

Putin Might Travel to Iran in August

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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The  Moscow Times

President Vladimir Putin will meet Iran's newly elected president in Tehran next month to discuss restarting talks on the Islamic Republic's nuclear program, Russian and Iranian media reported Wednesday.

Kommersant quoted a source close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry as saying that President Putin would visit on Aug. 12, days after Hassan Rouhani is inaugurated.

Iran's Mehr news agency said Putin would travel to Iran on Aug. 16, without citing a source.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined comment on the reports. Putin last visited Iran in 2007 to attend a summit of states bordering the Caspian Sea.

World powers hope Iran's relatively moderate new leader will comply with demands for Tehran to scale back nuclear work that they suspect is aimed at enabling it to make bombs.

Iran says it is enriching uranium, the fissile material for atomic bombs, only to fuel nuclear

power stations and for medical purposes.

Once Rouhani takes office, Tehran's hard line team in nuclear talks with six world powers is likely to be overhauled.

Although the president holds influence, Iran's theocratic supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, wields ultimate control over Iranian nuclear policy.

The last high-level talks between Iran and six world powers — the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — were held in Kazakhstan in April. They failed to break the deadlock.

Moscow has proposed a compromise under which Tehran would be rewarded for scaling back on enrichment with concessions on international sanctions over the nuclear program.

Kommersant also cited a defense industry source as saying Putin could discuss an offer to replace frozen shipments of S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems to Tehran with deliveries of Antey-2500 anti-ballistic missiles, an upgrade of the S-300 missiles.

Russia scrapped an S-300 sale to Iran in 2010 after it came under international pressure not to complete the deal because of the sanctions.

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