Municipal Housing Complex of Russia 2026 Exhibition: a vision of the future and digital cities

From April 22 to 24, the 22nd Municipal Housing Complex of Russia International Exhibition took place at St. Petersburg's Expoforum Convention and Exhibition Centre, powered by the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Utilities of the Russian Federation and the Government of St. Petersburg. The event brought together 5,000 participants from 7 countries. As part of the exhibition program, 41 companies demonstrated their projects and services, and 544 delegates took part in the convention program. The Business Matchmaking Centre hosted 1,000 business meetings.

The Exhibition was officially opened by **Evgeny Razumishkin, Vice-Governor of St. Petersburg; Alexander Khodosok, Member of the St. Petersburg Legislative Assembly; Alexander Gorinov, Head of Transaction Products Sales Development and Support, Alfa-Bank,** and **Nikolai Kozlov, CEO of ExpoForum International.**

"The key trend in the municipal housing sector today is to enhance the labour efficiency. This is directly related to digitalisation and AI matters. Many things have been done, and the challenges have become obvious. I am sure that the Exhibition is going to become a platform where opinions will be exchanged and technologies shared. In particular, we are going to hold a scientific and technical council with representatives from the Republic of Belarus," Evgeny Razumishkin said.

The Exhibition's convention program encompassed three topic-oriented tracks: HOUSING STOCK MANAGEMENT AND UPGRADE, MUNICIPAL SERVICES AND BEAUTIFICATION OF HOUSE SURROUNDING GROUNDS and COMPREHENSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, GREEN CONSTRUCTION AND URBAN PLANNING. These blocks included dozens of events that covered a wide range of matters from using innovative equipment to introducing up-to-date services, from concept design of cities of the future to managing of housing systems.

The pinnacle event of the convention part was the plenary session DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF HOUSING AND UTILITIES: THE FUTURE OF THE SECTOR, SUSTAINABILITY AND GROWTH STRATEGIES. Representatives of federal and regional agencies, experts and business people talked about the role of digital tools in the development of the municipal housing sector.

Evgeny Razumishkin, Vice-Governor of St. Petersburg, outlined that digitalisation was an essential condition for the labour efficiency enhancement, although the decisive role still lied with the humans. He explained that St. Petersburg's municipal housing system uses digital services extensively, starting with staff training and professional development and finishing with the use of information systems in management. Among the cases he mentioned were ROAD AND STREET NETWORK State Information System of St. Petersburg, which records road maintenance works, assists with vehicle navigation and procedure optimisation; GORODOVOY System, capable of identifying problems and violations; and other projects, too. According to the Vice-Governor, St. Petersburg is currently operating over 30,000 video surveillance cameras, whereas by the end of 2026 there will be about 100,000.

Andrey Evtushenko, Deputy Director of the Digital Development Department of the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Utilities of the Russian Federation, talked about the efforts undertaken by the federal agencies towards digitising municipal housing utilities, which were working on Municipal Housing Sector State Information System (SIS) and improving the quality of government – citizens interaction through new digital services. For example, work is currently being performed to convert the homeowners meetings in apartment houses to the e-format, which will protect people from abuse by managing companies.

Svetlana Razvorotneva, Deputy Chairwoman of the State Duma Committee on Construction and Housing, presented the prospects associated with switching to e-formats. She announced a draft project that the State Duma will be offered soon. It will amend the Russian Housing Code if approved – according to it, buildings with over thirty apartments will have to hold their meetings only in Municipal Housing Sector SIS or a similar regional system. **Bulat Galeev, Deputy CEO of Information System Operator**, which represents Municipal Housing Sector SIS, explained that they have long been technically ready to do it, but now the residents will also have access to a new feature of disputing their votes and revoting.

Further, the participants talked about how digital opportunities change the image of today's cities. **Pyotr Murmuridis, CEO of SBERCITY SERVICE Managing Company**, represented SberCity Complex under construction in Moscow. There, they are going to introduce digital concierges and waste management systems, robotised cleaning and operation services, and they will also put renewable energy sources to use. **Alexander Gorinov, a representative of Alfa-Bank,** reported that financial enterprises have an interest in the municipal housing sector. For instance, the Bank had established the Public-private partnership directorate, which would undertake financing of infrastructural projects. Moreover, the Bank had developed a service named Municipal Housing Settlement – thank to it, individuals and legal entities would be able to communicate with no intermediaries.

After the session, the participants mentioned that digitalisation in the municipal housing sector had already become a new reality and a key driver of sustainable development in this sector.

The project hub SMART CITY STYLE LIFE: DIGITAL SERVICES IN THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING SECTOR became as a venue to showcase advanced digital services that can improve the interaction between residents, managing companies and government agencies. Participants mentioned that cities are becoming smart thanks to the quality and speed of residents – services interaction. Besides, they specified that one of the industry's issues is lots of requests, which takes major resources to deal with.

Regina Unanyan, Head of Commercial Projects at OPTIMUMCITY, shared her company's experience. They had implemented over 70 projects all across Moscow, including integrating their solutions into the Moscow Unified Dispatch Service. **Evgeny Kuznetsov, Deputy CEO of Kvartplata Online and founder of the KVADO platform**, presented certain cases of digital transformation in the housing municipal sector and explained how the platform can consolidate data from the documents and information on the payments, as well as helps track debtors.

"The platform enables changes in the ownership data and personal accounts anytime, not just during billing periods. Moreover, entering the readings from paper invoices into the system tends to result in errors," explained Evgeny Kuznetsov.

Denis Shabarin, CEO of the Unified Information and Accounting Centre of St. Petersburg, elaborated that the Centre is a tool used to increase stability in the municipal housing sector. The expert identified several challenges that the system is facing in St. Petersburg, including too sophisticated structure used to manage the housing stock, a housing stock being anything but simple, the growing debt for the utility services plus billing and payment services being isolated from one another. He noted that St. Petersburg has got more than 4,000 managing companies, homeowners associations and housing maintenance services, with over 3 million personal accounts. There are over 50,000 shared accommodations and up to 20% of the housing stock is really old. Furthermore, at the moment the utility debt in St. Petersburg exceeds 10 billion roubles.

The speaker mentioned that establishment the Unified Information and Accounting Centre made it possible to address many issues in a comprehensive manner, thus establishing an equilibrium between the interests pursued by the city, the Russian regions, the payers, resource suppliers and managing companies.

At the round table discussion CITIES AND ROADS: INNOVATIONS IN MAINTENANCE AND COMPREHENSIVE CLEANING OF THE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE, experts considered approaches to the urban environment maintenance and high-tech solutions implementation. During the panel discussion URBAN ENVIRONMENT 2030: INFRASTRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS AND LAND ACCOMPLISHMENT, the participants considered opportunities for infrastructural development, which in particular included establishment of a comfortable and ecologically sustainable environment.

Special focus was in communications with residents. At a dialogue show LIAISON WITH THE RESIDENTS: QUALITY OR QUANTITY?, the attendees discussed effective communication models and ways of making the sector more trusted. The same topic was continued in the discussion TRUST AS NEW ECONOMY FOR MUNICIPAL HOUSING SECTOR, which focused on the social aspects of the housing stock management.

Another remarkable event on the program was the panel discussion NEW FACE OF THE CITY: DEVELOPMENT AND HERITAGE EQUILIBRIUM. There, the attending experts considered the challenges of metropolises development, including energy deficiencies, rising demands on the living environment and the need to preserve historical heritage. **Olga Cherdantseva, Head of Comfortable Urban Environment Provisions Competence Centre of the St. Petersburg Improvement Committee,** noted the importance of finding a balance between heritage preservation and new spaces development. Meanwhile, **Egor Starshov, expert at the Territorial Sustainable Development Centre of Graduate School of Management**, outlined that sustainable development is impossible without reliable social ties and trust between people.

"According to the World Values Survey, the level of public trust in Russia is as low as 23%. This is significantly less than in Finland, Sweden or China, and the situation continues to go downhill. Low trust levels directly affect the urban environment: people build fences (literally), use security services and install bars on their doors and windows, thus spending their resources not on development but on isolation," the speaker explained.

The experts agreed that sustainable urban development requires a comprehensive approach, infrastructure upgrade, building a comfortable living environment and promoting communication among residents.

Legal aspects associated with the sector became the central topic at the session APARTMENT HOUSING MANAGEMENT: LEGAL TRENDS AND CHANGES AS REGARDS TO SWITCHING FROM ONE MANAGEMENT FORM TO ANOTHER, where participants discussed current legislative changes and their impact on the market. There, the discussions covered digitalisation of citizens' queries, introduction of house chats in MAX messenger and services for residents of apartment houses.

For the first time ever, the Exhibition included YOUTH DAY, bringing together students and emerging professionals. The participants met their potential employers and learned about career opportunities

in the municipal housing sector. Another new feature was the Managing Companies Fair, participated by representatives of managing companies from all across Russia. Experts discussed residential property management, presented digital solutions and service models designed to make their services better in terms of quality.

As always, much attention was paid to the environmental agenda. During the workshop HOUSEHOLD WASTE MANAGEMENT IN APARTMENT HOUSING arranged by Separate Waste Collection (RazDelny Sbor) Association, the participants demonstrated their waste sorting practices, specially focusing on their role in improvement of the urban environmental situations.

The exhibition program included an array of exhibits, including road and utility machines, equipment, digital platforms, software and financial tools for the municipal housing sector – almost every piece showcased is designed and manufactured in Russia today.

Alfa-Bank, the Exhibition's general partner, presented its products for the municipal housing sector. The list included an online collection terminal that ensures revenue deposition whenever convenient, with cash credited directly through an automated depository machine. At the moment, the bank offers comprehensive solutions to the enterprises within the municipal housing sector. These solutions help make payments automatic, reduce costs and improve financial stability.

The Smolensk-based Smolmash Plant presented a new product made in 2025–2026, namely the composite sand-spreading equipment installed on a MAZ dump truck chassis with a volume of 8 cubic metres. The machine can clean roads, transport sand, crushed stone, gravel and asphalt, and in winter it helps spray de-icing agents and sand. Another new product, which was AMKODOR VU8 multi-purpose utility machine, was demonstrated by **Exam, the official distributor of the AMKODOR Belarusian Holding based in the North-West Federal District.** They are going to supply these machines to St. Petersburg for road maintenance purposes.

The **Tosno-based Mechanical Plant (ToMeZ)** presented a sweeping cleaner and a sweeping vacuum cleaner machines, and **BRODWAY** production company brought a towed sweeper. At the stand of the **Ural Plant of Deicing Materials (UZPM)**, the visitors could learn all about the innovative Bionord agent. At the stand of the **Shifer.RF** brand, chrysotile cement materials from various regions of Russia were displayed.

The Exhibition also featured the latest electricity metering systems – equipment by **Matritsa** and **MIRTEK Group**, along with gas outdoor thermal blocks from **Aviton Trading House**, a distributor for Russian factories. In general, the exposition demonstrated that the modern municipal housing sector is dynamically progressing towards automation, digitalisation and integrated management, but also that it is confidently working in compliance with the import substitution programs.

For Exhibition participants, technical tours were arranged: at the **Southwest Wastewater Treatment Plants**, they learned about the procedure for wastewater treatment, and at **the Peter the Great Botanical Garden**, they explored the diversity of the subtropical plant world.

The **Business Matchmaking Centre** brought together suppliers and customers, who negotiated and put a cornerstone for new partnership projects.

The convention agenda of the Exhibition was only possible thanks to participation of IGRO Training Company, the Territorial Sustainable Development Centre of Graduate School of Management (St. Petersburg University), the National Association of Winter Maintenance of Infrastructure and Transport Facilities, the R1 Association, the Internet of Things Association, Alfa-Bank, the Concierge Publishing House, the Housing and Communal Services MIX and the Separate Waste Collection (RazDelny Sbor) Association for Ecology and Environmental Protection.

At the same time, Expoforum hosted other major industrial events: Russian International Energy Forum, Corrosion Protection International Exhibition & Congress, Water Resources Conference and Exhibition, Pipeline Valves. Pumps Exhibition and Managing Companies Fair.

General partner of the Exhibition – Alfa-Bank.

Official information partner – Stroitelnaya Gazeta.

Official industrial media partner – Dvizheniye.ru.

Exhibition organiser – ExpoForum International.