

In the News:  
Removing Piping from Iranian  
Centrifuges

ISIS

October 9, 2014

# Removing Piping at Iran's Centrifuge Plants

- The media has recently reported that the Obama administration supports removing, but not destroying, excess centrifuge piping at Iran's centrifuge plants as a way to extend the time Iran would need to reconstitute its centrifuge program and breakout to nuclear weapons.
- This “disablement” would be done in lieu of dismantling and destroying excess centrifuges.
- The number of remaining centrifuges enriching would be relatively small, only about 1,500-5,000 out of over 18,000 centrifuges now installed at Iranian enrichment plants.
- Thus, the piping for 13,000-16,500 centrifuges would need to be removed.
- What does this mean?
- Does it work? How much time does it buy you?

# Example of Centrifuge Cascade Piping in a Non-Iranian Plant



# IR-1 Centrifuges in Cascades in Iran





Pressure Transducer



President Ahmadinejad examines gas centrifuge equipment, which includes an older MKS pressure transducer (next to his right hand) during a visit to the Natanz pilot fuel enrichment plant in 2008. In the background is an IR-1 gas centrifuge cascade which contains many more recent (mid-2000s) models of MKS pressure transducers. The MKS pressure transducers are controlled on dual-use lists; the white pressure transducer on the right in the foreground was not on the dual use list at the time it was sold to Iran.

Source: Website archive of the president of Iran, [www.President.ir](http://www.President.ir)

# Cascade piping found in S. Africa made for Libya's Secret 6,000 Centrifuges

