

13.12.2016 18:04

Sibmetakhim intends to expand the range of products under the modular scheme



The retrofitting of formalin and Urea Formaldehyde Concentrate manufacture at Tomsk enterprise formed the basis of a modular scheme for expanding the range of products and increasing the volume of natural gas deep processing in Tomsk Region.

Official launch of Urea Formaldehyde Concentrate plant, the first plant beyond the Urals, took place in Tomsk on December 5, 2016. Urea Formaldehyde Concentrate is a basis of bonding resins applied in the woodworking industry for plywood, chipboard, hardboard and MDF production. This event became the

first step towards the general reconstruction of LLC *Siberian Methanol Chemical Company* (a part of JSC *Vostokgazprom*).

'The project has a very accurate and proper place in the general development strategy of *Vostokgazprom*. It is designed to process gas in the place of its production on the territory of Tomsk Region. To increase the processing is necessary not only in terms of volume but also in terms of depth and our new production is focused on it', Director General of JSC *Vostokgazprom* Vitaly Kutepov remarked during the official event.

Sibmetakhim implements modular principle of production capacity expansion, which is a great opportunity for ramping up the outputs and expanding the product range, depends on market demands.

'With the new woodworking production coming out, potentially – the production of construction materials (i.e, slag wool, which also needs the formalin-based resins), we will be able to develop this manufacture and ensure the market needs from Tomsk to the Far East', Vitaly Kutepov reported.

He also called *Sibmetakhim* reconstruction a demonstrative example of interdisciplinary, integration of related industries project and investment interconnection.

'We came to the idea of modernization of this production long time ago; we designed and developed this idea. When our future customers, forestry enterprises, started to invest, we decided to join our forces towards modernization ideas', Director General of JSC *Vostokgazprom* Vitaly Kutepov said.

Answering *NIA Tomsk* reporter's question about the potential of new market entries, Vitaly Kutepov responded that *Sibmetakhim* has been already considering all possible technologies with the localization of methanol processing to yield gasoline and olefins with formic acid or acetic acid at Tomsk production site. Any project can be implemented if it is sustainable and cost-efficient one.

The Governor of Tomsk Region Sergey Zhvachkin also identified the commissioning of retrofitted manufacture as a valued step.

'It is great that we are able to meet both market demand and supply. Gas engineers supplied the forestry complex, which is not connected with *Gazprom* directly. On the other hand, if there was no increasing demand in Tomsk Region, then there would be no such an enterprise', Sergey Zhvachkin stated.

The head of the Region thanked enterprise's personnel and *Vostokgazprom*, which implements the innovative technologies both at the oil and gas sector and at Tomsk production sites.

Answering *NIA Tomsk* reporter's question about plans, the Governor remarked, that the range of potential *Sibmetakhim* products derived from methanol is quite wide. Formalin is used in paper industry for improving the paper quality and its durability, in leather industry – for leather tanning, in textile industry – for increasing resistance of products to crease and shrinkage, in agriculture – for seeds and roots treatment, disinfection of livestock buildings, soil and for medicine purposes.

However, Sergey Zhvachkin is confident that the needs of Tomsk woodworking enterprises will remain the focus in the nearest future because only two of ten planned plants launched their production in Asino.

LLC *Sibmetakhim* is a leader among other Russian companies and it takes 30% of the market share. In 2015, the company produced 874,15 thousand tons and sold 872 thousand tons of methanol. Last year Tomsk residents took the leading position on sales of methanol for export though they are in the more complicated transport situation in comparison with Russian competitors from the West part of the country because of the haul distance and high tariffs for railway transportation. In future, *Sibmetakhim* is planning to extend its influence on the East, including countries of Asian-Pacific Region.

'We will try to enter this large and progressive market because we have only one manufacturing plant beyond the Urals and there are less competitors in the eastern part of Russia. We are currently working towards this direction in order to improve our manufacture and priorities', Sergey Zhvachkin reported.

According to the Director General of LLC *Sibmetakhim* Vasily Kurilo, the retrofitting of formalin and UFC manufacture gave the company an opportunity to achieve the new quality level, which will ensure its strong and long presence in the market. Application of modern technologies allowed the company to reduce production costs, increase methanol-processing volume into the value-added products and increase the productivity.

The former formalin and UFC production had been working for almost 30 years. Nevertheless, the technologies are improving now and the progress is inevitable. For example, the old line run for two-three days and stopped for the same period while producing off-spec product. Now it is a smooth-running operation, has an automated control system equipped with emergency shutdown.

Vasily Kurilo emphasized that from the moment when the former production shut down, all the key personnel, including the workers, remained. For the next two years, *Sibmetakhim* employees took part in the complicated process of the receipt of operating part, equipment, of the construction and installation works.

Finally, here is the long-expected result! Now these people are trained well at the new production and they are able to manufacture the world standard product. Special gratitude to the Russian company Safe Technologies IG from St. Petersburg that is both a technology designer and a major equipment manufacturer. The new production works and yields the products, high quality of which is confirmed by our customers', Director General of LLC *Sibmetakhim* said during the official launch.





The article 'Sibmetakhim intends to expand the range of products under the modular scheme' was published in Independent News Agency. Follow [the link](#) to read the article in Russian.