

Iran Nuclear Plant on Power Grid

By [The Moscow Times](#)

September 05, 2011

The  Moscow Times

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's first nuclear power plant, Bushehr, has been connected to the country's national power grid, Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said, according to state-run Press TV.

The 1,000-megawatt Russian-built plant joined the national electricity network with a capacity of about 60 megawatts at 11:29 p.m. local time Saturday, the nuclear body was reported as saying. It will reach 40 percent of its capacity at a ceremony to be held on Sept. 12, Press TV said.

Electricity generation at Bushehr, which Iranian officials had estimated would start before September 2009, has been repeatedly delayed because of technical glitches and a dispute over Iran's nuclear activities.

Russian and Iranian officials held a ceremony to mark the opening of Bushehr on Aug. 21, 2010, and Iran began loading fuel into the reactor in October, a process that it said ended about a month later. In February, Iran said it was removing fuel rods following Russia's

request for tests to be performed on the plant.

Iranian officials acknowledged last year that Bushehr's computer systems and its centrifuges for enriching uranium had been affected by malicious computer software, though they denied that this was the reason behind technical setbacks at the plant. Computer-security software maker Symantec said in a Nov. 12 study that the so-called worm, Stuxnet, might have been created to sabotage Iran's nuclear installations.

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