruet-realizovat-proekt-v-oblasti-biotehnologij-733156-2025/

[196] Two residents have been registered in the park [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://industrialpark.by/novosti/2025/v_parke_zaregistrirovany_dva_rezidenta/

[197] The Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine has opened in 'Veliky Kamen' [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://vdobrushe.by/akademija-tradicionnoj-kitajskoj-mediciny-otkrylas-v-velikom-kamne/

[198] New 'Great Stone' tenant to build a multi-purpose logistics complex [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-sozdast-mnogofunktsionalnyj-kompleks-v-oblasti-logistiki-742935-2025/

planned that the new tenant will provide a wide range of logistics services, including meeting the warehousing needs of Chinese electrical engineering enterprises in Belarus.

In November – **the** Belarusian **company 'Urban Engineering' LLC**, which will be engaged in the full cycle of 'research and development for vehicles, including electric and hydrogen-powered ones, with the implementation of innovative solutions in the fields of energy efficiency, environmental protection, safety and acoustics'[199] . Another new resident joining in November is **Innovative Roofing Systems Centre LLC** from Belarus, which plans to manufacture polyamide products for the construction industry and will become the country's first manufacturer to use this material in the production of drainage systems for flat roofs. 'In the future, the project's initiators, in collaboration with park resident Solidpipe System LLC, will begin developing heating systems using innovative materials such as nanodispersed graphite (to enhance the electrical conductivity of products) and fluorosilane (to increase the hydrophobicity of products)'[200] . In addition, the company intends to develop further areas of activity: the development of new fire-protection solutions, roofing systems not currently available on the market, and the creation of BIM models for use by design and contracting organisations.

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Finally, in December, eight new tenants moved into 'Veliky Kamen'. Firstly, **Lian Shi Technology Bel LLC,** a Chinese-funded company, whose project involves setting up a modern automotive parts manufacturing facility geared towards assembly plants in EAEU countries. "The company intends to ensure competitive supply conditions, including

[199] New 'Great Stone' tenant to implement innovative transport solutions [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-vnedrjat-innovatsionnye-reshenija-dlja-transporta-749611-2025/

[200] A new resident has been registered at 'Great Stone' [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovan-novyj-rezident-751305-2025/

efficient logistics and after-sales support within the park"[201] . Secondly, **the** Belarusian **company "RAZRAMAT" LLC**, , which is organising high-tech production of aviation connectors. A distinctive feature of the project is its high degree of automation and stringent reliability requirements, including protection against all external influences – vibration, impact, corrosive chemical environments, temperature fluctuations and electromagnetic interference.

Thirdly, the Chinese-owned company **"Global Trade Alliance"** is planning to implement two high-tech import-substitution projects. "The first project will involve the production of customised server equipment aimed at domestic car manufacturers, with a view to producing industrial mini-computers for the development of data centres and cloud services"[202] . The second project involves setting up a full-cycle production facility for rim paper, with a view to eventually producing paper for the food and medical industries, which is in demand at a number of domestic enterprises. Fourthly, **the** Chinese **company 'Eurasian Cross-Border Overseas Warehouse Management Company' LLC**, which will establish a smart logistics distribution centre within the park, equipped with a modern warehouse management system and automated sorting facilities.

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Fifthly, **'Bel-RT Scientific and Technical Development Company' LLC**, which plans to carry out promising research and development and organise the production of modern X-ray equipment for heavy industry. Sixthly, **" , an international company for the scientific and technical development of traditional Chinese medicine",** will open a centre in "Great Stone" for the comprehensive prevention and treatment of diabetes

[201] New residents of 'Veliky Kamen' to set up production facilities for car parts and aviation connectors [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novye-rezidenty-velikogo-kamnja-sozdadut-proizvodstva-avtozapchastej-i-aviatsionnyh-razjemov-751796-2025/

[202] Two new residents registered in 'Great Stone' [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-zaregistrirovany-dva-novyh-rezidenta-752737-2025/

using traditional Chinese medicine methods[203] . Seventh, **'Luji Technology Europe' LLC**, which will develop a new generation of electronic braking systems, as well as exhaust gas neutralisation systems.

Eighthly, **the company "Promtekhinovatsii"**, with Belarusian capital, which plans to develop the production of numerically controlled machine tools within the industrial park, including laser cutting machines and machine tool beds, as well as to provide precision machining services for industrial equipment components. "The production process combines cutting-edge technologies in the field of machine tool manufacturing – mineral casting using high-strength concrete, single-set milling of machine beds, and high-speed finishing"[204] . The implementation of this project will help address import substitution objectives and provide Belarusian engineering enterprises with high-precision, automated and high-performance equipment, whilst also fostering the development of start-ups in the engineering sector.

It should be noted that in 2026, the industrial park has no plans to slow down its efforts to attract new residents. For example, in January, **the** Belarusian **company 'ISP Great Stone' LLC** was registered here; it plans to set up production of innovative, high-tech eco-friendly packaging for the food industry. It will be manufactured using advanced materials and modern engineering solutions. The project is being spearheaded by "Effective Packaging Systems" LLC – one of the leading manufacturers of such products in our country. "The project is expected to create 135 jobs. The company plans to supply its products both to the domestic market and

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[203] Three new Chinese-funded enterprises have been registered in 'Great Stone' [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/tri-novyh-rezidenta-s-kitajskim-kapitalom-zaregistrirovany-v-velikom-kamne-754994-2025/

[204] A new tenant at 'Velikiy Kamen' is carrying out a project in the field of mechanical engineering [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-realizuet-proekt-v-oblasti-mashinostroenija-756054-2025/

for export"[205] . Meanwhile, in February, a new tenant – **"Bel Jinxin Hardmetal Tools" LLC**, backed by Chinese investment – plans to "set up high-tech production of industrial cutting tools, as well as hardmetal components for use in mechanical engineering"[206] . The products will be manufactured using innovative technology for the production of gradient materials, which will ensure their exceptional strength and durability. Overall, 'Veliky Kamen' 'plans to attract around one hundred new tenants during this five-year period'[207] .

A few more figures. To date, more than a third of the tenants in the industrial park have commenced the core operations for which they were established. In 2026, 'Veliky Kamen' has set itself the target of 'moving as far as possible into the operational phase and reaching design capacity'[208] , in order to expand its export markets. And as early as February, encouraging results were recorded in this regard. A resident of the industrial park – **Assomedica LLC** – has, for the first time in the history of the Belarusian medical industry, received certification from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and has begun supplying products to the US market. "The company has become the only medical enterprise in the Republic of Belarus to have undergone the FDA certification process. The first shipment of products to the US has already been made. FDA certification confirms that the production processes and the medical devices manufactured comply with strict international requirements in the areas of

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[205] New 'Great Stone' tenant to produce innovative eco-friendly packaging for the food industry [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: https://belta.by/special/economics/view/novyi-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-proizvodit-innovitsonnuju-ekoupakovku-dlja-pischeproma-762016-2026/

[206] New 'Veliky Kamen' tenant to manufacture components for the engineering industry [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyj-rezident-velikogo-kamnja-budet-vypuskat-komplektujuschie-dlja-mashinostroenija-763191-2026/

[207] 'Velikiy Kamen' plans to attract around 100 new tenants by 2030 [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/velikij-kamen-planiruet-privlech-okolo-sta-novyh-rezidentov-do-2030-goda-763650-2026/

[208] New impetus and active digitalisation. Snopkov on the tasks facing the new head of the 'Great Stone' administration [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/novyi-impuls-i-aktivnaja-tsifrovizatsija-snopkov-o-zadachah-novogo-rukovoditelja-administratsii-763633-2026/

safety, quality and traceability"[209] . Achieving this status opens up the opportunity for the company to officially market its products on the US market and significantly expands its supply network, including to Canada, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Africa. This certificate has been granted for 33 groups of disposable medical devices manufactured by the company.

Among the industrial park's other objectives for 2026 are the continuation of infrastructure development and the creation of the engineering and technical conditions necessary for the arrival and growth of its tenants. In particular, the launch of a rail terminal is planned for this year, with the aim of utilising it to handle freight flows from Belarus and China. "Initially, the capacity of the railway terminal in 'Veliky Kamen' will be 180,000 standard containers per year, rising to 500,000."[210] . The project involves the laying of four railway tracks, each 1,050 metres long, the construction of container yards and warehouses, the fitting out of service areas for container repair and washing, and the installation of a modern optical recognition system and digital control of all processes. "The implementation of the project will be an important step towards strengthening the park's transport and logistics capacity and its integration into international freight chains"[211] .

At the same time, construction has begun at 'Veliky Kamen' on the first phase of the central section of the industrial park's engineering and transport infrastructure. As part of the project, work is continuing on the construction of Peking Avenue and the installation of utility networks. All

[209] A 'Great Stone' resident has received Belarus's first FDA certificate for medical devices and has begun supplying them to the US [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/rezident-velikogo-kamnja-poluchil-pervyj-v-belarusi-sertifikat-fda-na-medizdelija-i-pristupil-k-764099-2026/

[210] Not just words, but deeds. 'Veliky Kamen' reported on the utilisation of the railway terminal [Online resource]. – 2026. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/ne-na-slovah-a-na-dele-o-zagruzke-zheleznodorozhnogo-terminala-rasskazali-v-velikom-kamne-763680-2026/

[211] Construction of a container terminal and engineering infrastructure is underway in "Veliky Kamen" [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/v-velikom-kamne-vedetsja-stroitelstvo-kontejnernogo-terminala-i-inzhenernoj-infrastruktury-739388-2025/

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this will provide the container terminal and future tenants in the central part of the park with all the necessary engineering support for the stable operation and development of their production facilities. Furthermore, in October 2025, construction began on a high-speed railway line to Minsk National Airport, with a stop at "Veliky Kamen". This railway will follow the existing route from Minsk-Passenger station via Kolodishchi to Gorodishche station, "after which approximately 18 km of new railway track will be built towards the airport. The total length of the route will be 41.8 km, and the journey time will be less than 30 minutes"[212] . The infrastructure on this section will be built virtually from scratch; for this reason, the project is expected to take several years to complete. The project is due to be completed by 2028–2029, when the first trains will run. Thus, the high-speed rail project will create a modern transport link between the Belarusian capital, the industrial park and Minsk National Airport, contributing to the further development of the park as a key logistics and investment centre in the region.

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And finally, in 2026, strategic decisions are expected regarding the development and capitalisation of 'Veliky Kamen', with the aim of increasing its authorised capital to 250 million dollars. This indicates that this large-scale project continues to develop and is building up its financial strength, which will ultimately benefit the whole of Belarus.

[212] A high-speed railway will link Minsk with the airport and the "Velikiy Kamen" industrial park [Online resource]. – 2025. – URL: https://belta.by/economics/view/skorostnaja-zheleznaja-doroga-svjazhet-minsk-s-aeroportom-i-industrialnym-parkom-velikij-kamen-741303-2025/

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