

Siberian Arms Plant Expanding to Produce High-Powered Explosives – Reuters

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Biysk Oleum Plant (BOZ). **NGO Voir**

An explosives plant in Siberia is undergoing a large-scale expansion to produce the high-powered explosive RDX, Reuters [reported](#) Thursday, citing procurement records and sources close to the project.

The Biysk Oleum Plant (BOZ) is reportedly constructing a new production line valued at 15.5 billion rubles (\$189 million), with completion initially slated for late 2025. One source told Reuters the timeline was “unrealistic” and has since been delayed.

Russia’s First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, who visited the site in August 2023 while serving as industry and trade minister, [cited](#) a similar figure of 15 billion rubles for the plant’s “comprehensive reorganization.” Russia’s Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu also reportedly addressed construction delays in a meeting with the plant’s director earlier this year.

Located some 3,000 kilometers (1,860 miles) east of Moscow, BOZ is far from the reach of Ukrainian drone strikes that have increasingly targeted Russia's military-industrial sector since the start of the full-scale invasion.

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The facility is owned by the Ya.M. Sverdlov plant, which is under European Union [sanctions](#) as the "only Russian manufacturer" of the high-powered explosives RDX and HMX.

RDX is a key component in artillery shells, mortar rounds, missiles and aerial bombs. Experts say it is favored for its stability and effectiveness, being less prone to accidental detonation. A hard, white crystalline substance widely used in World War II, RDX is also used in blasting caps for civilian applications.

Reuters estimated the new facility could produce 6,000 metric tons of RDX annually — enough to fill approximately 1.28 million 152mm artillery shells.

Ukraine's military intelligence has estimated that Russia produced about 2 million 122mm and 152mm artillery rounds last year, while importing an additional 2.7 million from North Korea.

Explosives experts told Reuters that production at BOZ could begin within six to 10 weeks of completing construction work.

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