

**KEY TOPICS:**

**STATE POLICY IN THE ARCTIC**  
**NORTHERN SEA ROUTE**  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**



## **STATE POLICY IN THE ARCTIC**

25 January 2021, TASS

### **Thermal power plants using biofuel to open in the Arctic and Far East**

The Far East Investment and Export Agency has signed an agreement with a company that supplies power electronics components and engineering services to the Russian market. The agreement is set to promote the use of biofuel in thermal power plants.

Thanks to this project, remote and isolated areas will receive electricity and heat based on renewable energy. The wood gas-fired thermal power plants are almost fully automated and will produce electric as well as thermal energy.

[tass.ru/ekonomika/10541331](https://tass.ru/ekonomika/10541331)

18 January 2021, TASS

### **Deferred taxation to assist FEFD and Arctic development**

Using the mechanism of deferred tax payments within public-private partnership (PPP) will help implement most important infrastructure projects in the Far East and the Arctic. Alexander Vorotnikov, Associate Professor at the Department of Public Administration and Public Policy of the Institute of Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration and Coordinator of the Expert Council of the PORA Expert Center (Project Office for Arctic Development) shared this opinion with TASS. Earlier, Alexei Chekunkov, head of the Ministry for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic, announced the launch of a new PPP mechanism in the Far East and the Arctic, which will create new facilities worth RUB 500 billion over the next five years.

[tass.ru/ekonomika/10481281](https://tass.ru/ekonomika/10481281)

18 January 2021, Arctic Russia

### **Corporation for the Development of the Far East renamed Corporation for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic**

According to Alexei Chekunkov, Minister for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic, Edward Cherkin, the new head of the joint development institution is to introduce best business practices aimed at qualitative improvement of client service and operational efficiency. Additionally, his task is to synchronize the region's investment agenda with VEB.RF, the main development institution of the country. This cooperation will significantly expand opportunities for concessional capital to finance industrial and infrastructure projects in the Far East.

[arctic-russia.ru/news/edinyy-institut-razvitiya-dalnego-vostoka-vozglavit-eduard-cherkin](https://arctic-russia.ru/news/edinyy-institut-razvitiya-dalnego-vostoka-vozglavit-eduard-cherkin)

15 January 2021, TASS

### **Ministry for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic supported New Murmansk urban project**

During the expert discussion entitled 'Development of the Arctic: a new opportunity for the Northern regions' on the sidelines of the Gaidar Forum, Alexei Chekunkov, Minister for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic, and Andrei Chibis, Governor of Murmansk Region discussed New Murmansk, a large-scale urban environment development project.

A group of architects, including professionals from Strelka, will present a master plan for the project by May of 2021. It envisages the construction of a convention centre, a hotel, an office centre, waterfront facilities, an Arctic Museum, a food court, cafes and restaurants – all on the coast of the Kola Bay occupied by the former shipyard running at nearly 38 thousand square meters. The project includes the development of the sea, railway and bus stations and combining them into a single transport hub.

[tass.ru/ekonomika/10472649](https://tass.ru/ekonomika/10472649)

15 January 2021, TASS

### **Law on permafrost monitoring to be presented to the government in 2021**

The Ministry for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic has conducted preliminary research on the subject. In accordance with the order of the Russian Government, the Ministry for the Development of the Russian Far East has been tasked with preparing a plan for adapting the Arctic to climate change. Approved by Vladimir Putin, the Strategy for Development of the Arctic Zone and National Security for the period up to 2035 involves creating a unified system of state environmental monitoring using modern information technologies and communication systems.

[tass.ru/politika/10468861](https://tass.ru/politika/10468861)

# NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

15 January 2021, TASS

## Digital twin of the Northern Sea Route transport system to be presented in April

According to the website of the Far East Development Fund, the institution joined forces with VEB.RF, the Ministry of Economic Development of Russia, and Lomonosov Moscow State University to develop a digital platform entitled The Arctic Labs. It is based on a digital twin of the Northern Sea Route, a dynamic mathematical model that allows to develop scenarios for the entire Arctic, as well as individual territories and logistics routes. "The prototype of the system is already built. Social, economic and even environmental modules will be systematically added to the working system of the fully digitized twin of the Northern Sea Route transport system," said Alexei Chekunkov, Minister of the Russian Federation for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic, on the sidelines of the Gaidar Forum.

[tass.ru/ekonomika/10469361](https://tass.ru/ekonomika/10469361)

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

25 January 2021, Rossiyskaya Gazeta

### Japan offers Russia new cooperation concept in the Arctic and FEFD

Main issues pertaining to international cooperation in the Far East and the Arctic between Russia and Japan were discussed by Alexei Chekunkov, head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Development, and Toyohisha Kojuki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Russia.

The concept proposed by the Japanese side is aimed at intensifying trade and economic cooperation and suggests expanding cooperation in several areas, such as energy, logistics, fish processing, port and transport infrastructure, urban environment, and tourism. Export-oriented agricultural projects are to be prioritized.

Additionally, Japanese side intends to participate in the development of the Northern Sea Route. According to Mr. Kojuki the Northern Sea Route improves the traditional sea transport logistics by 40%. Japanese tankers already carry LNG via the Northern Sea Route.

[rg.ru/2021/01/20/req-dfo/iaponiia-predstavila-rossii-novyj-vid-sotrudnichestva-na-dalнем-vostoke.html](https://rg.ru/2021/01/20/req-dfo/iaponiia-predstavila-rossii-novyj-vid-sotrudnichestva-na-dalнем-vostoke.html)

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