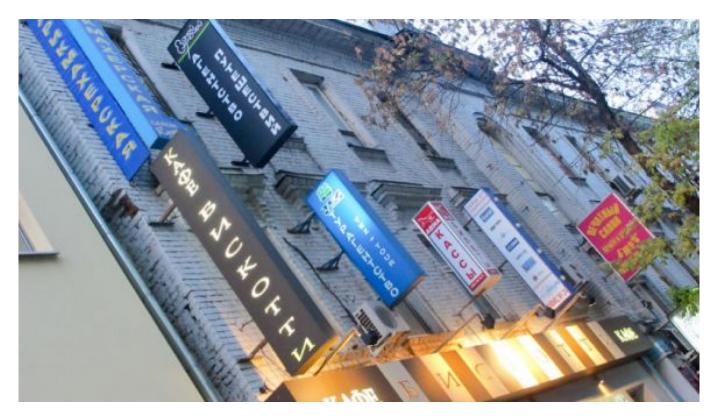


State Firms Instructed to Buy More From Small Businesses

By The Moscow Times

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Small- and medium-sized businesses will receive more support as state-owned companies are encouraged to purchase their goods and services. **Maxim Stulov**

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has ordered representatives of the government sitting on the boards of state-owned companies to push for those firms to purchase more goods and services from small- and medium-sized businesses, the government's press service reported Tuesday.

The prime minister also approved directives aimed at increasing orders of innovative products and research and development projects from small- and medium-sized companies by firms in which the state owns stock.

The initiative is part of a "road map" drafted by the government to improve the access of small private firms to the procurement programs of state-run companies.

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