

Dotcom bubbles and Soviet collapse...

BELARUS

IBA Gomel, the second largest software development center of IBA Group, will celebrate its 10th anniversary on July 27, 2011. An alliance of IT companies with over 2,500 people, IBA Group has six development centers in Belarus and the Czech Republic. IBA Gomel is located in Gomel, the second largest city of Belarus.

IBA Gomel was registered as a legal entity on July 26, 2001. The goal was to take advantage of the highly-qualified human resources of the Gomel region with its long IT traditions and universities providing education in IT specialties.

The first IBA Gomel project dealt with a SAP development for IBM. In December 2004, IBA Gomel received its first ISO quality certificates and now the development center is DIN EN ISO 9001:2008 and STB ISO 9001-2009-certified.

In December 2008, IBA Gomel Park was set up by IBA Gomel to join High Tech Park, the Belarusian Silicon Valley.

To date, IBA Gomel employs more than 250 IT and business professionals working in five production departments. The company currently implements around 50 projects in mainframe, SAP, e-business, Lotus, and other areas. The IBA Gomel's client base includes IBM, Goodyear, T-Systems, Rockwell Automation, Belarusian Railway, IDGC of Urals, and Belarusian Steel Works.

IBA Gomel still cooperates with local



universities, primarily with the Gomel State University and the Gomel State Technical University. IBA Gomel runs training courses with 140 students in annual attendance.

Igor Khobnya (*left*) has been the IBA Gomel's head since its foundation. Today, he is in charge of the company strategy and day-to-day operations, and oversees finance and HR management. Prior to IBA, he ran major IT projects for railway and other industries.

Igor Khobnya recalls: "We had to start the company in the times when dotcom bubble burst. The crisis affected the Belarus' IT industry that was already suffering from the downturn caused by the breakup of the USSR. So it was hard at the beginning. As the company initially aimed at the international market, we needed to recruit the people who had advanced IT expertise and experience in the implementation of international projects. To this end, we trained the candidates at IBA Minsk and the IBA Training Center and then fit them in the projects executed by Minsk teams where they could gain the needed experience."

IBA Gomel has, since its early years closely cooperated with the Gomel State University to train students in IT specialties. We are planning to expand our business, which will result in additional high-tech workplaces for the region and enable university graduates to become full-fledged players of the global IT community."

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...new IBA centre in Kazakhstan

KAZAKHSTAN

IBA Group now has a development centre in Astana, Kazakhstan, the seventh such centre set up by the integrator in emerging areas. It is mostly for government work: an electronic workflow system for the state governing bodies of Kazakhstan, an automated management system for the Kazakh Railways, and a Kazakh oil refinery.

Earlier, IBA had set up a representative office in Kazakhstan in July 2010. Kazakhstan's laws require that local experts be employed to implement IT projects at strategically important Kazakh enterprises and organizations. Before the launch of the IBA Kazakhstan centre in Astana, IBA Group involved experts from Belarus to implement IT projects in Kazakhstan. The new development centre brings IBA Group closer to its customers in central Asia.

Six other IBA Group development centres are located in the Czech Republic and Belarus.

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In spite of local political and economic problems, IBA has done well to stay on track. Expansion into surrounding markets will always be based on how willing and able local governments are to invest in IT packages, but there is always the resources - oil and gas businesses in particular. Not the easiest of regions to work in, so full marks for making the effort in the last ten years, and using the available skills in the universities in a positive way.

enterprise news round-up

SAP is forecasting a 30% rise in attendees at its annual conference in 2011 after moving it from being a "moment in time" to a "365 day a year experience" for delegates. The conference is running in Madrid on 9-10 November and Beijing on 15-17 November, and has already held its US event in Orlando, Florida, on 15-18 May. Changes include placing the key note speaker into the middle of the exhibition floor and introducing 'micro-forums' for 12-15 people wanting to discuss a specific topic.

Research conducted by **Cisco Security Intelligence Operations** shows that returns from mass email-based attacks declined by more than 50% from \$1.1bn in June 2010 to

\$500m in June 2011, but that spearphishing attacks have increased threefold, while scams and malicious attacks have increased fourfold.

UK-based **Networks First** says it has achieved the Cisco Master Managed Services Certification. This certification recognises Networks First's investment in the ITIL processes, practices and tools necessary to provide managed services.

Hitachi Data Systems has announced it has partnered with information governance software provider **RSD** to deliver an information governance solution aimed at European enterprises. It offers support for legal variances across different countries,

including Basel II and EU data protection laws.

Red Hat Cloud Architecture: is a new course focused on building skills to launch private cloud deployments using Red Hat technology and solutions. This is the company's first training class focused on cloud.

Devoteam has undergone an internal rebrand which was publicly launched this week. Devoteam's ambitious growth has resulted in the formation of many Devoteam locations around EMEA, each with a "unique brand identity associated to its former self". This rebrand will result in a unified brand across all the offices, "easily recognisable to the global market," it says.