

Russia testing nuclear-powered missile

Russia may be preparing to test an experimental nuclear-powered cruise missile – or may have already tested it – with a theoretical range of thousands of kilometres

Pankovo: Satellite images and movements of aircraft and vehicles around launch site suggest possible test of **Burevestnik** missile, known in West as **SSC-X-9 Skyfall**. Previous 13 missile tests, conducted from 2017-2019, ended in failure

Nyonoksa: Site of 2019 test – missile crashed and exploded during recovery attempt, killing seven people

9M730 BUREVESTNIK

Estimated specifications

Missile length (in flight)	9-11m
Speed	Subsonic
Flight altitude	50-100m
Designed range	22,500km
Possible deployment date	2025

Angular design minimises radar signature

Warhead
Conventional or nuclear

Nuclear reactor: Powers electric motor that drives turbine. Launch assisted by rocket booster

Guidance system

Swept wings

Air inlet

Exhaust

■ **Threat:** Missile could be based anywhere in Russia and still be able to reach targets in continental U.S.

■ **Stealth:** Ability to fly low and use circuitous route minimises detection by radar and air defences

