

Medvedev Mulls Credit Line for Superjets

By The Moscow Times

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Foreign buyers could borrow up to \$2.5 billion to acquire SSJ-100 aircraft, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said, opening a meeting of the Vneshekonombank supervisory board at his Gorki residence Monday, Interfax reported.

"Today we need to decide on funding sales of the Sukhoi Superjet-100, on opening an overall credit facility of up to \$2.5 billion for foreign buyers of these planes," Medvedev said. He said the approach to each deal had to be an individual one. The task is to supply more Russian aircraft abroad, but in line with the mechanisms that Russia has obtained with World Trade Organization membership. Aircraft manufacturing is a state policy priority, Medvedev said. Changes to the rules for granting Russian aircraft and aircraft engine manufacturers loan subsidies for upgrades and leasing came into force in October, he said.

"We have to keep up efforts to promote aircraft on Russian markets," Medvedev said, and at the same time look into issuing loans to foreign buyers and insuring exports.

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