

# Putin's challenger

Billionaire Mikhail Prokhorov is to stand against Vladimir Putin in Russia's forthcoming presidential election – despite accusations of being a Kremlin stooge



■ **May 3, 1965:** Born in Moscow

■ **1989:** Graduates from ***Moscow Finance Institute***

■ **1993:** Chairman of ***Onexim Bank***

■ **1995:** Buys ***Norlisk Nickel*** with deputy prime minister ***Vladimir Potanin***, modernises mining business

■ **2007:** Splits with Potanin, launches private investment fund ***Onexim Group***. Arrested for arranging prostitutes for party in Courchevel, France – later cleared of all charges

■ **2010:** Buys ***New Jersey Nets***, first foreign owner of NBA basketball team

■ **Jun 2011:** Appointed leader of ***Right Cause*** pro-business party

■ **Sep 14:** Resigns from party, denouncing it as “puppet of Kremlin”

■ **Dec 12:** Announces presidential candidacy, standing as independent

*Nickname: Giraffe – he is 2.03m tall.*

*Worth: \$18bn – Russia's third richest*