

Nuclear Cooperation Pact Welcomed

By [The Moscow Times](#)

December 12, 2010

The  Moscow Times

The United States and Russia welcomed Friday the U.S. Congress' passing of a new accord that will allow them to significantly expand cooperation in civilian nuclear energy.

U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary Daniel Poneman said the framework pact — known as the 123 agreement because its requirements are set in Section 123 of the U.S. Atomic Energy Act — would help boost nonproliferation efforts and create new business opportunities.

“It’s going to allow the U.S. and Russia to deepen our existing cooperation on nonproliferation and nuclear security ... it’s going to help to create opportunities to bring nuclear power cooperation to a new level” he said.

The deal did not require congressional approval, but Congress could have rejected it within 90 days of continuous session — a period that elapsed Thursday. Poneman said the pact would come into effect after a formal exchange of notes.

Sergei Novikov, a spokesman for Russia’s nuclear agency Rosatom, also hailed the new pact as

a key vehicle for boosting U.S.-Russian civilian nuclear cooperation.

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