

Belene Project Revived

By The Moscow Times

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Plans for construction of a nuclear power plant in Bulgaria will be brought before parliament, and Russia's Atomstroiexport is a key contender, Interfax reported, citing Bulgarian news agency Novinite.

In a referendum Sunday, Bulgarians backed the building of the plant in an effort to reverse the government's decision to cancel the project.

Roughly 60 percent voted for a 2,000-megawatt plant at Belene, on the Danube River, Gallup International and Alpha Research exit polls showed. Turnout was about 20 percent.

The \$12.5 billion plant is expected to be built by Atomstroiexport and financed by Rosatom. In March, Bulgaria's center-right government stopped the project to allay concerns that the Kremlin would gain control of the country's nuclear future.

(MT, Reuters)

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