

RUSSIA



POINT OF CONTACT NAME & TITLE: Val Kogan, President
ORGANIZATION NAME: Mid-Atlantic – Russia Business Council (MARBC)
ADDRESS: 1760 Market Street; Suite 1100; Philadelphia, PA 19103
PHONE: 1.215.708.2628 or 1.484.467.7444
FAX: 1.215.963.9104
WEBSITE: www.ma-rbc.org
E-MAIL: info@ma-rbc.org or val@ma-rbc.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Considered a top priority in Russia's economic modernization plan, the Russian government and private industry are working to improve the legal and economic environment for the biotechnology industry. Cultivating coordination between the public and private sectors, Russia is implementing the national program: *Biotechnological Development in Russia until 2015*, which includes establishing special economic zones for innovative biotechnology and creating biotech parks. Realizing the strong potential of Russia's vast territory, bio-energy resources, and advanced materials research expertise to further growth in critical biotechnological fields, the innovative Russian biotechnology industry offers tremendous opportunities in the fields of manufacturing and research and development.

As part of the Mid-Atlantic – Russia Business Council's (MARBC; www.ma-rbc.org) undertaking to build a bridge between the Russian and American biotechnology communities, MARBC serves as the official organizer for Russian participation to BIO since 2005. Continuing efforts to foster regional Russian-American biotechnological cooperation, MARBC hosts the Biotechnological Russian-American Innovation Technology Week (RANIT-BIO), which is the most significant annual event devoted to Russian-American biotechnology cooperation. Additionally, MARBC annually organizes American participation to key biotechnology events in Russia. Focusing upon ***“Russia's Emerging Bio-economy: New Developments in Regional Bioclusters, Biofuels, and Bionanotechnology,”*** MARBC will present the Russian biotechnology industry during the 10th RANIT-BIO (May 13-22), which begins with an opening conference in Philadelphia on May 13 and culminates on BIO's International Day May 20th. Consisting of representatives from the foremost Russian companies in biotechnology, the Russian delegation will discuss practical information about the innovations, challenges, opportunities and pressing issues concerning international biotechnology cooperation.

GENERAL COUNTRY DESCRIPTION:

Russia has historically been a strong player in the biotechnology industry and today it offers an attractive environment for research, development and manufacturing. The Russian biotechnology industry benefits from a highly qualified workforce – one of the best in the world – and the presence of more than 1,000 institutions and organizations conducting biotechnology research in such areas as biosafety and biosecurity,

biodiversity, renewables and biocatalysis, bionanotechnology and systems biology. With 16% of the GNP and 10% of Russia's workforce concentrated in this area, the knowledge-based bioeconomy is one of Russia's major priorities.

Russia has provided additional support to the industry by launching a national program, "Biotechnological Development in Russia in 2006 – 2015," to encourage public-private cooperation. The program supports science centers and regions of Russia that emphasize biotechnology and other scientific endeavors. Consequently, the annual volume of biotech investments in Russia in 2007-2008 nearly doubled in comparison with 2005-2006. The innovative work performed by the Russian biotechnology industry offers tremendous opportunities. Russia also provides significant opportunities in the fields of manufacturing, research and development, and innovative biotechnologies.

BRIEF ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION:

Since 1994, Mid-Atlantic – Russia Business Council (MARBC; www.ma-rbc.org) fosters business relations between Russia & the CIS and the US Mid-Atlantic region. Emphasizing Russian-American cooperation in lucrative fields, including advanced materials/nanotechnology, energy & environment, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, and agriculture, MARBC hosts over 30 events annually in the US and Russia. The Biotechnological Russian-American Innovation Technology Week (RANIT-BIO), including Russian participation in BIO, is the most significant annual event in the US devoted to Russian-American biotechnology cooperation.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION:

Russia has focused on establishing special economic zones for innovative biotechnology, as well as the creation of biotech parks. Development of state programs in special economic zones to create an enabling environment for the development of bio-safety, nanotechnology, and biotechnology in Russia have included regional biotechnology programs in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk-Tomsk, Saratov, Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod, and Kirov, amongst others. Active research is conducted in such areas as biosafety, biosecurity, biodiversity, renewables, biocatalysis, bionanotechnology and systems biology. Russian specialists in the physicochemical biology and biotechnology industries are extremely well qualified and over 1,000 Russian institutions and organizations conduct research in these areas.

BUSINESS CLIMATE:

Historically, Russia has had a well-developed biology and biotechnology industry and is currently emerging from its transitional period as a leading producer of many biotechnology items including immunobiological medications, veterinary products, and environmental protection technology. Russia has provided additional encouragement to further advance this industry by launching a national program, "Biotechnological Development in Russia in 2006 – 2015," which supports science centers and regions of Russia that emphasize biotechnology and other scientific endeavors. Russia has been experiencing significant growth in the field of analytical instrument manufacturing and increasing demand for its advanced technical skills. As global concern for biosafety and for the preservation of biodiversity has increased, there has been a greater demand for Russian expertise in cell technologies, bioinformatics, post-genome technologies (proteomics, metabolomics), and nanotechnologies. Major driving forces in Russia's biotech activity include Biotechnology Associations such as the Russian Society of Biotechnologist, Russian Bioindustry Union, Russian National Biofuels Association, as well as regional governments. The tendency to establish bioregions in Russia can be strengthened through international cooperation with related bioregions in Europe, North America, and East Asia, and productive mechanisms for partnerships with Russian/CIS scientists. Executives of Russian biotechnology and biofuels associations to BIO will represent the rapid developments of the Russian biotechnology industry, including the expansion to new bioclusters, such as biofuels and bionanotechnology,

as well as biosafety and biomedical devices. These leading Russian companies' representatives, with on-the-ground expertise in this emerging market, will also be available to further discuss the industry's latest innovations, challenges, and opportunities for Russian-American cooperation.

SPECIAL INCENTIVES AND PROGRAMS: Russian Venture Company

REGULATION & POLICY:

Biotechnology is considered one of the top priorities in Russia's economic modernization plan. Both the Russian government and private industry have recognized the need to improve the legal and economic environment for the biotechnology industry. In order to improve coordination between the public and private sectors, the Russian state has launched a national program entitled "Biotechnological Development in Russia in 2006 – 2015." Following the launch of this Russian national biotechnology development program to encourage public-private cooperation, bioclusters have rapidly expanded in several Russian regions. The program has provided additional support to the Russian biotechnology industry by creating special economic zones for innovative biotechnology, further developing biotechnoparks, expanding biosafety and nanotechnology industries, and establishing biotechnology investment and venture funds. Highlighting the opportunities and innovative work in Russia's growing biotechnology industry, the Russian participation organized by the MARBC to BIO2008 and RANIT-BIO will represent several emerging Russian biotechnology companies, including winners of prestigious national bio-innovation competitions, which have created opportunities in areas ranging from biomedical devices to biofuels development. The MARBC-organized Russian delegation will contribute and discuss practical information about the innovations, challenges, and opportunities for cooperation in one of the biotechnology industry's most important emerging markets.

RECENT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE:

"Biotechnological Development in Russia in 2006 – 2015"

COUNTRY INDUSTRY EVENT(S):

Industry Event	Website	Frequency
Moscow International Congress "Biotechnology: State of the Art and Prospects of Development"	http://www.biotechworld.ru/eng/index.phtml	Annual
EURASIABIO	http://www.eurasiabio.org	Annual