GENERAL INFORMATION

Volgograd region is located in the south-east of the European part of Russia. It is the largest region of the Southern Federal District. Volgograd region borders five regions of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan. The area of Volgograd region is 112.9 thousand kilometres. 2.6 million of the economically active people make up its population. Volgograd region has a favourable geographical position being the main gate to the south of Russia with the access to Iran, Iraq and through the Caucasus and to India through the Republic of Kazakhstan and is a part of the Southern Federal District.

RESOURCES OF THE REGION

There are 209 deposits and 110 displays of solid minerals in Volgograd region, 47 fields of which are being developed (22.5% of the total number).

Volgograd region has a high potential of natural resources for the development of raw material base on the basis of different minerals: hydrocarbons (oil, condensate, gas), chemical (potassium, magnesium, sodium salts, phosphates) and cement raw materials for the steel industry (moulding sand), construction materials (sandstone and carbonate rocks for the production of gravel and crushed stone, sand and clay for different purposes), iron ore, non-ferrous and rare metals (titanium-zirconium placers) and etc. The reserves of underground water including mineral water are considerable as well.

BASIC INDUSTRY

The industry of Volgograd Region is a large multibranch complex with nearly 4000 companies:

engineering and metalworking (cranes, tractors, agricultural machinery, drilling equipment), ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy (steel, rolled steel), chemical and petrochemical industries (oil, gasoline, fuel oil, caustic soda), plant protection chemicals, synthetic resins and plastics, food industry, building materials production, light and textile industries.

Volgograd region has a monopoly in Russia for the manufacturing of 11 industrial products including certain types of bearings, sulphurous anhydride, polyurethane fibre and gas pipes.
Leading industrial enterprises:

- JSC “Volgograd Metallurgical Plant “Red October” – metallurgical production: steel, rolled ferrous metals, tubular billets;
- Branch of JSC "SUAL" - "Volgograd Aluminium Plant of Siberian-Urals Aluminium Company" - metallurgical production: primary aluminium, anode paste;
- JSC "Volzhsky Pipe Plant" - metallurgical production: steel pipes (gas and oil, water, casing pipes);
- JSC "Volzhsky shipbuilding and repair plant" - manufacturing of machinery and equipment, construction and repair of various types of vessels
- JSC "Khimprom" – production of chemicals: caustic soda, synthetic resins and plastics, detergents, bleaches, pesticides and etc.

The plant of special oil materials, the unique plant in the CIS supplying products to various regions of the country, operates in Volgograd region.

It is about 30% of the industrial output of the Southern Federal District in total.

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Volgograd region has developed agricultural facilities and is one of the largest agricultural producers in the Russian Federation, ranked the 10th in the country, its proportion in the gross agricultural production is 2.6 percent.

- **12 thousand** farms
- More than **500** large and medium-sized collective agricultural enterprises;
- **65%** - crop production
- **35%** - livestock sector

Favourable natural and economic conditions and resources make the region a major manufacturer of durum and vigorous grain wheat, sunflower, mustard, vegetable and melon crops, fruit.

LEVEL OF THE REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Volgograd region has a well-developed transport network. Volgograd region is the port of five seas. Two most important rivers of the European Russia - Volga and Don –
are connected in the region through the Volga-Don channel. Outlets: into the seas - Caspian, White and Baltic Seas, Azov Sea and Mediterranean basins, into the countries - Turkey, Iran, Iraq, India, the countries of the Mediterranean Basin, Northern Europe (Scandinavia) and others. 3 large cargo and passenger river ports function in the region.

Volgograd is one of the largest junctions of the Southern Federal District’s pipeline system. The federal rail, road, water and air ways pass through the region. The total length of railways is 1.6 thousand kilometres, inland waterways - 1,5 thousand kilometres, roads - more than 14 thousand kilometres (83% of public roads are paved). The lower parts of Volga and Don connected with the Volga-Don navigable channel create favourable conditions for the cargo transportation through the region from the European ports to the navigable areas of Africa and the Middle East.

PROMISING INVESTMENT FIELDS

The following fields are promising for investments in Volgograd region:
- Agricultural sector: livestock farming (including pig breeding and poultry keeping), vegetable growing (including melon crops), refining and processing enterprises;
- Industry (metal processing, oil refining, chemical industry, machine construction);
- Construction industry (house building, production of construction materials);
- Implementation of infrastructure projects (development of the infrastructure for "platforms" for the production facilities at the periphery);
- The development of innovations (the formation of competitive clusters).

INVESTMENT PROJECTS OF VOLGOGRAD REGION

The full information of investment projects is represented in the site of the Ministry of Economics, Foreign Economic Relations and Investments of Volgograd Regional Government www.economics.volganet.ru

KEY INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

There are more than 60 public and private institutes of higher education in Volgograd region:

Volgograd State University;
Volgograd State Pedagogical University;
Volgograd State Technical University;
Volgograd State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering;
Volgograd State Medical University;
Volgograd Academy of Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation;
Volgograd State Agricultural Academy;
Volgograd State Academy of Physical Culture;
Volgograd branch of Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation;
Volgograd State Institute of Arts and Culture;
Volgograd P.A.Serebryakov Institute of Arts
… and etc.

High scientific and technical potential of the region: more than 30 research and design organizations and laboratories.
The following institutions are established and successfully operate in Volgograd region in order to support innovative projects:
   Center for Technology Transfer
   Venture Fund
   Regional Business Incubator.
The development of regional industrial parks is a near-term prospect.

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