



Municipal and housing sector has the global upgrade coming

On April 24 to 26, the ExpoForum hosted the 20th Municipal Housing Complex of Russia International Exhibition. This year, the event has been attended by 7,000 people from 11 countries, including China, Turkey, India, Belarus, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan. At the exhibition, 26 companies presented their innovations for the municipal and housing sector. The convention program was attended by 260 delegates.

During the gala opening of several industrial events simultaneously taking place in ExpoForum, which were the 12th Russian International Energy Forum, the Corrosion Protection International Exhibition & Congress, and Municipal Housing Complex of Russia International Exhibition, the last but not least was officially started by Alexey Eresko – Deputy Minister of Construction Industry, Housing and Utilities Sector of the Russian Federation, Denis Kravchenko – Deputy of the State Duma, Sergey Kropachev – Vice Governor of St. Petersburg, Evgeny Razumishkin – Vice Governor of St. Petersburg, Sergey Voronkov – CEO of ExpoForum International, and Dmitry Nikitin – CEO of RESTEC Exhibition Company.

In his opening speech, Sergey Voronkov stated that the organiser's mission is to make the Exhibition a place for demonstration of the latest achievements.

The convention program of the Municipal Housing Complex of Russia 2024 was split into two major topics. They were the housing stock management and the comfortable urban environment establishment. The experts talked about possible upgrades in the municipal housing sector, the major challenges encountered and key development vectors, reliability of heat supplying systems, specifics of major overhauls, as well as transformation of the apartment house management market regulation.

One of the key events was the round table discussion – UPGRADING THE URBAN MUNICIPAL AND HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE. MECHANISMS. TECHNOLOGIES. OPPORTUNITIES, coorganised by the Union of Russian Cities and the United Municipal Housing Board – Association of MHC Companies.

Pavel Kachkaev, First Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Committee for Construction and Municipal Housing Sector, took part in the above-mentioned event and remarked that today one of the biggest problems in the sector is deterioration of the housing stock and public utilities. 'The Russian municipal infrastructure, with heat and electricity supply grids in the first place, is heavily worn,' he explained. Mr. Kachkaev shared some figures provided by the Ministry of Construction of Russia – according to those, 42% of grids, which is nearly 400 thous. km, require replacement.

During the round table discussion MAKING HEAT SUPPLY SYSTEMS MORE RELIABLE AND SAFE, which was arranged by the Russian Gas Society – the Union of Oil & Gas Producers of Russia, the participants also talked about deterioration of the Russian municipal infrastructure. Some of the reasons behind the emergency situations were low control levels, low quality of heat supply diagrams, and high load on the grids because of the newly built houses. According to Alexey Eresko, Deputy Minister of Construction Industry, Housing and Utilities Sector of the Russian Federation, the government is trying to do something to improve the situation. For instance, all the municipal emergencies are monitored continuously. The monitoring results are used to get up-to-date and accurate information about the condition of the system and reasons for abnormal situations.

There are some other events that can be solved quite effectively, too. According to Mr. Eresko, at the moment it isn't necessary to issue certificates about readiness of municipal housing facilities. Moreover, there are no penalties if you don't have them. The Deputy Minister is absolutely sure that heat supply diagrams should no longer be compiled at the municipal level but should be done at the regional level, just because municipal workers are often ignorant when it comes to such things.

During the SMART MUNICIPAL HOUSING COMPLEX: CASES OF DIGITAL SOLUTIONS INTRODUCTION FOR AUTOMATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS UNDERTAKEN BY MUNICIPAL AND HOUSING SERVICES Session, which also was one of the key events during the Exhibition, the participants talked about payment discipline matters.

According to Anton Lomakin, Head of Municipal Housing Payments Product at Tinkoff Bank, from July 2022 to July 2023 the amount of debts for the municipal housing services increased by 8.7% and reached 833,5 billion Rubles. On the average, throughout the country 94 to 96% of payments are received on time. In the early Q4 2023, there were 7.9 mln debtors in Russia, but Anton Lomakin also mentioned that according to the interviews conducted the main reason for their debts was forgetfulness. At least, 47% of respondents mentioned it. Answers that were the second and third in popularity were unstable income (25% of respondents) and inconvenience of paying for the municipal housing services on the monthly basis (13%). To solve the issues of debts for municipal housing services, specialists of Tinkoff Bank addressed the experience of the foreign countries where payment collectability reaches 98 to 99 percent. They decided to focus on notifications and accounts in their mobile app, and this has already paid off to a certain extent.

However, during the Municipal Housing Complex of Russia Exhibition the participants didn't just talk about the trends and matters of federal importance. Some of the events were dedicated to problems encountered by certain regions. The issues of urban improvement were considered during the round table discussion CREATING COMFORTABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT IN ST. PETERSBURG. CURRENT RESULTS, PROSPECTS BY 2030, arranged under the auspices of the Committee for the Improvement of St. Petersburg.



Participants of the round table discussion shared their expertise of operations in the improvement and beautification sphere. The Comfortable Urban Environment Provisions Competence Centre works to establish some major sports fields and playgrounds, like the skating park at Betancourt Bridge.

Now, a few words about the exhibition part of the event. The visitors were really interested in the novelties brought by production companies. Darel company presented the samples of their modular covering materials of ERFOLG brand with an extensive range of application together with grass paving grids for eco-friendly parking lots and fire passageways. ERFOLG brand is also used to produce coatings for play- and sports grounds, as well as recreation sites.

The Belarus-based Invet Company showcased their outdoor vases, flowerpots, bins, and sand & salt crates. Mitrax company from St. Petersburg demonstrated their Mitrax MP 749 mini lifter that can be used for beautification and landscaping purposes. Today, 120 universal vehicles of this kind can be found in the streets of St. Petersburg, plus 300 lifters of the company are in use by the Russian regions.

Ural Plant of Deicing Materials presented their cleaning and maintenance of the traffic infrastructure is unthinkable without the use of specialized materials, like anti-icing agents, shampoos, and dust suppression compositions.

Smol Mash exhibited their combined road vehicles on truck chassis.

Broadway PC presented their special Broadway road sweeping and cleaning trailer and the Raywin diesel engine (3M16) along with spare parts and component kits for municipal machines.

Representatives of D-ICE demonstrated their projects at the Exhibition and mentioned that their company's pool includes 12 KaMAZ-based vehicles with German engines. These vehicles are used as garbage trucks.

KREIT Enterprise from Yekaterinburg called in with their series of Russian-made controllers designed for metering, automation, and control systems. In particular, those can be used for management of pumping stations, ventilation and heating systems.

Tatneft Presscomposite showcased composite hot water pipes, manholes, benches, and other hardware elements made of glass fibers, other hardscape elements based on glass fibre, polyester resins, and mineral fillers.

Some innovative projects for the municipal housing sector based on digital technologies were also demonstrated at the Exhibition. For instance, MHC Integrator Company told the audience about the information and technology support services they offer to the municipal housing market participants.

While the industry-related events were being held in ExpoForum, the Business Matchmaking Centre worked, too, where over 1,700 meetings between suppliers and customers took place. During the Municipal Housing Complex of Russia International Exhibition, face-to-face meetings were arranged by representatives of the Ministry of the Municipal Housing Complex (the Vladimir Region), Sozvesdie Managing Company Major Overhaul Foundation of St. Petersburg, Samolet Managing Company, Fuel & Energy Company of St. Petersburg, KVS-Service, Union of Managing Companies Associations, and many more.

Along with the Municipal Housing Complex Exhibition, ExpoForum hosted the Russian International Energy Forum and the Corrosion Protection International Exhibition & Congress. Such industrial events being held at the same time enabled experts from different spheres of economy to meet in one place and share their experience of doing business in the most essential sectors of the Russian economy as effectively as possible.

The 20th Municipal Housing Complex of Russia International Exhibition was powered by the Ministry of Construction Industry, Housing and Utilities Sector of the Russian Federation, as well as the Government of St. Petersburg.

The partners of the project are Gazprombank (Joint Stock Company), Smol Mash Factory, and Tinkoff Bank.

The strategic information partner – MIX Municipal Housing Complex Magazine.

The key coorganisers of the convention program – Apartment Housing Renovation Union, Concierge Publishers, New Quality Managing Companies Association, R1 Association, Paying Agents Association, Association of Regional Operators for Apartment Housing Major Overhaul, and Gazprombank (Joint Stock Company).

The event was organised by ExpoForum International.