

May 2, 2013

To the Mid-Atlantic –Russia Business Council:

On behalf of the Office of International Business Development of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I would like to express our support for the 18th Semi-Annual Russian American Innovation technology Week (RANIT) being hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Russia Business Council. The 18th RANIT event will be held from September 23-30, 2013 and November 13-22, 2013.

RANIT is the premier event in the Mid-Atlantic region dedicated to Russian-American technology cooperation, playing a vital role in fostering trade relations between Commonwealth and Russia businesses since its inception in 2003. RANIT represents the culmination of 17 years of effort and events hosted by the Council to encourage Russian-American technology cooperation. I am pleased to report a number of Pennsylvania companies that participated in earlier RANIT events are now developing relationships with Russian firms and organizations. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania strongly supports the ultimate goal of RANIT: To establish Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region as a major partner for Russian technology companies and a premier center of Russian-American technology cooperation.

As has traditionally been the pivotal focal point during each Spring RANIT, the focus of the 18th RANIT week will be biotechnology, the pharmaceutical industry, medical equipment, life sciences, alternative energy, nanotechnology, the chemical industry, information technology, technology in education, and entrepreneurship. The 18th RANIT will highlight Russian capabilities from across this spectrum of technology intensive industries.

Our office is also proud to support **Days of Russian-American Innovation Entrepreneurship Cooperation (RAVC 2013)** will be held in Philadelphia from October 17-23, 2013. It will open with the **University City Science Center 50th Anniversary Celebration** on October 17. The Science Center is the biggest and oldest urban technology park in the United States. Additional RAVC events will include a roundtable at the International Incubator at the Science Center, featuring presentations by company residents, including the first Russian company with an office at the University City Science Center in Philadelphia.





As part of RAVC 2013, MARBC is organizing the **Russian – American Technology Entrepreneurship Conference** on October 21. MARBC is also facilitating Russian participation in the **Mid-Atlantic Venture Conference (IMPACT 2013)** on October 22-23. IMPACT is one of the oldest venture capital events in the United States that gives the participants a unique opportunity to access private investors and the largest regional venture funds.

The goal of the Office of International Business Development is to foster international trade and investment in Pennsylvania. Enhancing Pennsylvania-Russia bilateral trade and investment is a priority for us. Therefore, we are proud to support RANIT and we applaud the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic Russia Business Council to foster commercial and technological relations between the Commonwealth and Russia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Peter C. O'Neill'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Peter C. O'Neill, Executive Director
Center for Trade Development

