Svarka/Welding 2025 International Exhibition: innovations, technologies, and global cooperation

On April 9 through 11, the St. Petersburg based ExpoForum Convention and Exhibition Centre hosted the 22nd Svarka/Welding International Exhibition. This year, the event was visited by 8,000 specialists from 11 countries — Finland, Poland, Republic of Belarus, China, Iran, India, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Germany etc. ***The convention program*** *included reports by* ***75+ speakers*** *and* ***8 events*** *that were attended by* ***215 delegates****.* ***Over 140 companies from 34 regions*** *took part in the exhibition and showcased their innovative initiatives and solutions that complied with up-to-date standards and met the needs of the welding sector. The event was covered by* ***56 mass media****.*

During the gala opening ceremony established for a range of industry-specific events, the exhibition was officially opened by **Sergey Kropachev** — Vice-Governor of St. Petersburg, who welcomed the audience on behalf of **Alexander Beglov** — Governor of St. Petersburg, **Daniil Krainsky** — Deputy CEO for Legal Support at Rosseti, **Dmitry Nikitin** — CEO of RESTEC Exhibition Company, and **Sergey Voronkov** — CEO of ExpoForum International and President of the Russian Union of Exhibitions and Fairs.

During the opening of the convention program of the Exhibition, **Evgeny Vyshemirsky** — Department Head at Gazprom — greeted the visitors and participants on behalf of **Oleg Aksyutin**, Chairman of the Management Committee and Department Head at Gazprom. In his speech, Mr. Vyshemirsky outlined that the events like Svarka/Welding 2025 Exhibition and the International Scientific-Practical Conference 'State-of-the-art welding technologies, equipment, and materials for construction and repair of major and field pipelines' are of key significance for development and improvement of the welding sector.

The pinnacle event of the convention program during Svarka/Welding Exhibition was the plenary session **WELDING AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES: DEVELOPMENT TRENDS AND PROSPECTS**. It was powered by the Alliance of Welders of St. Petersburg and North-West Region and Kurchatov Institute National Research Center — Prometey Central Research Institute of Structural Materials. **During the plenary session, the experts talked about** key digitalization and upgrade trends in the Russian welding sector and discussed their practical use. **Mikhail Timofeev — Ph. D. in Engineering and Senior Welder at Kurchatov Institute (Prometey)** — reported that development and certification of today's equipment for automatic welding resulted in elimination of the problem with metal resistance reduction. Moreover, he explained that the research performed demonstrates that welded joints can be reliable within the entire period of equipment operation. At the moment, this life term comes to 60 years but is expected to be extended to 100 years or even more.

Meanwhile, introduction of modern technologies in the Russian enterprises is gathering momentum. During the **ROBOTIZATION AND DIGITALIZATION IN WELDING AND DEPOSIT WELDING** session, the participants considered main aspects of switching to robotized production and the prospects offered by new technological solutions.

This year, it was the first time when the International Scientific-Technical Conference PRESSING ISSUES OF WELDING PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY ENHANCEMENT included the Scientific Section that presented works by postgraduate students from universities of the North-Western Region. Its purpose was to highlight importance of emerging specialists' part in development of the sector.

Participants of the International Scientific-Practical Conference STATE-OF-THE-ART WELDING TECHNOLOGIES, EQUIPMENT, AND MATERIALS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF MAJOR AND FIELD PIPELINES talked about up-to-date approaches to welding, advanced materials and equipment, and technologies used to construct and repair pipelines. The event as mainly focused on reliability enhancement as regards to welded joints, introduction of advanced standards, and solution of pressing challenges encountered by the sector. The matters associated with innovative technological projects designed in Russia and their role in implementation of the strategic initiatives were covered during **the round table discussion FUNDAMENTAL STANDARDS USED AT GAZPROM IN REGARD TO WELDING AND NON-DESTRUCTIVE WELDING QUALITY CONTROL**.

This year, Svarka/Welding in St. Petersburg became the place where equipment manufacturers, software developers, scientific researchers, and chief welders met for the 22nd time in a row. Moreover, the event was also attended by guests from abroad — Iran, China, India, and the CIS countries. Yet, the most interesting things were still exhibited by Russian producers.

Tekhmet-Ural demonstrated to both participants and visitors of the event their patented projects — Rehoca PGC-1 tube cutting machine and a universal Rehoca tube positioner with a unique modular construction.

Non-destructive Control Company showcased their automated Transcan complex for digital radiography. It was designed to reveal defected in circular welded joints of major pipelines. According to **Vitaly Rogozhnikov** — Engineer from the Technical Department of the company, this multifunctional set has no equivalents.

Technotron Welding Equipment Plant had a wide range of innovative solutions for different types of welding exhibited at their stand. In particular, there were DS315 source for manual arc welding, a DS315.33M source for welding of magnetized tubes, DS400A source for argon arc welding, and the ARGO set for mechanized argon arc welding, too. That wasn't all — participants of the event were also presented Skala set for semiautomatic welding, and OKA set for automatic argon arc welding.

Deria Graphics Research and Production Company delivered their Evospark equipment, including the argon arc welding machine with automatic supply of welding consumables and with digital control, and a Profsvar automated carriage. According to the company's representative **Igor Nikolaev**, 90% of the equipment is made in Russia, and its quality is as good as in the top global equivalents.

This year, **Kropus Research and Production Centre** arranged an exposition that addressed heat power engineers — they brought solutions for welding joints control in oil and gas pipelines.

Industrial Welding Systems Company took place in the exhibition for the first time. They mainly focus on production of auxiliary equipment for MIG-MAG, argon, laser, and plasma welding, particularly, supplying devices that make it possible to perform welding works at a distance from the device. The exposition included both compact solutions for altitude works and devices with extensive cables that can be used at open sites.

Promrobot from Vologda showcased at their stand state-of-the-art automation means, including unique equipment for scanning of the blanks with consequent making of 3D models, which ensure automatic calculation of welding parameters. This data is further handed over to the operator for further work.

The stand provided by **FoxWeld** looked like a big store — there were over two dozens of welding devices for industrial and domestic use along with other machines.

Overseas companies had a special place at the Exhibition. For instance, **Modi Hitech India Ltd** has been supplying their products for over 8 years but only in 2025 they decided to join this major event, said **Anjali Makhija**, Business Development Manager. According to her, the market of Russia and the North-Western Region in general is not only interesting but also promising, that's why Modi Hitech is willing to extend their presence and supply goods. In the first place, this means electrodes, electrode wires, flux-cored wires, as well as stainless and filler rods.

China has got a special place in the global economy, so it is not by chance that an extensive stand of several companies from the Heavenly Empire became a part of the Exhibition. It was arranged by **Chinese Mechanical Engineering Society** — the Strategic International Partner of the project. There, 14 stands presented projects and technologies from leading China-based manufacturers, all of them highly relevant for the welding sector.

Alliance of Welders of St. Petersburg and North-West Region had a stand of their own, too — there welding professionals displayed their art of welding using the leading-edge equipment. The alliance supports its members in a range of areas from advertising welding equipment to the business tourism services, including tours to the enterprises of concern. In collaboration with TechLAB, the Alliance held a workshop on laser technologies and laser welding operators training.

Throughout the Exhibition, demonstration works took place at the stands of participating companies, which definitely caught the eye of the visitors. Thanks to those, it was possible to see the true value of innovative technologies and how they can be used in real life.

The Business Matchmaking Centre was operated during the event. There suppliers and customers of the welding industry could negotiate and have business meetings, and they seized the day.

Gazprom, Alliance of Welders of St. Petersburg and North-West Region, Kurchatov Institute National Research Center — Prometey Central Research Institute of Structural Materials, United Shipbuilding Corporation, and others leading industrial companies and key players of the sector contributed to the convention program of the Exhibition.

Along with Svarka/Welding Exhibition, ExpoForum hosted the Russian International Energy Forum, the Power & Electrical Engineering International Exhibition, the Municipal Housing Complex of Russia International Exhibition, and the Corrosion Protection International Exhibition & Congress. Several events held in one place at the same time helped bring together as many specialists from different industries and provided extra opportunities for experience sharing and business matchmaking.

Svarka/Welding Exhibition is arranged every two years. This means the next exhibition will take place in spring 2027.

Exhibition organiser — ExpoForum International.