



A WhatsApp conversation with a Citadele official which allegedly indicates a link between the bank and a sanctioned Russian company. One of the Mir submersibles is shown in the background.

It would be awkward for Citadele to make a loan directly to the factory or to provide it with a deposit facility. However, the factory's ownership is split between private companies and individuals on the management team. A source has forwarded me images of a WhatsApp chat with a bank official. The official refers to a client who, they say, owns a ship building factory. They boast that the factory services the Admiral Keldysh and the Mir submersible vehicles, which are based on the ship. In order to back up these claims they also sent a picture of themselves in front of a Mir vehicle. They are next to a man who clearly looks like the ship's captain, Yuri Gorbach. The vehicles may be being serviced at the Yantar shipyard: her client may be one of the management team with a stake in the plant. The bank may have loaned money to this client, or provided them with other financial services. The client may, in turn, have utilised such facilities for Yantar and the good of Russian military shipbuilding.

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