

Russia may sign helicopter export deal with Iran by year end

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MOSCOW, October 3 (RIA Novosti) - Kamov, one of Russia's largest helicopter producers, is hoping to sign an agreement by the end of the year to export its helicopters to Iran, the company's director said on Friday.

Roman Chernyshev said that the agreement is for "supplies of civil rather than military helicopters."

He added that other Russian aircraft makers had already signed similar deals with Iran, in particular, for the delivery of more than 100 Tu-204 medium-haul passenger airliners.

He also said that Kamov had received a 2.5-billion ruble (\$100 million) loan from Vnesheconombank to produce the Ka-226T utility helicopters.

The Ka-226T can carry either eight people or 1.5 tons of cargo and has a variety of modifications - passenger, freight, search and rescue, and patrol.

Vnesheconombank (Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs) was established by the Russian government last year as a national development vehicle to modernize and diversify the Russian economy and make it more competitive.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20081003/117414836.html>