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Finalists for Metallurgical Plant Redesign Announced

By The Moscow Times

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Five architecture firms have been short-listed for the design to turn the venerable Moscow metallurgical plant Serp I Molot (Hammer and Sickle) into an office complex.

An international tender to redevelop the plant's 87 hectares, located in eastern Moscow, was announced in September. One domestic and four foreign companies were chosen last week out of 157 participants from 17 countries.

The revamp will require at least 140 billion rubles ($4.2 billion) according to estimates by Don-Stroi Invest, a company supervising the reconstruction, Kommersant reported Friday.

The only Russian architecture firm to make the shortlist is Project Meganom, which has already designed a redevelopment of another major production site in Moscow, the 377 hectare ZIL factory.

Among other contenders is a team led by the Dutch firm MVRDV. France's Ateliers Lion Associes, the Dutch architecture firm de Architekten Cie and British LDA Design, which is famous for coming up with a concept of the Olympic Park in London, are also finalists.

The companies will present their designs for turning Serp I Molot into an office complex by the end of January, with the ultimate winner to be chosen the following month.

A decision to redevelop the plant's territory was made in 2007, following City Hall's announcement of broad plans to move large factories out of Moscow.

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