



Iran's Nuclear Timetable: The Weapon Potential

The estimates below, drawn from an [Iran Watch report](#), predict how soon Iran could produce the fuel for a small nuclear arsenal. The estimates assume Iran would try to build an arsenal of five warheads of the implosion type – the goal Iran set when it began nuclear weapons work decades ago.

These estimates show that Iran cannot make a sudden dash to a nuclear arsenal within a practical length of time with its known capacity. Nor will it be able to do so for a few years. Nor would a dash to a single bomb be practical given the risks of likely detection – and retaliation – before success.

The main nuclear risk in Iran is work at secret sites. That risk will increase as Iran develops more powerful centrifuges, allowing smaller sites – perhaps no larger than the ice surface of a professional hockey rink.

Estimated minimum time it would take Iran’s 6,104 IR-1 centrifuges presently operating in production mode to produce fuel for	
One bomb:	At least 2.3 months
Five bombs:	At least 3.5 years
Estimated minimum time it would take Iran’s 6,104 IR-1 centrifuges to make enough reactor grade uranium to fuel (after further enrichment)	
One bomb:	Possibly zero time
Five bombs:	At least 2.5 years
Estimated minimum time it would it take Iran’s 6,104 IR-1 centrifuges, starting with sufficient reactor grade uranium, to enrich the uranium further to weapon grade for	
One bomb:	At least 2.3 months
Five bombs:	At least one year
Estimated minimum time it would take 3,000 of Iran’s IR-2m centrifuges operating at nominal capacity and starting with natural uranium to fuel	
One bomb:	3.2 months
Five bombs:	One year and four months
Estimated minimum time it would take 3,000 of Iran’s model IR-6 centrifuges operating at claimed capacity and starting with natural uranium to fuel	
One bomb:	1.6 months
Five bombs:	Eight months