



SUPERJET MOVE FOR IRAN AS SATTARI VISITS MOSCOW SHOW

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Reports that Iran's days of buying Russian aircraft are over, have been scuppered by the country's vice president for science and technology, Sorena Sattari, who attended MAKS - Russia's largest air show near Moscow this week.

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Sattari spent more than two hours touring exhibits with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He paid special attention to Sukhoi Superjet.

According to the FARS news agency Sattari spoke highly of Superjet 100, describing it an “extraordinary aircraft.

“Iranian aviation companies are interested in having it since it is a very low-cost aircraft while there is no Airbus in the 100-seat size,” he said.

According to Fars, Iran’s Kish Air, Zagros Airlines and Caspian Airlines have held negotiations with the Russians.

In July, Russia's Transport Minister, Maxim Sokolov, said his country was in talks to sell passenger planes to Iran. Russian media, citing aviation officials, have reported on possible delivery of three Superjets to Iran, beginning in 2016.

Officials say Iran will need about 400 civilian aircraft worth at least \$20 billion in the next decade to renovate its aviation fleet which has suffered under years of US and European sanctions.

Representatives of Boeing Co will soon visit Iran to discuss rebuilding the country’s ageing aviation fleet, Transport Minister Abbas Akhoundi said this month.

Akhoundi also visited Paris in June and “demanded a plan for reconstruction of our aviation fleet” in a meeting with Airbus executives.

The whole issue of aviation in Iran will be the subject of a major summit and exhibition in Dubai next March when Times Aerospace Events launches Aviation Iran`at Le Meridien Hotel beside Dubai International Airport on March 2-3.

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