

Russia can offer innovation energy projects – academic

It sure can ... don't count out Russian innovation and invention.

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Russia can offer the international community a series of innovation projects to provide global energy security, a priority of Russia's current presidency in the G8 club of wealthy nations, a senior researcher said Monday.

Innovation projects include "assembly line production" of floating nuclear power plants, said Mikhail Kovalchuk, director of the Kurchatov Institute nuclear research center.

Kovalchuk, also director of the Crystallography Institute at the Russian Academy of Sciences, said NPP construction was a time-consuming and complicated process, and each plant was an individual and costly project.

"If we start assembly-line production of NPPs, it will be a clearly controllable process, restricted in time, which will lead to unification of nuclear-reactor parameters and reduce expenditures," Kovalchuk said.

He said that if the plants were placed on a special floating platform or barge, they would be easily transportable to provide energy for consumers anywhere in the world.

"Of course, I am talking about the proposal as a concept," he said. "The technology can be and should be further developed not by Russia alone, but through joint efforts."

Kovalchuk said the plan was an innovative idea that Russia could discuss with other industrialized nations.