

Russia arrests ex-nuclear official 'for stealing research'

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Photo illustration of a radioactivity warning sign. One of Russia's most senior former nuclear officials has been arrested for allegedly pocketing state research grants and stealing other people's work off the Internet, a news report said Wednesday.

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Yevgeny Yevstratov, who served as deputy general director of the Rosatom state nuclear corporation, oversaw a group that received some 50 million rubles (\$1.7 million) in nuclear safety research assistance.

"However, instead of doing their own research, the corporation's employees downloaded scientific material off the Internet and pretended this was their own know-how," an unnamed nuclear official told Russian news agencies.

"And they pocketed the money," the official said.

It was not clear how many people Yevstratov oversaw or what charges he faces.

He served as deputy general director of Rosatom between 2008 and April 2011, when he was removed "in connection with a transfer to a different job", according to the corporation's website.

President [Dmitry Medvedev](#) has made innovation a key plank of his term in office, although [Russia](#) remains plagued by [corruption](#) and financial waste.

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