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FINANCE & INSURANCE

- Foreign investors have bought over 60% of Russian metals giant Norilsk Nickel's U.S. \$1 billion 6-year Eurobonds, Andrei Solovyov, head of the debt capital market department at VTB Capital, one of the placement's organizers, told.
- Russia's seasonally adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) increased 0.2% on the month in March after falling 0.2% in February, Vnesheconombank (VEB) said.
- Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has signed rulings to create two new territories of advanced development, in the country's Far East and in the Nizhny Novgorod Region, he said. There are 34 of them currently.

POWER & COAL

- Moscow and Cairo will sign a full-scale contract on construction of Egypt's first nuclear power plant El Dabaa with Russian participation in the near future, newspaper of nuclear power corporation Rosatom.

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

- South Korea's Hyundai is considering localization of engine production in Russia, and can build its own plant or organize contracted production at facilities of another enterprise, Deputy Industry and Trade Minister Alexander Morozov told.
- Leroy Merlin investira 2,5 milliards d'euros en Russie ces cinq prochaines années.

TRANSPORT & AUTOMOBILE

- Czech agricultural machines producer Agrostroy Pelhrimov may launch a 4.4 billion ruble plant to manufacture agricultural vehicles in Russia's Voronezh Region in 2018, the regional government said.
- The Sumotori group plans to start construction of the Prometheus electric car plant, a joint venture with a Japanese company with a capacity of 5,000 cars per year, in the spring of 2018 in the Primorsky Region, the government of the region said.

CONSUMER GOODS & RETAIL

- Russia's confectionery imports rose 17.6% on the year to 12,000 tonnes in January the highest since the beginning of the crisis, the Center for Confectionery Market Research said. In monetary terms, confectionery imports grew 31.3% to U.S. \$40.3 million.

TELECOMS

- The Moscow city government is discussing with mobile operators the creation of a consortium to develop 5G connection and is ready to soften administrative barriers to deploy the new standard, which could cost operators up to U.S. \$10 billion, business daily Kommersant reported.

AGRO COMMODITIES

- Le distributeur français Auchan ouvrira une usine de transformation de viande baptisée Filye dans le village de Streltsy, région de Tambov, dès mai 2017, a annoncé Iouri Zoubev, responsable des relations avec les fermiers chez Filye. M. Zoubov précise qu'Auchan envisage également d'ouvrir une usine de transformation de légumes en Russie d'ici deux ans.