

Iran's Nuclear Chief Arrives in Moscow to Sign Nuclear Reactor Deal

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Iranian Vice President and nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami. **EPA / TASS**

Iranian Vice President and nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami traveled to Moscow to sign a long-delayed deal for Russia to construct eight nuclear reactors in the Middle Eastern country, media [reported](#) Monday.

The plan to build eight nuclear reactors in Iran was [announced](#) in 2014, but it has remained largely at the level of framework agreements and preliminary contracts for more than a decade.

“Contract negotiations have taken place and with the signing of the agreement this week, we will enter the operational steps,” Eslami was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Russia [built](#) Iran's first nuclear power plant in the central city of Bushehr in 2011 and [completed](#) the station in 2013 despite strong U.S. objections.

The eight-reactor project is part of Iran's plans to reach 20 gigawatts of nuclear energy

capacity by 2040.

Eslami [said](#) four of the future reactors would be located in Bushehr, according to Iran's official IRNA news agency.

The United States and Israel accuse Iran of seeking to develop a nuclear weapon, which Tehran denies, defending its "non-negotiable" right to develop a civilian nuclear program.

Russia says it is opposed to a nuclear-armed Iran, but it has defended Tehran's right to use nuclear technology for civilian purposes.

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