

# Pezeshkian places premium on quantum technology for Iran’s future

Economy Desk

President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the critical importance of achieving quantum technology for Iran’s future, particularly in commercial, communication, and defense-security sectors. Speaking at a meeting of the Quantum Strategic Council on Tuesday, Pezeshkian stressed that targeted progress in quantum development requires a clear understanding of the country’s existing capabilities and the global landscape, followed by strategic planning to achieve a competitive position in this emerging field. The meeting, attended by key officials, reviewed recent programs and actions taken in the quantum technology sector. Pezeshkian highlighted the rapid global advancements in emerging technologies, including quantum, and underscored the necessity for Iran to keep pace. He noted that the first step toward meaningful progress is assessing Iran’s strengths and capacities while analyzing the positions of other nations in this domain. This, he said, should be followed by comprehensive planning and policy-making to secure a favorable standing in quantum technology. Quantum technology, rooted in the principles of quantum mechanics, represents a transformative leap in computing, communication, and cryptography. Unlike classical computers, which process information in

binary bits (0s and 1s), quantum computers use qubits that can exist in multiple states simultaneously. This allows them to solve complex problems at unprecedented speeds, with applications ranging from drug discovery and financial modeling to secure communications and advanced defense systems. Countries like the United States, China, and members of the European Union have heavily invested in quantum research, recognizing its potential to reshape global economic and security dynamics. **Push for quantum advancement** Iran has recently intensified efforts to develop its quantum capabilities, viewing the technology as a strategic priority. The establishment of the Quantum Strategic Council reflects the government’s commitment to fostering innovation in this field. However, challenges remain, including the need for specialized human resources, advanced infrastructure, and international collaboration. Pezeshkian’s call for a focused approach to education and research aims to address these gaps by concentrating efforts in top universities and research centers, rather than dispersing resources across multiple institutions. **Global competition, strategic implications** The global race for quantum supremacy has significant geo-



political implications. Nations leading in quantum technology are expected to gain a substantial edge in economic and military domains. For Iran, developing indigenous quantum capabilities is not only a matter of technological advancement but also a strategic necessity to safeguard national security and reduce dependency on foreign technologies. The government’s push for a comprehensive quantum development document within two months signals a sense of urgency to align policies, investments, and research efforts toward this goal.

Pezeshkian also emphasized the importance of training a skilled workforce as a cornerstone of quantum technology development. He called for avoiding the proliferation of scattered academic units in this field and instead focusing on educating talented students in a few top universities alongside major research centers. This, he said, would enable better planning and support for the advancement of quantum technology. Additionally, the president urged the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology to collaborate with relevant agencies to finalize a quantum technol-

President Masoud Pezeshkian (C) speaks at the meeting of the Quantum Strategic Council in Tehran on March 11, 2025. [president.ir](#)

ogy development document within two months. This document is expected to outline the government’s role in supporting the technology and provide a framework for decision-making and planning in this critical area. Pezeshkian stressed that the proliferation of councils in science and technology should not hinder progress or delay decision-making processes.

## Iran, Russia sign MoU to jointly manufacture microelectronics



The file photo shows recycled microchips and electrical components for gold recovery at the Petromax JSC waste recycling complex in Lobnya, Russia. [TASS](#)

Iran and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly produce microelectronic components, a new step in increasing cooperation in the technology sector. The new agreement is part of growing cooperation between Russia and Iran in the technology sector. Russia’s Ministry of Industry and Trade signed the agreement with the Nano and Micro Technology Development Headquarters, a division of the Iranian Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and the Knowledge-Based Economy, on Tuesday, the Moscow-based Kommersant newspaper reported. The agreement will seek to establish sustainable production chains and explore new markets, and is part of growing cooperation between Russia and Iran in the technology sector. Under the agreement, the Zelenograd Nanotechnology Center (ZNTC), one of Russia’s leading firms in nanotechnology, will work closely with Iranian partners, focusing on the production of advanced nanolithography equipment, telecommunication multiplexers, and automotive sensors. Anatoly Kovalev, general director of ZNTC, expressed enthusiasm about the new partnership, which he said is the company’s first cooperation with Iran. The products developed through this joint initiative are expected to be available in both Russian and Iranian markets. Iran and Russia have been strengthening their ties through various collaborative efforts, particularly in the fields of science and technology. This partnership has evolved significantly over the years, with both nations recognizing the potential benefits of working together amid external pressures, including sanctions. The recent memorandum of understanding (MoU) to produce microelectronic components marks a pivotal moment in this evolving relationship. By focusing on sustainable production chains and exploring new markets, both nations aim to leverage their respective strengths in technology development. The collaboration with the Zelenograd Nanotechnology Center highlights Russia’s advanced capabilities in nanotechnology and microelectronics, while Iran’s growing expertise in these domains presents opportunities for joint ventures that could enhance their competitiveness on a global scale. This initiative not only aims to meet domestic demands but also positions both countries to navigate international market challenges more effectively.

# 80m tons of Iran’s port capacity unused: PMO

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The caretaker of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), while announcing the latest status of Makoran ports, said that the country’s port capacity stands at about 295 million tons, but 80 million tons of this capacity remain unused. Saeid Rasouli noted that to optimize capacity, the government and parliament, with the insightful guidance of the Leader, have taken steps toward realizing maritime-oriented development. Rasouli, who is also the deputy minister of roads and urban development, talking to ISNA, stated that blue economy plays a key role in national projects as a macro strategy. He added that boosting blue economy has become a necessity in the Seventh Development Plan and has been emphasized. Synergy among organizations responsible for coastal development can be very effective. The official continued that capacity building in the country’s ports has been aligned with the needs of maritime transport, and significant measures have been taken. Maximum utilization of these capacities should be prioritized. Rasouli noted that very favorable capacity has been created in the country’s ports, and to maximize its use, several key issues must be addressed. These include the country’s import and export conditions and identifying solutions to increase maritime transport. He said that the competitive capaci-

ty of neighboring ports can affect the country’s transit and transshipment status. He emphasized the need to accurately assess the current situation in the region to actualize the potential capacity of the country’s ports and to pay attention to modern maritime transport models, such as using large-sized ships and hub development. Regarding the development of the country’s commercial ports based on comprehensive plans, Rasouli said that market understanding is crucial in these plans. This has been considered in the 5-, 10-, and 15-year programs. With the formulation of a comprehensive plan for the country’s ports as a roadmap, all development plans in the ports will be implemented accordingly. The deputy minister of transport stated that the performance of ports in the oil and non-oil sectors, both in the north and south of the country, is about 210 million tons, with 70 to 80 million tons of unused capacity. Rasouli said that to develop and boost transit, favorable conditions must be created in the country’s ports, and co-operation and synergy among other organizations, as well as the updating of their equipment and facilities, should be ensured. Rasouli also noted that the goals for the country’s ports are being implemented based on comprehensive port plans and prioritization. During the Ten Days of Dawn (celebrating the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution), various development projects, mostly infrastructure-related, were inaugurated with the presence of the minister of roads and urban development.



Regarding projects under study, particularly for the Makoran coast, the location of the Great Makoran Port have been determined, and coordination with the Ministry of Oil has been completed. He expressed hope that with the special attention of the government and the formulation of a comprehensive plan and development programs for the Makoran Port, land acquisition for the Ports and Maritime Organization will be successfully completed, followed by investments by the organization. **Record broken for container transport** The chairman of the board of directors of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Group’s container transport company announced that the record for container transport has been broken in the history of the group’s operations despite sanction pressures.

Hamzeh Keshavarz stated that the container transport company, as the container shipping arm of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Group, moved 100,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) more this year compared to the previous year (1402 in the Persian calendar), significantly improving the container transport record within the group. He attributed this achievement to the mutual trust between the company and cargo owners, adding that efforts by the shipping group and the container transport company are focused on expanding cooperation with customers and providing safe, regular, and cost-effective services. In this regard, the official noted that the company has maintained steady growth in its operations over the past five years despite sanctions and related limitations. He highlighted that this year, the company has seen a 41% growth in operational performance compared to five years ago.