

# Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

Volume 16, Number 13

A Fortnightly Newsletter from the MP-IDSA

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## A. India

### Two Gaganyaan astronauts shortlisted, one to travel to International Space Station on NASA mission this year

*The Indian Express, July 6, 2024*

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shortlisted two of its four trained Gaganyaan astronauts for a mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in collaboration with United States' NASA later this year, according to officials in the know of the matter. Only one of the shortlisted astronauts will go on the mission which is supposed to take place "no earlier than October 2024," according to the information available on NASA website.

The mission will take place "no earlier than October 2024," according to the information available on **NASA website**.

The astronauts will have to go to the United States ahead of the mission to train on the specifics of the ISS, said one of the officials quoted above.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/2-gaganyaan-astronauts-to-go-to-iss-aboard-the-axiom-4-mission-9435821/>

### PM Modi Russia visit: Russia in talks with India about building six more nuclear power units

*The Economic Times, July 9, 2024*

Russian state nuclear energy company Rosatom said on Tuesday it was discussing possibility of building six more nuclear power units in India, reported Reuters.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on two-day visit to Moscow, scheduled to hold official talks in the Kremlin later on Tuesday focusing on cheaper energy supplies and deeper economic and strategic ties.

The growing support for nuclear as a low-carbon energy source has seen uranium prices more than triple since the end of 2020, and the market could remain tight until 2029

as utilities replenish their inventories, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. Cooperation in civilian nuclear sphere doesn't fall under the US sanction regime on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/pm-modi-russia-visit-russia-in-talks-with-india-about-building-six-more-nuclear-power-units/articleshow/111605389.cms?from=mdr>

### India Seeks Expedited S-400 Missile System Deliveries from Russia

*DD News, July 12, 2024*

Amid the growing close ties between India and Russia, New Delhi has asked Moscow to expedite and advance the deliveries of the S-400 air defence missile system deliveries.

The request comes amid delays caused by Russia's ongoing conflict with Ukraine. According to current projections, the fourth and fifth squadrons of the highly capable system are expected to be delivered by March 2026 and October 2026, respectively.

India and Russia signed a contract in 2019 for five squadrons of the S-400 system, which boasts an impressive range of over 400 kilometers. Three squadrons have already been delivered, operationalized, and strategically deployed along both the China and Pakistan fronts.

"India has requested the Russian side during recent talks to expedite the deliveries for meeting Indian Air Force requirements and try to advance the deliveries," a defence official said. The Russian side has assured to consider the request.

The S-400 system is viewed as a game-changer by the Indian Air Force (IAF), complementing its recently acquired indigenous MR-SAM and Akash missile systems, as well as the Israeli Spyder quick reaction surface-to-air missile systems.

These acquisitions mark significant improvements in India's air defence capabilities.

<https://ddnews.gov.in/en/india-seeks-expedited-s-400-missile-system-deliveries-from-russia/>

### **B. Pakistan**

#### **Pakistan equips JF-17 jets with Ra'ad nuclear missiles, US report confirms**

*The Economic Times, July 3, 2024*

Amidst ongoing regional tensions and nuclear arms competition involving Pakistan, India, and China, a significant development has emerged concerning Pakistan's defense capabilities.

Recently analyzed photographs from the 2023 Pakistan Day Parade rehearsals have unveiled Pakistan's JF-17 Thunder Block II aircraft equipped with a Ra'ad air-launched cruise missile (ALCM), as confirmed by the Federation of American Scientists (FAS).

This configuration, previously undisclosed to the public, underscores Pakistan's technological progress in the field of air-launched nuclear deterrence.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/pakistan-equips-jf-17-jets-with-raad-nuclear-missiles-us-report-confirms/articleshow/111464881.cms?from=mdr>

### **C. China**

#### **Chinese rocket Tianlong-3 crashes after accidental launch during ground test**

*Hindustan Times, July 1, 2024*

A Chinese rocket, Tianlong-3 crashed on Sunday after an accidental launch during a ground test, its company Space Pioneer said in a statement, CNN reported.

Space Pioneer, a leading company in the commercial rocket sphere, specializes in liquid-propellant rockets.

According to CNN, the incident occurred when the first stage of the Tianlong-3 rocket detached from its launch pad due to a

structural failure. The rocket landed in a hilly area of Gongyi city in central China.

In a statement, Space Pioneer explained that the connection between the rocket body and the test platform failed, causing the first-stage rocket to separate from the launch pad.

"Due to the structural failure of the connection between the rocket body and the test platform, the first-stage rocket was separated from the launch pad," Space Pioneer, also known as Beijing Tianbing Technology, said.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/chinese-rocket-tianlong-3-crashes-after-accidental-launch-during-ground-test-101719794842572.html>

#### **China launches largest natural uranium mining project**

*Global Times, July 13, 2024*

Work on a natural uranium production project in Ordos, North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, China's largest so far, started on Friday, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) told the Global Times. The project will help to ensure the nation's supply of a key mineral resource.

The project is being conducted by CNNC, with investment of about 1.5 billion yuan (\$206,82 million), said a report by China Media Group. It will have the largest capacity and highest construction level of any domestic natural uranium production site.

The project will use the latest green and digital mining systems and technologies, realizing lower emissions, sustainable development and remote monitoring, said CNNC.

Natural uranium is known as the material basis for the nation's nuclear industry development, and is an important strategic resource and energy mineral for ensuring national security.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202407/1315953.shtml>



## **D. Russia**

### **Russia develops single-use combat drone to intercept enemy UAVs**

*TASS, July 1, 2024*

Russian specialists have developed a single-use Vogan-9SP combat drone to intercept enemy unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by detonating its payload, a spokesman for the company Red Line told TASS at a conference on the technologies of detecting and countering UAVs on Monday.

The quadcopter can accelerate to about 200 km/h and operates together with a radar station and a laser system that lights up a detected target, the spokesman specified.

"The 'go' command is given and the drone that stands in a holder at an angle of 45 degrees takes off from a launcher, maximally approaches the target and takes automatic direction from its own guidance systems at the last moments. It maximally closes in on the target and detonates its payload in the drone's front part," he explained.

Before destroying an enemy UAV, the Vogan must get a corresponding command from an operator who makes a decision based on the image from the drone's video camera, he added.

<https://tass.com/defense/1810675>

### **Two Russian Northern Fleet warships call at Venezuelan port**

*TASS, July 2, 2024*

Two Russian Northern Fleet warships called at a port in Venezuela, the Northern Fleet said.

"A detachment of Northern Fleet ships comprising the frigate Soviet Union Fleet Admiral Gorshkov and the medium maritime tanker Akademik Pashin made a call at the port of La Guaira in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The call will last several days. Afterward, the seamen of the Northern Fleet will continue to carry out their mission in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean," the fleet said.

During the port call, the crews of the Russian ships will be given an opportunity to rest after the long-distance voyage and see local sights.

The Northern Fleet said the squadron of ships had left for the long-distance voyage on May 17. The main tasks of the voyage include the demonstration of the flag and ensuring naval presence in remote parts of oceans that are operationally important. The frigate Soviet Union Fleet Admiral Gorshkov is a modern multi-purpose ship that carries high-precision guided missiles and is designed to carry out missions in remote parts of seas and oceans.

<https://tass.com/defense/1811437>

### **Moscow to expand cooperation with defense ministries of CIS states — defense chief**

*TASS, July 3, 2024*

Moscow is determined to deepen cooperation between military agencies of CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) members in all key areas, Russia's Defense Minister Andrey Belousov said.

"We are determined to develop and deepen cooperation between defense ministries of CIS states in all key areas," he said at a meeting of the Council of defense ministers of CIS members in Minsk.

The CIS has been demonstrating its commitment to friendship, good-neighborliness and cooperation of member states for more than 30 years, with security issues constantly in the focus of attention of the Council of Defense Ministers, Belousov noted.

<https://tass.com/defense/1811819>

### **Iskander missiles destroy Ukrainian MiG-29 at Dolgintsevo air base — defense ministry**

*TASS, July 4, 2024*

A MiG-29 air superiority fighter of the Ukrainian armed forces was destroyed at the Dolgintsevo air base in the

Dnepropetrovsk region by a strike from Russia's Iskander mobile short-range ballistic missile system, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

"A crew of the Iskander mobile short-range ballistic missile system delivered a missile strike on apron of the Dolgintsevo aerodrome. As a result, a MiG-29 combat plane of the Ukrainian armed forces, as well as air-to-surface weapons and vehicles of the aviation engineering service were destroyed," the ministry said.

It also published aerial footage of the operation.

On July 2, Russia's Defense Ministry reported that Russian crews manning the Iskander-M tactical missile system delivered a strike on Ukrainian warplanes at the Mirgorod air base, wiping out five operating Su-27 multirole fighters and damaging another two Su-27s. On the following day, July 3, an Iskander tactical missile system destroyed a Ukrainian Mi-24 combat helicopter and vehicles of the aviation engineering service in a strike at the Poltava airfield.

<https://tass.com/defense/1812181>

### **Russia ready to start producing short-range, medium-range missiles – Putin**

*TASS, July 4, 2024*

Russia is ready from the industry's point of view to start producing short-range and medium-range missiles in view of US actions, President Vladimir Putin told reporters after the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

"I said that in connection with the withdrawal of the United States from that treaty [the Intermediate Nuclear Force Treaty - TASS] and the announcement that they start production, we also consider that we have the right to begin research, development, and production in the future. We are carrying such research and

development, we are ready to start production. We have already given relevant assignments to the industry as a matter of principle," the head of state said.

Moscow can give a mirror-like response in case US short-and medium-range missiles are placed in any region of the world, Putin noted. "Everything remains as we said," he added.

<https://tass.com/defense/1812609>

### **Russian Pacific Fleet corvette sails together with Chinese naval ships in joint patrol**

*TASS, July 4, 2024*

The Russian Pacific Fleet's corvette Sovershenny joined forces with Chinese naval ships for patrolling in the Asia-Pacific region, the Fleet's press office reported on Thursday.

"The Pacific Fleet's corvette Sovershenny has arrived at a point of meeting with a group of Chinese combat ships near Jeju Island in the Korea Strait to commence the 4th joint Russia-China maritime patrolling in the Asia-Pacific region," the press office said in a statement.

The Chinese naval group includes the destroyer Yinchuan, the frigate Hengshui and the replenishment ship Weishanhu, it said.

"At the rendezvous point, the naval sailors of both countries held a ceremony of their encounter and exchanged greetings via radio communication," the press office said.

The Russian-Chinese joint naval group is set to conduct anti-submarine and air defense drills and practice search and rescue measures at sea during their joint patrol, it specified.

<https://tass.com/defense/1812629>

## Russia rules out even tentative talks with US on arms control – senior diplomat

*TASS, July 8, 2024*

Russia refuses to engage with Washington on arms control in any way due to the US' destructive stance, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said in an interview with The International Affairs journal.

"We do not have the foundation right now and we are not even close to shaping one in order to launch a tentative dialogue, not talks even, in this field. This is a result of Washington's destructive policy course," the senior diplomat stressed. He added that Moscow cannot hold dialogue on arms control with a country that officially wants to deliver a strategic defeat on Russia.

He noted that the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) expires soon. Ryabkov pointed out that this agreement had been suspended but the Russian side is observing its central quantitative restrictions on warheads and carriers.

"Probably, the Americans would like to begin talks about what's next but, until they clearly show some change for the better in their policy, at the very least, demonstrate that this boundless and unabashed Russophobia has been set aside and is replaced with a slightly more sane approach and something more useful begins to happen in our relations, until this happens, there simply can be no dialogue on strategic stability," the Russian deputy foreign minister concluded.

<https://tass.com/defense/1813969>

## IAEA inspectors rotate at Zaporozhye NPP

*TASS, July 9, 2024*

Another rotation of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors has taken place at the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP), the plant's press service reports.

"Today another rotation of International Atomic Energy Agency observers took place

at the Zaporozhye NPP. Four inspectors comprise the 21st team of IAEA observers. Their task is to observe and assess both the operational condition and physical safety of the plant," the message reads.

IAEA experts have been working at the ZNPP since September 1, 2022. The Russian Armed Forces together with the Federal National Guard Service provided security for the rotation.

<https://tass.com/defense/1814625>

## Modi, Putin discussed development of joint defense production – Indian Foreign Ministry

*TASS, July 9, 2024*

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the development of joint defense production, including production of new types of military equipment, First Deputy Foreign Minister of India Vinay Kwatra said during a briefing.

According to the senior diplomat, Russia and India have several good examples of joint production in the defense area.

He pointed out that the two leaders are very interested in developing this production, in adding new types of military equipment, new platforms, that could be included in the successful projects of Russian-Indian joint production.

<https://tass.com/world/1814793>

## Rostec designs neuro network for optical drone detectors

*TASS, July 11, 2024*

The Tsiklon Institute designed a neuro network for optical drone detectors that increases the detection range 40%, Rostec said.

"Tsiklon Research Institute of Ruselectronics Holding has designed a neuro network for optical detectors of unmanned aerial vehicles that increases the range 40% The network was designed

to automatize the optical detection means that scan the sky around the guarded zones. The computer vision and artificial intelligence technologies detect the aerial vehicle in advance, classify it and inform the operators about the necessity to jam it in case of a threat," it said.

The neuro network switches the jamming system into an automatic regime, it added.

<https://tass.com/defense/1815511>

## **Two Russian Pacific Fleet warships call at Chinese port of Zhanjiang**

*TASS, July 12, 2024*

Two Pacific Fleet corvettes, the Gromky and the Rezky, called at the Chinese port of Zhanjiang to take part in a joint naval exercise called Maritime Interaction - 2024, the fleet said.

"A detachment of Pacific Fleet warships including the corvettes Gromky and Rezky are paying a call to the Chinese port of Zhanjiang to participate in a joint naval exercise of the Russian Navy and PLA Navy called Maritime Interaction - 2024," the fleet said.

It said the ships were greeted by representatives of the Navy of the People's Liberation Army of China, the Russian Embassy and the local administration.

The fleet said the first day of the visit began with an opening ceremony of the exercise. Plans for the visit include meetings of the exercise leaders, a meeting of working groups from the two countries dedicated to episodes of the exercise, a tactical meeting, rehearsal of practical operations on maps, and a cultural program for ship crews.

The practical phase of the exercise will take place from July 15 to 17. Russian and Chinese ships will hold air defense drills, an anti-submarine exercise involving Chinese anti-submarine aircraft, and practice rescue at sea.

<https://tass.com/defense/1816467>

## **Russia-China military drills show resolve to jointly react to security threats – top brass**

*TASS, July 12, 2024*

Russian-Chinese military drills in south China dubbed Maritime Interaction - 2024 demonstrate the resolve to jointly react to security threats, Spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense Zhang Xiaogang said at a news briefing.

"The military exercise underway which is supposed to continue approximately until mid-July is meant to demonstrate the resolve and capabilities of both sides to jointly react to maritime security threats and maintain peace and stability in the region and worldwide," the military official said.

According to him, "the drills will further strengthen the comprehensive strategic partnership and coordination between China and Russia in the new era."

Zhang noted that in accordance with the annual plan and bilateral agreements, the joint military exercise is being held near the city of Zhanjiang in Guangdong Province.

<https://tass.com/defense/1816123>

## ***E. Europe***

## **Italy: AW609 Tiltrotor Completes First Test from Aircraft Carrier**

*Israel Defense, July 1, 2024*

The AW609 tiltrotor program has achieved another significant milestone following its first successful shipboard trial, recently conducted with the support of the Italian Navy. Between April 3-12, the AW609 AC4 aircraft, representing the final production configuration, carried out tests from Leonardo's laboratory in Cascina Costa (Samarate) to the Maristaer Grottaglie naval base.



The tiltrotor, along with test pilots and engineers from Leonardo (supported by Italian Navy personnel for onboard operations), took off from the base to the Italian aircraft carrier ITS CAVOUR, positioned about 20 nautical miles off the coast. The AW609, which can comfortably carry up to nine passengers in its pressurized cabin, is designed for various missions. The program development has, so far, accumulated more than 1,900 flight hours in Italy and the United States.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/62454>

### **Europe's Ariane 6 rocket successfully launches for first time**

*Voice of America, July 9, 2024*

Europe's new Ariane 6 rocket successfully blasted off for the first time on Tuesday, releasing satellites into orbit and restoring the continent's independent access to space.

European space efforts have suffered a series of blows, including four years of delays on Ariane 6, that have robbed the continent of its own way to launch missions into space for the past year.

But with the successful inaugural flight of Europe's most powerful rocket yet, European space chiefs were keen to move on from recent setbacks.

"It's a historic day for Europe," European Space Agency head Josef Aschbacher said.

"Europe is back," announced Philippe Baptiste, head of France's CNES space agency.

Surrounded by jungle on the South American coast, the rocket launched from Europe's spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana at 4 p.m. local time (1900 GMT).

<https://www.voanews.com/a/europe-s-ariane-6-rocket-successfully-launches-for-first-time-/7691622.html>

### **Four European nations agree to jointly develop long-range cruise missiles**

*Reuters, July 11, 2024*

France, Germany, Italy and Poland signed a letter of intent on Thursday to develop ground-launched cruise missiles with a range beyond 500 km (310 miles), aiming to fill what they say is a gap in European arsenals exposed by Russia's war in Ukraine.

Speaking on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Washington after the signing ceremony, French Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu said the new missile was meant to serve as a deterrent.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/four-european-nations-agree-jointly-develop-long-range-cruise-missiles-2024-07-11/>

### **US cruise missiles to return to Germany, angering Moscow**

*BBC, July 11, 2024*

Long-range US missiles are to be deployed periodically in Germany from 2026 for the first time since the Cold War, in a decision announced at Nato's 75th anniversary summit. The Tomahawk cruise, SM-6 and hypersonic missiles have a significantly longer range than existing missiles, the US and Germany said in a joint statement.

Such missiles would have been banned under a 1988 treaty between the US and former Soviet Union, but the pact fell apart five years ago. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Moscow would react with a "military response to the new threat".

"This is just a link in the chain of a course of escalation," he argued, accusing Nato and the US of trying to intimidate Russia. The joint US-German statement made clear the "episodic" deployment of the missiles was initially seen as temporary but

would later become permanent, as part of a US commitment to Nato and Europe's "integrated deterrence".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgxq7lkj4vgo>

### *F. The United States of America*

#### **Joint Armenian-US Eagle Partner drills to be held in Armenia July 15-24**

*TASS, July 6, 2024*

The Armenia-US Eagle Partner 2024 military exercise will be held in Armenia on July 15-24, the press service of the country's Defense Ministry said.

"In the framework of preparation for participation in international peacekeeping missions the Armenia-US joint exercise "Eagle Partner 2024" will be held from 15 to 24 July in Armenia. Service members from the peacekeeping brigade of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Armenia, the US Army Europe and Africa, and the Kansas National Guard participate in the exercise. The exercise will focus on stabilization tasks between conflicting parties during a peacekeeping mission," it said in a statement.

"The purpose of the exercise is to enhance the interoperability of units participating in international peacekeeping missions, exchange best practices in control and tactical communication, and improve the readiness of the Armenian unit," the military agency added.

<https://tass.com/defense/1813433>

#### **US, South Korea sign joint nuclear guidelines amid North Korean threats**

*Business Standard, July 12, 2024*

The US and South Korea signed joint nuclear deterrence guidelines, weeks after North Korea and Russia struck a defence pact that deepened concerns in the region about the North's growing nuclear threats.

Meeting Thursday on the sidelines of a NATO summit in Washington, President Joe

Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol commended what they called the tremendous progress that their countries' alliance have made a year after creating a joint Nuclear Consultative Group.

Last year, the US and South Korea launched the bilateral consultation body to enhance information-sharing on nuclear and strategic operations. The US will retain the control of its nuclear weapons, and the body's establishment was meant to ease South Korean worries about North Korean nuclear threats.

The two leaders authorised the US-ROK Guidelines for Nuclear Deterrence and Nuclear Operations on the Korean Peninsula that was signed by their defence officials earlier Thursday, according to South Korea's presidential office. ROK stands for the Republic of Korea, South Korea's official name.

"The presidents underscored that the Guidelines document provides a solid foundation for enhancing US-ROK extended deterrence cooperation in an integrated manner," the joint statement said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/us-south-korea-sign-joint-nuclear-guidelines-amid-north-korean-threats-124071200283\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/us-south-korea-sign-joint-nuclear-guidelines-amid-north-korean-threats-124071200283_1.html)

### *West Asia*

#### *G. Iran*

#### **Satellite Imagery shows Iran expanding its ballistic missile facilities**

*The Times of India, July 9, 2024*

Iran is expanding its ballistic missile facilities, according to the recent satellite imagery which two American researchers believe are intended to increase missile production. This conclusion has been confirmed by three senior Iranian officials.

The image captured by commercial satellite firm Planet Labs of the Modarres military base in March and the Khojir missile production complex in April.

The images show more than 30 new buildings at the two sites, both of which are located near Tehran, reported Reuters.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/iran-ballistic-missile-facilities-modarres-khojir-satellite-image-russia-ukraine/articleshow/111594048.cms>

## **H. Israel**

### **Mobilicom to Supply Datalink Systems to Major U.S. Drone Manufacturer**

*Israel Defense, July 2, 2024*

Mobilicom, an Israeli provider of cybersecurity and robust solutions for drones and robotics, announced that it has received a \$500,000 follow-on order from one of the largest U.S. drone manufacturers of “small-sized” drones to equip its drones with Mobilicom’s SkyHopper PRO datalink.

While Mobilicom has not disclosed the customer’s name, the company indicated that this defense manufacturer has over \$5 billion in annual sales and its drones are sold to end-users in the U.S. defense market, including the U.S. Department of Defense.

Mobilicom says that the company’s SkyHopper PRO datalink was chosen over four other competing products following intensive field testing. SkyHopper PRO is a Secured Cognitive Software Defined Radio (SDR) with enhanced combat-proven performance, including in harsh environments. It offers what the company believes to be the best performance-to-SWaP-C (Size, Weight, Power, and Cost) in the market, based on an internal study of competitor product offerings.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/62463>

### **First Successful Firing Test of Israeli PULS Rocket Artillery System on Danish Soil**

*Israel Defense, July 8, 2024*

The Danish Army tested its newly acquired Israeli-made PULS (Precise & Universal Launching System) rocket launcher for the first time on Danish soil last week. The

Danish Ministry of Defense reported that the test firing occurred at the Oksbøl Shooting and Training Range, with the rocket launched approximately 10 kilometers into the North Sea. The test, conducted without an explosive payload, concluded as planned, marking a significant milestone in integrating the PULS system into the Danish Army. The comprehensive testing, conducted throughout the day, aimed to evaluate the system’s noise levels and exhaust gas emissions.

Preparations for this event spanned several months. The first PULS systems arrived in Denmark about a year ago. Since then, soldiers from the Army and technicians from the Defense Acquisition and Logistics Organization (DALO) have collaborated closely with Elbit’s technicians to integrate the PULS system into the Danish Army.

Brigadier General Henrik Lyhne, Deputy Commander of the Army, noted that the system works as intended and produces a significant sound. He mentioned that the Army had been missing such a system, which now provides increased firepower and range. He also highlighted the system’s flexibility, capable of firing various types of missiles.

The Danish Army purchased two batteries of PULS launchers (eight launchers in total) from Elbit for \$133 million, including rockets and missiles. All the launchers have been delivered, and they are expected to be operational by 2026.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/62509>

### **Poland Bolsters Defense with Dozens of Rosomak IFVs Equipped with Israeli Spike ATGMs**

*Israel Defense, July 10, 2024*

The Polish Armament Agency signed a contract valued at approximately •610 million euros for the delivery of 58 Rosomak infantry fighting vehicles equipped with Israeli Rafael’s Spike LR anti-tank guided missiles earlier this

month. Deliveries are scheduled between 2026 and 2027.

According to Armyrecognition.com, this agreement marks the second contract under a framework agreement with several Polish defense companies, providing 341 Rosomak IFVs equipped with ZSSW-30 remote-controlled weapon stations. The first contract, signed two years ago in July 2022, was worth approximately 400 million euros and covered the production and delivery of 70 turret systems for the 8×8 Rosomak IFVs. Deliveries of the ZSSW-30 systems to the Polish Armed Forces are ongoing and will continue as scheduled until 2027.

Earlier this year, the Polish military unveiled an advanced version of the Rosomak 8×8 multi-role vehicle, based on Patria's AMV product family, equipped with the ZSSW-30 remote-controlled turret system featuring Israeli Rafael's Spike missile launcher.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/62529>

### **The Space Race: Israel Aerospace Industries Outpaces France with Advanced Satellites to Morocco**

*Israel Defense, July 11, 2024*

This week, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) reported to the stock exchange a significant deal worth one billion dollars over five years with a third-party company. According to Moroccan media reports, it appears that this deal involves the sale of two OptSat-3000 satellites through a local company. A report by the website PortailSudMaroc from last January states that the tender was awarded to IAI in mid-2023, after intense competition with the French industry represented by Airbus and Thales Alenia Space.

According to publications in Israel, the decision to choose the Israeli industry was influenced by the connections of the company's chairman, Amir Peretz, in Morocco. France had built Morocco's previous two satellites, Mohammed-VI A and B, based on Astrosat-1000 satellites. This is not the first arena where IAI competes

with the French industry in the space sector. In recent years, there has been a business struggle over the sale of a military satellite to Vietnam, a deal that is still pending.

Why does Morocco need more satellites? According to the report, for military and economic purposes. Militarily, primarily to spy on Algeria and the Polisario Front, a terrorist group claiming ownership of Western Sahara, a territory currently under Moroccan control and backed by Algeria. Israel recognized Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara in July 2023, likely as a prerequisite for securing defense deals in Morocco. In return, Morocco did not recognize Israel's sovereignty over any territory. The recognition occurred close to the intensive discussions surrounding the satellite deal.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/62547>

### **Philippine Army Acquires Elbit Systems' Precision-Guided Mortar Rounds for Enhanced Firepower**

*Israel Defense, July 11, 2024*

Last month, the Philippine Army selected Elbit Systems for another contract to supply 120mm precision-guided mortar rounds. According to a report on the Philippine defense website MaxDefense, this is the third such acquisition in the last eight months.

Assuming these are Elbit's Iron Sting precision mortar rounds, they will be fired from the Philippine Army's M125A2 mortar carriers, which are equipped with Elbit Soltam Cardom 120mm mortars. The Philippine Army purchased 15 of these mortars in early 2022.

Elbit's success in supplying both foreign armies and the IDF with its systems is particularly noteworthy against the backdrop of the impending and potential conflict with Hezbollah.

[https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/62546#google\\_vignette](https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/62546#google_vignette)



## **IWI Expands Sales of Arad Rifles to Brazilian Law Enforcement**

*Israel Defense, July 15, 2024*

IWI (Israel Weapons Industries) continues to sell Arad assault rifles to various law enforcement agencies in Brazil. Recently, it was reported that the company sold 145 Arad rifles in 5.56x45 mm caliber to the civil police of Santa Catarina, valued at approximately \$275,000.

Simultaneously, the military police of Minas Gerais purchased 1,310 Arad 7 rifles in 7.62x51 mm caliber for \$3.1 million, with delivery expected by the end of 2024.

The Spanish website Infodefensa.com attributes the success of Israeli IWI to its ability to deliver large quantities of high-quality rifles promptly, in contrast to the local Brazilian company Imbel. While Imbel produces high-quality rifles, it struggles to meet the Brazilian army's quantitative demands.

Additionally, the site notes that the civil police of São Paulo and the military police of Rio de Janeiro have been using these rifles for several years. The Santa Catarina police aim to equip each officer with Arad rifles by 2026.

IWI has not responded to requests for comment on this matter.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/62573>

### **I. Lebanon**

## **Hezbollah launches big attack on Israel, sonic booms rattle Beirut**

*Reuters, July 4, 2024*

Lebanon's Hezbollah launched a big rocket and drone attack at Israel on Thursday and threatened to hit new targets in retaliation for the killing of a top commander, in the latest surge of violence in the steadily worsening conflict across the border.

Sparked by the Gaza war, the conflict between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel has been gradually intensifying for months, raising fears of a full-scale war, which both

sides have indicated they want to avoid and diplomats are working to prevent.

As the latest violence played out in areas at or near the frontier - in keeping with the pattern of the last nine months - the sound of sonic booms rattled nerves for the second successive day in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon.

Israeli jets broke the sound barrier over several areas of the country, Lebanon's National News Agency reported.

Hezbollah said it launched more than 200 rockets and a swarm of drones at 10 Israeli military sites in retaliation for Israel's killing of Hezbollah commander Mohammed Nasser in the south on Wednesday. Nasser is one of the most senior Hezbollah commanders to be killed by Israel during the conflict.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanons-hezbollah-says-it-launched-rockets-drones-israeli-military-sites-2024-07-04/>

### **J. Yemen**

## **Yemen's Houthis Claim Attack On Vital Target In Israel's Haifa**

*NDTV, July 3, 2024*

Yemen's Houthis said on Tuesday that they, along with the Islamic resistance in Iraq, have conducted a joint military operation, attacking a vital target in Israel's Haifa.

The military operation has been carried out with "a number of winged missiles," Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said in a televised statement, without identifying the target that was attacked.

The Houthi group has been launching drone and missile strikes in shipping lanes since November, in what it says is in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

The Iran-aligned Houthis first launched drone and missile strikes in shipping lanes in November. In dozens of attacks, they have sunk two vessels, seized another and killed at least three seafarers.

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/yemens-houthis-claim-attack-on-vital-target-in-israels-haifa-6021053>

## **Yemen Houthi rebels fired an Iranian missile at Norwegian-flagged ship, debris analyzed by US shows**

*AP, July 12, 2024*

Yemen's Houthi rebels likely fired an Iranian-made anti-ship cruise missile at a Norwegian-flagged tanker in the Red Sea in December, an assault that now provides a public, evidence-based link between the ongoing rebel campaign against shipping and Tehran, the U.S. military says.

A report by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency released Wednesday linked the attack on the Strinda, which set the vessel ablaze, to Tehran, the Houthi's main backer in Yemen's nearly decadelong war. The findings correspond with those of a Norway-based insurers group that also examined debris found on the Strinda.

It comes as the Houthis continue their monthslong campaign of attacks over the Israel-Hamas war, targeting ships in the Red Sea corridor, disrupting the \$1 trillion flow of goods passing through it annually while also sparking the most intense combat the U.S. Navy has seen since World War II.

<https://apnews.com/article/yemen-houthi-rebels-iran-israel-hamas-war-red-sea-attacks-076e5e764b7bed548b15cff4175bb4d5>

### **K. East Asia**

## **H3 launches ALOS-4 advanced Earth observation satellite**

*Space News, July 1, 2024*

Japan's H3 rocket successfully launched an Earth observation satellite Sunday on its third flight.

The H3 rocket lifted off from the Tanegashima Space Center at 11:06 p.m. Eastern, June 30 (0306 UTC, July 1) carrying the Advanced Land Observing Satellite-4 (ALOS-4), also known as DAICHI-4.

The two-stage launch vehicle flew as planned and ALOS-4 separated at approximately 16 minutes and 34 seconds after the liftoff, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) announced.

ALOS-4's solar arrays fully deployed, as confirmed by telemetry data received from the satellite at JAXA Mingenew Station in Australia.

The launch follows the H3's successful second flight in February. The H3's inaugural launch in March 2023 suffered a second stage engine failure, leading controllers to issue a destruct command to destroy the stage and its ALOS-3 payload.

<https://spacenews.com/h3-launches-alos-4-advanced-earth-observation-satellite/>

## **North Korea fires two ballistic missiles, one may have fallen on land**

*Al Jazeera, July 1, 2024*

North Korea has fired two ballistic missiles and the second may have failed and blown up, possibly raining debris inland, South Korea's military said.

Monday's launches came a day after Pyongyang promised "offensive and overwhelming" responses to new military drills staged by the United States, South Korea and Japan.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the missiles were launched 10 minutes apart in a northeasterly direction from the town of Jangyon in southeastern North Korea.

The military said the first missile flew 600km (370 miles) and the second for 120km (75 miles), but did not say where they landed. North Korea typically test-fires missiles towards its eastern waters, but the second missile's flight distance was too short to reach that far.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/1/north-korea-fires-two-ballistic-missiles-one-may-have-fallen-on-land>

## **The Japanese Air Force Is Arming Its F-15 Fighters With Cruise Missiles – Turning Them Into Fighter-Bombers**

*Forbes, July 11, 2024*

The Japanese air force is transforming up to half of its 201 Boeing F-15J air-superiority fighters into deep-striking fighter-bombers.

For the defensively-oriented Japan Air Self-Defense Force, the F-15 upgrade represents another step toward a true offensive capability—one squarely aimed at an increasingly aggressive China.

On July 4, the defense ministry in Tokyo signed for a batch of 50 American-made Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles—Extended Range, or JASSM-ERs. The 575-mile-range land-attack cruise missiles are the upgraded F-15Js' main new weapons.

The enhanced F-15Js, which also have improved radar jammers in addition to their new cruise missiles, represent what U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel described as "a new Japan emerging, a more competent Japan."

Japan's post-World War II constitution limited the country's military to a strictly defensive role. But as authoritarian China has become more assertive in recent years—seizing disputed islands and clashing with neighboring countries—successive Japanese administrations have reinterpreted the constitution to allow the armed forces to attack in addition to defending.

The Japanese defense ministry's weapons purchases reflect this new constitutional order. Perhaps most notably, the ministry has bought a staggering 400 Tomahawk land-attack and anti-ship cruise missiles from the United States for \$2.4 billion. Each ship-launched Tomahawk ranges as far as 1,000 miles, holding at-risk Chinese forces across the western Pacific region.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidaxe/2024/07/11/the-japanese-air-force-is-transforming-its-f-15-fighters-into-deep-striking-fighter-bombers/>

## **Hanwha to Supply Multi-Function Radars for Saudi Arabia's Air Defense System in \$867 Million Deal**

*Israel Defence, July 11, 2024*

South Korean conglomerate Hanwha has signed a contract to supply multi-function radars (MFR) for Saudi Arabia's air defense system. The contract is valued at \$867 million, and this system, known as Cheongung II, was also sold to the United Arab Emirates in 2022.

Such South Korean MFRs serve as the "core sensor" of Saudi Arabia's NSAM-2 air defense system. The deal is part of a \$3.1 billion contract led by LIG Corporation in February for exporting the Cheongung II missile system to Riyadh.

As part of this agreement, Saudi Arabia signed a contract with South Korea for the purchase of 10 air defense batteries, with a similar contract also signed with the United Arab Emirates. According to Army Recognition, Saudi Arabia's air defenses systems are advanced and designed to defend against aircraft and ballistic missiles.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/62549>

### ***L. Southeast Asia***

## **Philippines says US mid-range missile system to be pulled out**

*The Jakarta Post, July 4, 2024*

A US mid-range missile system deployed in the Philippines for annual joint military exercises — to the annoyance of China — will be pulled out of the country, a Philippine Army spokesman said Thursday.

The US Army said in April it had deployed the Mid-Range Capability missile system which can fire the Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) and the Tomahawk Land Attack Missile in the northern Philippines.

Philippine troops have been taught how to use and maintain the Typhon missile

system, but it was not used in live-fire exercises, Colonel Louie Dema-ala told AFP.

“As per plan... it will be shipped out of the country in September or even earlier,” Dema-ala said. “The US Army is currently shipping out their equipment that we used during Balikatan and Salaknib (exercises).”

The presence of the mid-range missile system on Philippine soil had angered Beijing. Chinese Defence Minister Dong Jun warned in June there were “limits” to Beijing’s restraint on the South China Sea and over the deployment of ballistic missiles in the Asia-Pacific region.

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/world/2024/07/04/philippines-says-us-mid-range-missile-system-to-be-pulled-out.html>



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