

Nuclear-assisted cancer diagnostics, therapeutics unveiled at Tehran tech expo

AEOI: Radiopharmaceutical portfolio expands to 70 products



First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (L) and Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) chief Mohammad Eslami unveil four new strategic nuclear medicine achievements at the 26th International Research, Technology, and Innovation Exhibition in Tehran on December 15, 2025.
● IRNA

The event was attended by First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) chief Mohammad Eslami, and the vice president for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, IRNA reported.

The newly introduced therapeutic radiopharmaceutical 177Lu-Alpha-MSH and the diagnostic agent 68Ga-Alpha-MSH target metastatic skin cancer. The officials also showcased an automated production system for radiopharmaceuticals treating metastatic bone pain, a common complication of advanced cancers. The National Nuclear Education Network was launched to connect academic and research institutions nationwide.

Aref highlighted the government's priorities, noting the administration aims to accelerate progress in emerging technologies to meet domestic needs and provide achievements to regional countries interested in collaboration.

At the ceremony, Eslami emphasized the AEOI's dual scientific and industrial role, "We are a successful symbol of sustaining the cycle of creativity and innovation — where knowledge is transformed into technology, and technology into usable systems and solutions, in the shortest possible time. This transformation — from science to practical, people-centered solutions — has been realized within our organization."

Eslami noted that these innovations are not only scientifically advanced but also socially and economically impactful.

He recalled that in 2023, Iran had announced 50 domestically produced radiopharmaceuticals, with 20 more in research phases. "Today, I am proud to report that we have reached 70 radiopharmaceuticals," he said.

Ali Bahrami Samani, deputy head of the Nuclear Science and Technology Re-

search Institute, confirmed the figure, noting that 20 new radiopharmaceuticals have been added to the national drug registry over the past two years.

"This year's health-related achievements go beyond previous developments, now encompassing advanced applications for liver cancer, glioma, and other complex malignancies," he said.

"The radiopharmaceuticals introduced today represent a qualitative leap, addressing more challenging oncological conditions than earlier generations."

He also highlighted the educational milestone of the National Nuclear Education Network, describing it as a unified platform now operational for universities across the country.

The 26th International Research, Technology, and Innovation Exhibition runs from Saturday to Tuesday at Tehran's permanent fairgrounds, showcasing Iran's scientific and technological capabilities, supporting innovative ideas, and strengthening connections among research, industry, and economic sectors.

Economy Desk

Iran unveiled four new strategic nuclear medicine achievements at the 26th International Research, Technology, and Innovation Exhibition on Monday,

including two radiopharmaceuticals for early diagnosis and treatment of metastatic melanoma, an automated system for producing bone pain therapy drugs, and the launch of a national nuclear education network.

Iran backs \$5bn in Africa investment, calls for strategic trade roadmap



Economy Desk

Iran is seeking to expand trade with Africa, with the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran supporting roughly \$3 billion in investments across the continent, while the National Development Fund is backing about €2 billion in start-up and entrepreneurship projects, officials said at a seminar on Iran's Trade Atlas at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce.

Iran-Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce head Masoud Berahman on Monday highlighted Africa's large population and growing market, noting that the continent offers significant opportunities in goods, technical and engineering services, and investment, IRNA reported.

He stressed that infrastructure, policy planning, and government support are essential for tapping these opportunities. Berahman also pointed to the

absence of a clear trade roadmap. "In the export market, we have faced numerous challenges and need to systematically monitor markets and trade conditions of different countries," he said.

He urged stronger private-sector participation in economic diplomacy and coordination between the Trade Promotion Organization, the economic diplomacy department, and the Chamber of Commerce. Berahman called for a joint roadmap toward target markets, including Africa, with a focus on high-potential sectors.

Highlighting regional cooperation, he said relying solely on neighboring countries such as Iraq would not yield the desired results and emphasized the need for government-backed strategies. Berahman also underscored the role of trade attachés, noting that countries like Turkey have 44 trade attachés in Africa, while

Iran has only three, and called for better use of economic diplomacy tools.

Meanwhile, Taha-Hossein Madani, head of the Smart Governance Think Tank, said Iran's share of global exports remains low and urged strategies to increase high value-added goods while reducing raw material exports.

"Iran's share of global trade is 0.37%, approximately \$1.2 trillion. Exports to our 15 neighboring countries amount to about \$15 billion, which does not reflect their potential," he said, adding that the production of value-added products and expanding relations could increase Iran's share.

He also noted that Iran's exports to Africa remain below \$1 billion, despite the continent having over \$400 billion in trade. China remains Iran's largest export destination at \$14.85 billion, followed by the UAE.

Madani concluded that, facing trade wars and sanctions, Iran lacks a defined trade roadmap. "Operational programs and focused workstreams are needed to increase Iran's share globally, adjust trade balances with key countries, and strengthen specialized cooperation among experts," he said.

The seminar was held at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce as part of the ninth session on Iran's Trade Atlas initiative.

Iran offers aircraft overhaul to carriers, eyes EU routes amid legal push

Economy Desk

Iran's acting head of the Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) said aircraft operating in the country are repaired and maintained domestically, adding that the Islamic Republic provides maintenance services to planes from some neighboring countries and Venezuela, as the sector expands fleet capacity under the current administration.

Speaking at a press briefing on the sidelines of the 9th International Transportation and Logistics Exhibition in Tehran on Monday, Abouzar Shiroudi said safety remains the top priority, IRNA reported.

"The most important mission of the Civil Aviation Organization is to guarantee flight safety and security, and under no circumstances will safety be compromised for any other consideration," he said.

Shiroudi said Iran's operational fleet currently consists of 150 aircraft, which rotate through active service and scheduled maintenance cycles. He added that the country has expanded its air transport capacity by around 2,000 seats under President Masoud Pezeshkian's government.

Separately, Iran Air Chief Executive Taher Abdolhai said restoring flights to the European Union would require intensive diplomacy and a dif-



ferent bureaucratic process, with efforts under way by the airline's legal department and Iran's Foreign Ministry.

Iran Air has filed a lawsuit against the Council of the European Union at the EU's General Court, seeking to annul sanctions imposed in October 2024 that bar the airline from flying to the bloc over its alleged support for Russia's military campaign in Ukraine. "The resumption of flights to the EU requires intensive diplomacy and a different kind of bureaucracy, which is being pursued through the joint efforts of our legal team and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," Abdolhai said.

He said that before flights to Europe were suspended, US

sanctions had already constrained Iran's aviation sector in areas including aircraft parts, flight operations, insurance, leasing and fuel supply. "For example, we were forced to use aircraft such as the Airbus A330 that could complete round trips without refueling, or we had to carry fewer passengers," he said.

Abdolhai said these challenges gradually reduced Iran Air's flight frequency until flights to the EU were ultimately halted for political reasons. He added that even airlines operating in neighboring countries that sought to carry Iranian passengers to Europe were denied permission.

"These issues will not be resolved overnight," he said.

Over 1,000 km of gas pipelines to be launched by mid-March: Minister

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said on Monday that more than 1,000 kilometers of new natural gas transmission pipelines would come online by mid-March as part of efforts to shore up the stability of the national grid.

Paknejad said key projects included more than 300 km of gas pipelines in western and southwestern regions, 170 km in northern provinces, the start-up of 154 km of pipelines in the south of Sistan-Baluchestan province in the southeast, and more than

50 km in Ardabil province in the northwest among others, IRIB News reported.

He said that expanding transmission infrastructure and strengthening the resilience of the gas network were among the Oil Ministry's top priorities and were being pursued with determination under its executive plans.

"The development of the gas transmission network plays a crucial role in boosting the country's energy security and network reliability, particularly during periods of peak

demand," the minister said, adding such measures would make domestic energy supply infrastructure "more robust."

Iran runs one of the world's longest and most complex gas networks, stretching more than 500,000 km. Around 41,000 km consists of high-pressure trunklines, while the remainder supplies cities and villages. The network covers more than 95% of the country, a penetration rate higher than that of most other gas producers and consumers.

Natural gas dominates Iran's energy mix, accounting for more than 70% of consumption, well above the global average. More than 90% of industries and power plants rely on gas, which also heats the vast majority of households.

Last winter, the state-run National Iranian Gas Co. pumped a record 860 million cubic meters (mcm) per day into the grid, much of it from South Pars, the world's largest gas field.

Demand still ran ahead of supply by about



300 mcm per day, and the company's chief executive, Saeed Tavakkoli, has warned the daily shortfall could widen to 400 mcm this year.