

# Egypt confirms site of first \$4bn nuclear plant

Thursday, 26 August 2010



NUCLEAR POWER: Egypt follows the UAE, which awarded a \$20bn contract at the end of last year. (Getty Images)

**EI-Debaa, on Egypt's Mediterranean Sea coast, will play host to the country's first nuclear power plant, which is scheduled to begin operations in 2019.**

The country's electricity minister, Hassan Younis, had earlier estimated that a 1,000MW plant would cost \$4bn. French nuclear giant Areva and the US firm Westinghouse have already contributed towards the project as consultants, AFP reported.

Younis added that the EI-Debaa plant would be followed by three other reactors, which might start operations by 2025.

"We hope it will be up in 2019," said electricity and energy ministry spokesman Aktham Abu el-Ela, according to the state-run MENA agency.

"You know we have a crisis when it comes to conventional fuel. This will be a stable source of energy," he said

Egypt follows the UAE, which awarded a \$20bn contract at the end of last year to a South Korean consortium led by KEPCO, and Jordan, which has chosen South Korean firms to set up a research reactor near the city of Aqaba.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have also expressed their interest in building nuclear power stations, and Reuters has reported that Sudan is planning a four-reactor site that could be operational by 2030.

Russia is currently loading fuel into the Busheher plant in Iran, with the first electricity from the site due to be connected to the national grid in about a month's time.