

Russia in biggest Arctic military push

Moscow is rushing to re-open a chain of military bases throughout the Arctic, and building new ones, in the biggest military expansion since the fall of the Soviet Union as it vies for dominance in the region

Russia building three nuclear-powered icebreakers – including **Arktika**, world's biggest – to bolster fleet of around 40 breakers, six of which are nuclear

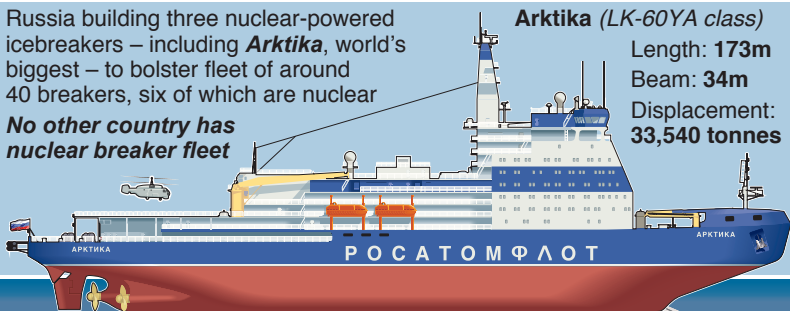
No other country has nuclear breaker fleet

Arktika (LK-60YA class)

Length: 173m

Beam: 34m

Displacement: 33,540 tonnes



Russian Arctic bases

- New ● Military
- ⊕ Airfield being upgraded

Arktika can break through floating ice 3 metres thick

U.S.

CANADA

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Pechenga
200th Army brigade

GREENLAND (DENMARK)

NORWAY

Severomorsk
Northern Fleet HQ

North Pole

ARCTIC OCEAN

ALASKA (U.S.)

PACIFIC OCEAN

Sredny Island

Wrangel Island

Bering Strait

Rogachevo

Tiksi

Cape Schmidt

Anadyr-Ugolny

Northern Sea Route

Moscow

Alakurtti
80th Army brigade

Alykel

Vorkuta

Naryan-mar

R U S S I A

400km
250 miles

1 Murmansk
Base for Russia's icebreakers, due to get two ice-capable corvettes with cruise missiles

2 Arctic Trefoil
To host 150 troops able to survive autonomously for 18 months

3 Northern Shamrock
Moscow's biggest Arctic base, manned by 250 personnel and equipped with air defence missiles