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Construction Starts on World's Largest Nuclear Icebreaker

By The Moscow Times

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The nuclear icebreaker '50 Let Pobedy' on North 88°. **Kiselev d**

ST. PETERSBURG — Construction of the largest and most powerful nuclear-powered icebreaker has begun in St. Petersburg's Baltic Shipyard.

The yet-unnamed ship, to be powered by two nuclear reactors, will be 14 meters longer and four meters wider than the current largest, the 50 Let Pobedy, or 50 Years of Victory, used last month to bring the Olympic flame to the North Pole.

Russia is the only country with a nuclear icebreaker fleet. The record-breaking vessel, being constructed under a 37.9 billion-ruble ($1.2 billion) contract, is expected to be ready for action in November 2015.

By December 2017, the icebreaker must complete its sea and ice trials and arrive at the Murmansk base of Atomflot, which operates the country's commercial icebreaker fleet.

"There are no doubts that this work will be completed in due time and with due quality," Ivan Kamenskikh, the president of the United Shipbuilding Corporation, said during Tuesday's ceremony.

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