



May 1, 2007

To the Mid-Atlantic - Russia Business Council:

On behalf of the Office of International Business Development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I would like to express our support for the 6th and 7th Semi-Annual Russian-American Innovation Technology Weeks (RANIT) being hosted by the Mid-Atlantic-Russia Business Council. The 6th and 7th RANIT events will be held during the first and second weeks of May 2007 and the third week of November 2007 respectively.

RANIT is the premier event in the Mid-Atlantic region dedicated to Russian-American technology cooperation, playing a vital role in fostering trade relations between Commonwealth and Russia businesses since its inception in 2003. RANIT represents the culmination of more than 10 years of effort and events hosted by the Council to encourage Russian-American technology cooperation. I am pleased to report that a number of Pennsylvania companies that participated in earlier RANIT events are now developing relationships with the Russian firms and organizations. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania strongly supports the ultimate goal of RANIT: To establish Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region as a major partner for Russian technology companies and a premier center of Russian-American technology cooperation.

This 6th RANIT week will focus on biotechnology and includes Russian delegates' participation, as does every spring RANIT. The 7th RANIT, to be held in Pittsburgh for the very first time, will highlight Russian capabilities in a number of other technology sectors. It will also commemorate the 200th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Russia.

The goal of the Office of International Business Development is to "Bring the World to Pennsylvania". In keeping with this goal, we are proud to support RANIT and we applaud the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic-Russia Business Council to foster commercial relations between the Commonwealth and Russia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter C. O'Neill', written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Peter C. O'Neill, Executive Director
Center for Trade Development
Office of International Business Development
Department of Community & Economic Development

