

Saudi Arabia eyes nuclear power deal with China

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Saudi Arabia has announced plans to sign a nuclear cooperation agreement with China as part of the kingdom's long-term energy strategy.

Hashim Yamani, president of the King Abdullah City for Nuclear and Renewable Energy, is to hold talks with Chinese officials in a bid to reach a deal.

The new move comes after Saudi Arabia signed its first ever nuclear treaty with France in February, Saudi daily Arab News reported on Tuesday.

The China talks could pave the way for the kingdom to build power stations as alternative energy sources to produce electricity and water.

Power demand is forecast to increase by eight percent annually in the kingdom. Demand for electricity in Saudi Arabia is expected to triple by 2032, which will give rise to the need for energy plants with a total of 80 gigawatts of installed capacity.

Saudi Arabia, with 20 percent of world oil reserves, aims to develop renewable energy and nuclear power to cut by half the crude and natural gas it burns to generate electricity.

Saudi Arabia's energy mix is made up almost exclusively of fossil fuels now.

