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Russia mulls talks with Iran on S-300

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Head of Rosoboronexport Anatoly Isaikin said it will be possible to resume talks with Iran over S-300 sales if the UN Security Council lifts its sanctions on Tehran, Russia's Itar-Tass news agency reported on Tuesday.

He said if the Iranian side shows an interest in the matter, talks will resume.

Under an USD 800-million contract signed in 2007, Russia was obliged to provide Iran with at least five S-300 systems.

However, the implementation of the contract was repeatedly delayed until the UN Security Council adopted US-engineered sanctions Resolution 1929 against Iran in June last year.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev issued a decree in September to prohibit the delivery of the defensive system to the Islamic Republic.

Iran criticized Russia for the decision, arguing that the UN Security Council's Resolution 1929 does not justify Moscow's refusal to commit to the deal as it does not specifically ban the delivery of defensive weapons to Tehran.