

Russia tests “invincible” cruise missile

President Vladimir Putin says Russia has successfully tested its nuclear-powered Burevestnik missile, which Moscow claims can pierce any defence shield, and will move towards deploying the weapon



■ **Oct 26:** Russia's top general, **Valery Gerasimov**, tells Putin that missile travelled 14,000km and was airborne for about 15 hours when it was tested on Oct 21

■ Moscow says Burevestnik is invincible to current and future missile defences, with almost unlimited range and unpredictable flight path

9M730 BUREVESTNIK

(NATO name SSC-X-9 Skyfall)

Missile length (in flight)	9 metres	Flight altitude	50-100m
Speed	Subsonic	Notional range	20,000km

Angular design minimises radar signature

Conventional or nuclear warhead

Missile powered by miniature nuclear reactor, theoretically enabling it to stay aloft for days



Nuclear-powered propulsion system: Activates after missile reaches sufficient speed following launch assisted by rocket booster

1 Inlet: Air drawn into engine by turbine is compressed

2 Reactor: Powers electric motor that drives turbine

3 Exhaust: Superheated and possibly radioactive air generates forward thrust

