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POLITICS & ECONOMY

- Russia's gross domestic product (GDP) growth may exceed 2% on the year in July–December, Economic Development Minister Maxim Oreshkin told.

OIL & GAS

- Russian oil major Rosneft plans to invest up to 300 million euros in Germany in the next five years, Brian Chesterman, General Manager at Rosneft's German unit Rosneft Deutschland GmbH told.
- Russian oil major Rosneft has launched a representative office, Rosneft Deutschland GmbH, in Berlin, the company said.

CHEMICALS

- National Immunobiological Company (Nacimbio), part of industrial holding Rostec, and R-Pharm plan to establish a joint venture to produce and sell medicines for treating infections connected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in Russia, the companies said.
- Russia's National Immunobiological Company (Nacimbio) has established a joint venture with India's Ishvan Pharmaceutical Ltd., called Pharm Aid Ltd., the company said. Investments in the joint venture will amount to about U.S. \$80 million over three years. Nacimbio, part of industrial holding Rostec, will hold 49% in Pharm Aid Ltd, and the Indian company will hold 51%.

ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

- Russian state-controlled telecom operator Rostelecom will invest about 200 million rubles of own money in the creation of a national biometric platform, the company's President Mikhail Oseyevsky told. At the first stage, the project is designed for the banking industry.
- Russian satellite monitoring provider SCANEX has signed a four-year contract with Toulouseheadquartered Airbus Defence and Space to equip Internet giant Yandex with Earth images via the One Atlas platform, an Airbus spokesperson said. One Atlas is a base of Earth imagery, working in a round o'clock regime and regularly updated.

TRANSPORT & AUTOMOBILE

- Finnish tire producer Nokian Tyres plans to invest 83 million euros to expand its Russian plant in the Leningrad Region city of Vsevolozhsk in 2017, the company said.
- State highway operator Russian Highways, also known as Avtodor, and China Communications Construction Company (CCCC) have signed a memorandum of cooperation to implement a Europe-Western China multinational transportation route project, the Russian company said.
- GM-AvtoVAZ, a joint venture between Russia's largest carmaker AvtoVAZ and U.S. giant GM, suspended its assembly line from May 17 as Zavod Avtokomponent, a component parts supplier, had stopped their delivery, the company said.

CONSUMER GOODS & RETAIL

- Russian startup TalkBank, a developer of the first payment system for messengers, will start working not only in Telegram, but also in Viber and Facebook Messenger shortly, and the company plans to enter Europe, business daily Vedomosti reported. TalkBank was one of the 12 winners of the international stage of startup competition Seedstars World in early April.
- Spanish Inditex, one of the world's biggest owners of apparel retail chains, has met with 16 Russian companies to discuss local production issues, the Industry and Trade Ministry said. Inditex is the owner of many famous apparel brands including Zara, Zara Home, Massimo Dutti, Pull & Bear, Bershka, Oysho, Uterque, Lefties and Stradivarius.