

FOCUS - Players limbering up for Kremlin's new game.

1,799 words

20 November 2003

Prime-TASS Energy Service (Russia)

English

© [2003] PRIME-TASS News Agency All Rights Reserved

...But it seems that, at least among foreign investors, there is a greater willingness to believe that the current debacle is loosely in line with Putin's well established program of reforms, and should not be cause for undue panic. However, opinion is far from unanimous. In a survey of foreign investors conducted at the start of the month, U.S. firm **LJ Consultants** found that 42% of respondents did not expect further crackdowns, while 27% said they did and 31% were unsure.

Respondents specifically mentioned aluminum producer RusAl, car manufacturer AvtoVaz, metals giant Norilsk Nickel, and oil majors Sibneft, Lukoil and Surgutneftegaz as potential target companies for further crackdowns.