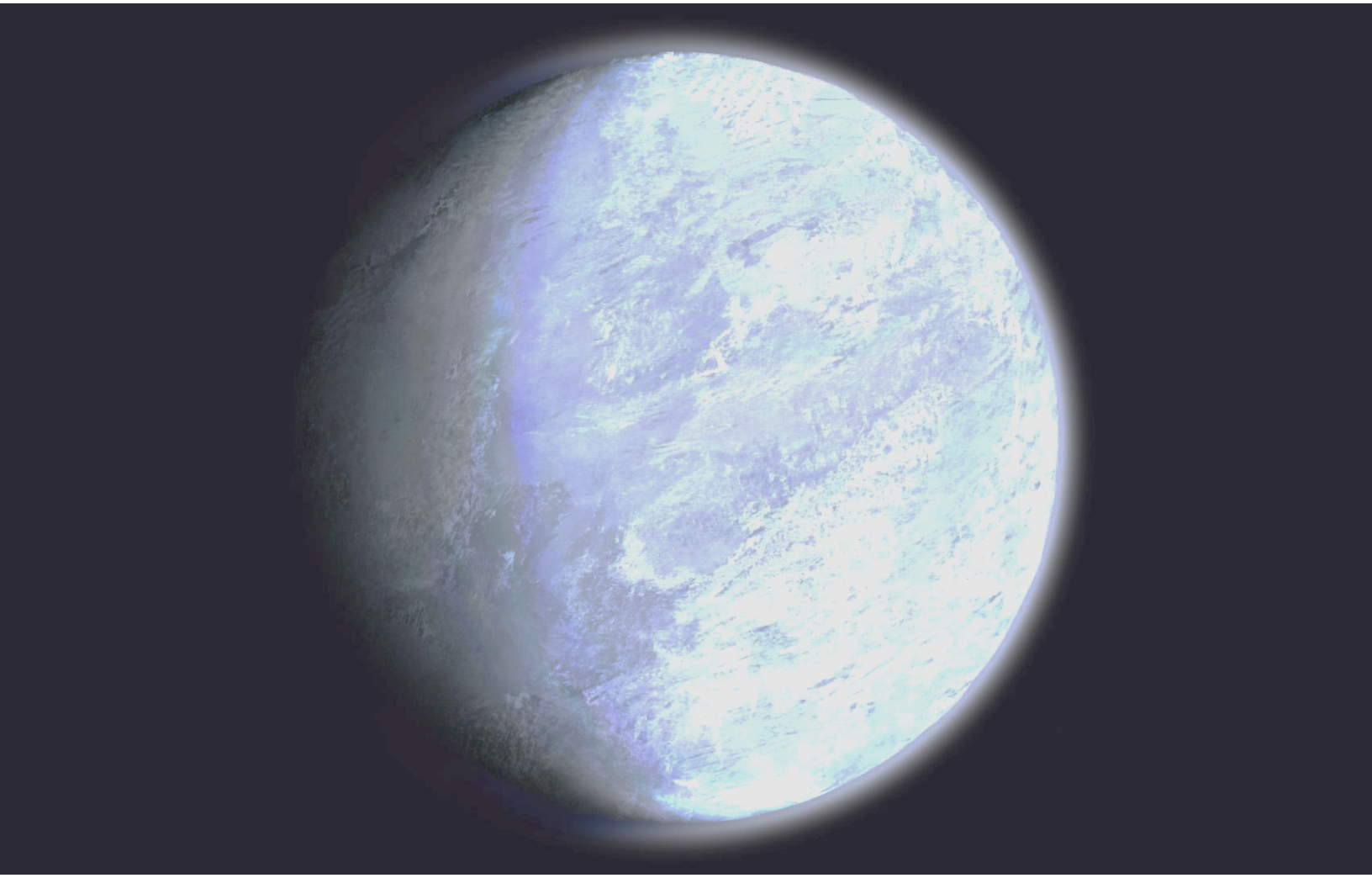
KITEZH

---------- A brief on Acquisition, History, Geography and Locations----------



Revision; 2320 CE

INTRODUCTION

“It is an intolerant, ruthless mistress; a test of man’s tenacity.”

- CHC Viktor G. Stepanenko

Kitezh is an icy super-earth located in the Yasny star system. After being home to CCM drones for 10 years as part of Project Izkhod, the first humans arrived on the planet in 2117 CE, creating a permanent settlement atop the first official landing site. The settlement was named Izkhod-1 in its fledgling years, resembling more of an outpost than an urban center. Today, the CCM has held Kitezh for 203 years at the time of publication, with a majority of the population not knowing what it is to be born on Earth. Izkhod-1 grew into a fortified metropolis, being renamed to Chekhovsk after astronomer, physicist and the first General Secretary of the CNS, Gregoriy Mikhailovich Chekhov.

ACQUISITION

Yasny was not a simple star system - it was a star system that eluded observers and star charts for centuries. That alone was enough to spark scientific interest, the human drive to investigate the ‘why’ kept Yasny under the lens of study for a decade - yet the mystery remains unsolved. During this time, Yasny and its celestial bodies were thoroughly observed and catalogued. It was a system of substantial resource wealth, clear indications of metal, rare-earth, ore and mineral deposits that the new Eastern bloc has been reliably exploiting to develop the interior for years - as well as one potentially habitable planet. Without such abundance being evident in Sol planets, Russia had to accelerate its ambitions in order to get ahead of the resource depletion projections - and the other nations who continually boosted their space programs.

This focus intensified upon the reformation of the USSR, resulting in Project Izkhod - a 10-year-plan that concluded with Soyuz men and women residing on another world. The primary objective in the Yasny system was to develop a functional mining framework to both ease the strain on Earth’s deposits and give the nation more to work with. The USSR had fallen behind the other nations in military capacity and power; concerns grew regarding the others using the weakened state of Soyuz to wage an attacking war. To redevelop its martial strength, Soyuz desperately needed to expand its economy, territorial influence and inject its industries with what Yasny had to offer.

Terraforming was not an option due to its timescale and required infrastructure, as such creating a permanent base on resource rich but uninhabitable places such as Soroka was not considered. Kitezh remained the only potential habitable candidate. The world had breathable air, consumable water; the real issue was that its temperatures were far too extreme for unshielded human habitation. It was possible however, to survive with technological assistance provided by Earth until such a time as Kitezh could become self-sufficient.

Following the election of Gen. Sec. Chekhov, Kitezh became the primary target of Izkhod.

TIMELINE

2101 CE

- Transfer craft sent through Sol SLE, equipped with warp deceleration. Vessel deploys satNav network in polar orbit to conduct multispectral scans of Kitezhan surface. Transfer craft used as communication relay.

2104 CE

- Satellite map of Kitezh complete, landing sites are selected. Preparation of the frontier drone ship commences.

2106 CE

- Drone ship transferred to Kitezh orbit.

2107 CE

- Drone ship successfully touches down on Kitezh. CCM humanoid drones take first steps on the icy surface and commence development of Izkhod-1. Parts of the drone ship are salvaged and re-used to form a permanent outpost with its own structures, power framework of solar, wind and drone pod accumulators. Communication uplink connected with Earth.
- Environmental survey framework established for a 10 year habitation experiment. Upon completion of Izkhod-1 and its automated survey operation, drones return to hibernation to conserve power.

2116 CE

- Kitezh passes its periapsis with Yasny and begins to re-freeze at the equator. Survey results match predicted trends. Colonist program has been underway since 2112 CE, including training and construction of a colonist ship with resources for further development.
- Kitezhan drones re-awaken from hibernation to prepare Izkhod-1 for human habitation. Life support systems are installed, drone ship is disassembled further to allow construction of residential blocks.

2117 CE

- Survey is completed with favourable results. Kitezh is confirmed to be habitable over a long term with sustainable life support aid. Colonist program sends the first human vessel through the SLE, together with a sizable cargo of non-perishables, livestock and seeds for indoor cultivation. Colonists mostly consist of blue collar workers, specialists in agriculture and machinists. First human steps on Kitezh recorded.
- Commlink with Earth went down a few days after arrival, leading to temporary separation. Many of the Kitezhan drones were worn out by rust from blizzards, though following repairs by the colonists over the course of a few weeks, were reactivated to repair the connection. The first Kitezhan group had lost several people to hypothermia due to a defect in multiple exterior heatsuits. A redesign was requested, as well as additional supplies and manpower to expand Izkhod-1 into a closed-cycle compound.
- Several large drone ships were sent over the next few months to boost the working crew. New Kitezhan thermal suits made it into the hands of the colonists. The drone vessels themselves were disassembled at Izkhod-1 and repurposed to create additional buildings of varying heights, interconnected with interiors and equipped with airlocks to prevent temperature escape.
- The second wave of colonists arrived later during the year, opening small robotics production lines for mining operations, and the development of launchpad for reusable crafts.

2118 CE

- USSR is officially renamed into the CCM. New flag is commissioned and deployed on Kitezh. Earth flags are replaced and kept in museums.

2121 CE

- Izkhod-1 developed into a small town. Automation had spread to Soroka for mining operations. An outpost for human technicians was constructed planetside, where a large crew of Kitezhans relocated to supervise the machines.
- Proceeds of the mining operations went into maintenance of Izkhod-1, local goods and the construction of a dedicated Soyuz SLE within Yasny.
- Food was reliably farmed from large underground hydroponics centers, where cattle also resided. Kitezhan ice water proved to be fully compatible with Earth plantlife.
- First child to be born on Kitezh is successfully delivered.

2126 CE

- Yasny SLE was activated for the first time, ready to receive new vessels from Sol to ferry commodities and persons.
- Third wave of colonists arrives. A science institute primarily focused on researching new ways of adapting to Kitezh life is established. Active industrial union branches are opened. Izkhod-1 develops into a large town and spaceport. Colonists scouting for other potential settlement sites on Kitezh.
- Izkhod-1 becomes equipped with a local fusion power grid.

2127 CE

- The Thaw Massacre - first summer, many citizens are killed due to abrupt hordes of ‘wildlife’ attacking Izkhod-1. Kitezhan organised military police is formed, branches trained in disaster relief and brutal suppression to combat onslaughts. Izkhod-1 develops encompassing and internal fortifications.
- Discovery of Aos Si inhabitants takes place, several groups found squatting in the underbelly of Izkhod-1 for shelter against the ‘wildlife’. First contact results in a stand-off. Soyuz confirms previous CCP claims of the existence of elves.
- Elves surrender into Soyuz custody after a month. A committee is appointed to liaise relations between Soyuz and Kitezhan Aos Si, Department of Foreign Affairs of Earth CNS appoints linguists to work with Aos Si on mutual understanding. Aos Si communicated via illustrations. In exchange for continued protection, Aos Si provide information on the planet and the ‘wildlife’, citing evidence of the metaphysical. Kitezhan Institute of Sciences establishes a special department to investigate.

2128 CE

- ‘Wildlife’ threat has been suppressed, remnants within city walls have been eradicated. Aos Si communicated that the event occurs once every cycle, 10 Earth years. Additional hidden enclaves of Aos Si have been uncovered and evacuated.
- Reconstruction efforts required additional personnel of military and STEM nature. The metaphysical department of Kitezh Institute of Sciences attracted substantial attention from Earth’s scientific community. Influx of scientists and students expected.
- An educational framework is established to develop Kitezhan children and transfer students. First Kitezhan Schools and a University rise among the reconstruction of ruined districts.

2129 CE

- Fourth colonisation wave takes place. Earth CNS declares Kitezh a core world for Soyuz.
- Large influx of Aos Si refugees have been met with skepticism from colonists. A small series of protests take place, quashed by Kitezhan law enforcement.
- Multiple Aos Si have successfully grasped the Russian language. They go on to teach humans of all ages about the Aos Si and their culture at the University.
- Aos Si begin attending the University to undertake learning about human history, CCM and core skills.
- Estimated that 72% of Aos Si show general agreement with CCM culture, Department of Foreign Affairs proposes potential cultural integration.

2134 CE

- Two new colonies form simultaneously, named Novoyakutsk and Senegorsk; materials are airlifted via shuttle. Izkhod-1 grows into a large city, becoming Chekhovsk. Presidium duplicate is constructed, Kitezh CNS is formally initiated with the first elected cabinet. Facilities are renamed accordingly.
- Aos Si citizenship scheme is underway, elven young attend school with CCM children, subscribing to mandatory membership of Young Pioneers and Komsomol.
- A Kitezh-exclusive program involves classes of the Aos Si language by elven tutors for human children. Human literacy rate in elven rests at approximately 89%. Aos

Si literacy in Russian rests at 98%. Some refuse to learn the language.

2136 CE

- Preparations are made for the summer onslaught. Some Aos Si have volunteered to aid the CCM in the defense. All undergo requisite military training for onslaught suppression.

2137 CE

- Aos Si perspectives increased tactical efficiency against wildlife. Defense cut casualties from the Thaw Massacre by 98.8%. Veterans of the defense are awarded a medal made from the chromium of Soroka, tradition continues to present.

2167 CE

- 50 year anniversary of the colonization of Kitezh by the CCM. A large monument is erected to remember those who came first and who made it possible.

2170 CE

- Chekhovsk becomes a sprawling metropolis and spaceport. Novoyakutsk and Senegorsk grow into large cities. Smaller settlements have spread out to parts of the equator and northern permafrost steppe. Soroka outpost is a bustling mining port under the supervision of joint union operation. Mining activity spreads to Soroka's moon, Molot.

2197 CE

- An unknown disease runs through a large portion of Kitezhan livestock, proving fatal in 80% of the cases. Bodies are burned, but some tissue samples are retained for study. Many workers who tended to cattle were quarantined. All survived - virus not deadly to humans. However, the outbreak causes a food shortage. Kitezhan population endures rationing and vegan-oriented eating until livestock numbers climb sufficiently.

2215 CE

- First Aos Si group to walk on Earth land in Moscow spaceport as part of an educational trip for human and CCM culture studies.

2260 CE

- An anti-communist terrorist cell sabotages a maglev shuttle in Senegorsk, resulting in the death of 10 with 42 civilians injured. CCM expands KGB numbers on Kitezh.

2261 CE

- Terrorist cell expunged. A total of 175 individuals are caught and terminated. Evidence at base of operations indicated plans of more severe attacks.

2270 CE

- Aos Si members of the Chekhovsk Institute of Sciences metaphysics department present a report on ancient Nodes. CCM scientists examine star charts for potential evidence of a network.
- Yasny system becomes a known Node, presumed dormant or expired.

2290 CE

- In the past century, Chekhovsk almost tripled in size. More effective energy infrastructure is required. Work begins on the Kitezhan M-beam Nexus.

2310 CE

- Relays are released into orbit. Cities have independently ensured that all structures and vehicles are prepared for grid connection.

2320 CE

- Kitezhan M-beam Nexus is 98% complete. Engineers and logisticians estimate its completion to take place by early 2321 CE.

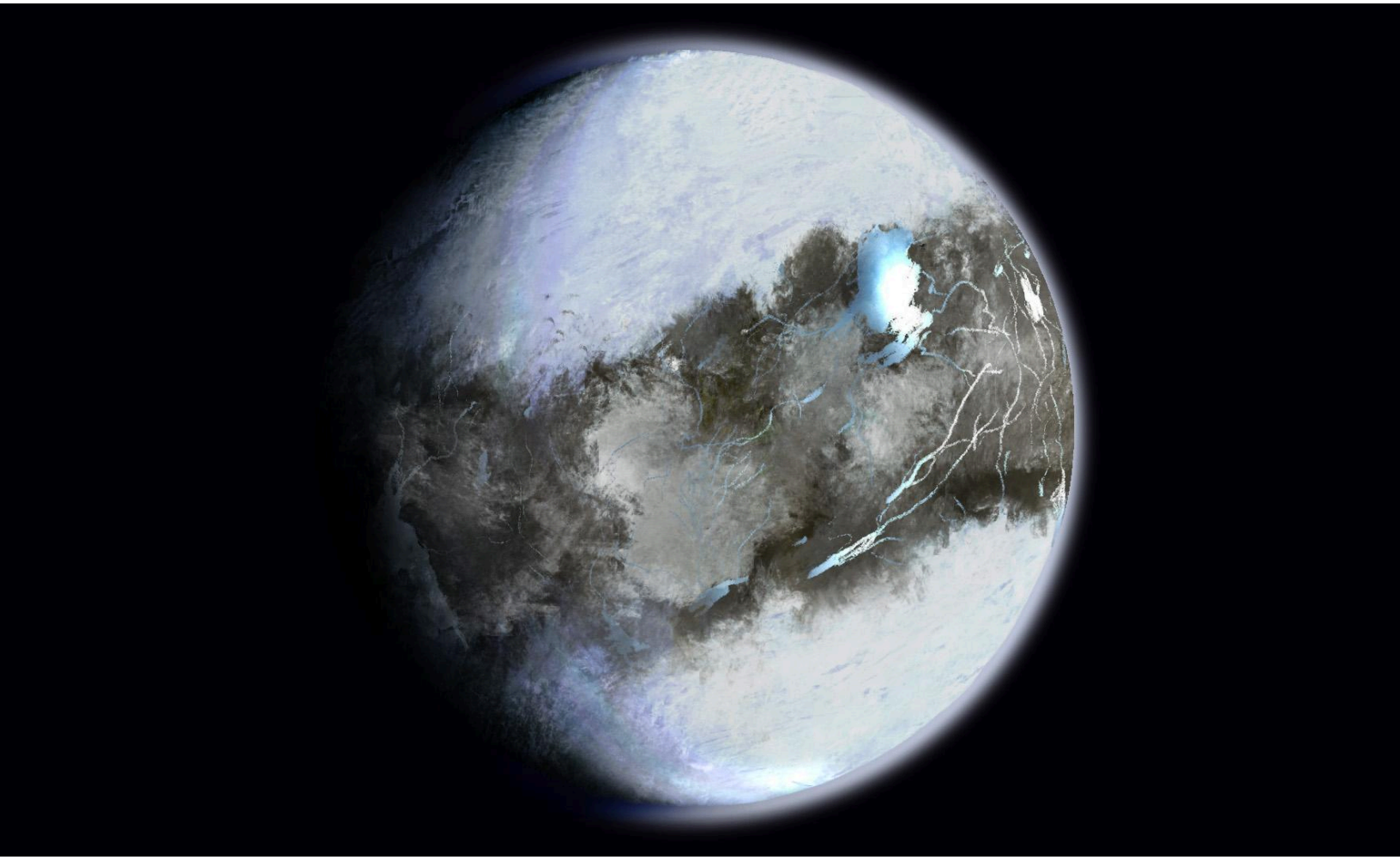
GEOGRAPHY

The air on Kitezh is comfortably breathable, with a composition and ratio almost identical to Earth. In the summers, humidity rises dramatically along the equator - and the entire world adopts thick cloud clusters. This results in periods of calm snow, only occurring during the few months when Kitezh is at its closest to Yasny. Following the refreeze, the rapid change in temperatures and pressure systems creates a period of cold lightning storms and hailstone precipitation which can be dangerous to humans. This period lasts for 2 years at the beginning of the new cycle, and again when the Thaw begins. The rest of the Kitezhan orbit contains occasional blizzards which vary in severity and affected locations, with Chekhovsk averaging at 2 blizzards per calendar month. Kitezhan temperatures at the equator range between -80°C (-112°F) and -130°C (-202°F) in the winter years, and between 5°C (41°F) and -20°C (-4°F) in the summer. On average, Kitezhan atmospheric pressure at sea level is slightly greater than that on Earth.

Complete adaptation to such a climate took decades of time, innovation and technological advancement both personal and public. To withstand the temperatures, CCM structures are built in unison with life support systems, primarily focusing on insulation and controlled ventilation. Walls are thick and largely consist of flat, angular surfaces - the exterior layer is a ‘blast shield’ against temperature and winds, a thick mixture of chromatic concrete, so named due to its consistency being enhanced with chromatic deposits of Soroka. Interiors are supplied with an innovative pressure airlock ventilation system which depressurizes structures by locked values. When the vents are open, the higher pressure of the exterior encourages air to force through the vents without allowing interior temperature to escape. To maintain the ease of living and maximum energy efficiency, all buildings in Kitezhan cities are joined together by tunnels, skybridges and public transit in order to maintain a comfortable temperature equilibrium without heating all structures independently.

Personal protection has come in the shape of cybernetic augmentation and specialised environmental suits. The Chekhovsk Institute of Sciences has established its own cybernetics and prosthetics division which conducts research and adaptation of existing designs of Earth. Some examples of Kitezhan designs include homeostasis enhancing hardware, subdermal and organ implants and apparel supporting exoskeletons.

The population centers are located along a preset isometric grid as established by the initial satNav blanket scan. Initially, this was to facilitate easier navigation due to the Kitezhan landscape being largely homogenous on the ground. In the event of communication issues, towns and cities are not difficult to find provided one maintains the same direction upon departure. Such a framework does amount to vehicular trails between cities that are deep but only temporary, as harsh weather swiftly hides them beneath a blanket of snow. For this reason, Kitezh does not have roads - instead, VTOL personal crafts and shuttles are used to transport members of the public between cities. To avoid issues with avalanches and equatorial icefields melting during the Thawing season, cities are typically located outside of the equatorial line and away from mountains. Most of the water used by farming and the population comes from the equatorial area, because of its decennial thawing keeping the supply fresh and renewed.



MAJOR LOCATIONS

Chekhovsk

- The first human settlement of Kitezh, later the capital city. It is the 3rd largest city within the CCM, at approximately 6,755km^2. It was previously known as Izkhod-1, until 2134 CE, when Kitezh was beginning to spawn additional urban areas. The city is located on a foundation of permafrost soil between Kogti Mountain range and Lebediny Pokrov. The Chekhovskiy region is always frozen, being too far from the equator to thaw during the summer.
- The Presidium of the Kitezhan CNS is located here, along with the Chekhovsk Institute of Sciences and Kitezh University No.1.

Novoyakutsk

- Located on the border of the Thawing zone, Novoyakutsk sits on a permafrost base near a large frozen lake. The city was planned to specifically be constructed at an elevated altitude to avoid Thaw flooding, while also being located near liquid water during the hot season. Novoyakutsk is the primary supplier of equatorial ice for Kitezhan urban centers, which is melted at its destination to become drinking and industrial water. It is currently the second largest city on the planet.

Senegorsk

- The third largest city on Kitezh, also the highest altitude settlement. Senegorsk is located atop an ancient, long dead volcano. Initially a weather outpost, it has steadily grown into a mining town once numerous ore veins were discovered hidden within the frozen rock beneath. Senegorsk contains a considerable industrial union presence, hosting the majority of manufacturing facilities while Chekhovsk is home to their major planetary offices.

Palatinsk

- The fourth largest city of Kitezh, located on the opposite side of the Kogti mountain range from Chekhovsk. This is a spillover area for the population of Chekhovsk that has spawned its own urban area. It stands out for having dedicated interiors for hydroponics and farming, creating large indoor greens and parks which are rarely seen in higher tech cities such as its larger siblings.