

Re: Okno designers get State Prize

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The President Reevaluates Scientists

// Six receive reformed State Prize

Encouragement

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed an order on Monday on the awarding of the State Prize of the Russian Federation for 2004 for science and technology. Beginning with that year, the number of recipients of the prize will be sharply reduced, but its size will be comparable with the Nobel Prize. There were six recipients of the prize in its new form, three members of the military aerospace forces, husband and wife archeologists from Novosibirsk and a St. Petersburg mathematician. The president will give them their prizes at the Kremlin on June 12 as part of the celebration of Russia Day.

The Main Science Prize of Russia

Putin has signed the order with the names of the prize winners, who were preliminarily confirmed in a closed session of the president's council on science, technology and education on May 19. In 2004, the amount of the prize was drastically altered. Before, a prize of 300,000 rubles was given to several dozen people and the prizes were, as a rule, not given to people, but to research groups of eight to ten people. Nor for a "prominent contribution to the development of national and world science," three prizes of 5 million rubles (about \$180,000) each will be given, which is monetarily comparable to the Nobel Prize.

Now the State Prize differs from the Nobel Prize only in two details. First, the candidates must be Russian citizens (citizenship has no meaning for the Nobel Prize; Russian writer Ivan Bunin had no

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citizenship at all when he won the Nobel Prize). Second, the State Prize can be awarded posthumously (only the living are awarded the Nobel Prize; a posthumous prize will be awarded only if the candidate dies between January 10 and December 10 of the same year, that is, the time between the finalization of the candidates by the prize committee and the presentation of the award by the king of Sweden).

The Military Space Program Didn't Head for the Hills for Nothing

Under the Monday presidential order, Maj. Gen. Alexander Kvasnikov, head of the military aerospace staff and first deputy commander of the Russian military aerospace program, was named a State Prize winner for science and technology