

# Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

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- Germany and France greenlight Meteor missile deal for Turkey
- France Orders 8 VL Mica Air Defence Missile Systems to Strengthen Its Air Space Defence Capabilities

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- UK gives green light to German start-up for vertical rocket launch
- German chancellor says he is open to using nuclear hydrogen to produce green steel

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- Italy to purchase 1,050 German-made Rheinmetall Lynx armored vehicles under •16 billion A2CS program

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- Investigation: Russia profits from arms exports to Saudi Arabia despite sanctions, leaks reveal
- US arms exports reach record \$318 billion in 2024 driven by Ukraine-related demand
- Ukraine deploys long-range drone capable of 2,000 km strike, military says
- Ukrainian drones and missiles target Putin's war machine inside Russia

## United Kingdom

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- UK to cut legal hold-ups to infrastructure projects
- EDF aims to maintain output of UK nuclear fleet in years ahead
- UK to dispose of radioactive plutonium stockpile
- United Kingdom and Denmark to Deliver 15 Gravehawk Air Defence Systems to Ukraine for 2025

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- Egyptian space agency hosts Japanese delegation to boost space technology cooperation
- Egypt and Kenya strengthen space collaboration with high-level delegation visit
- Egypt advances El-Dabaa nuclear power plant with parliamentary approval
- Egypt signs first export deal for Kader-1 and Kader-2 armored vehicles with Equatorial Guinea

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- Impact of Kenya's first nuclear power plant ambitions



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- RMAFC to boost government revenue with space technology
- Nigeria to collaborate with Russia on space technology, others

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- US sanctions Sudan army chief Burhan over civilian deaths

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- Argentina Receives Second Beechcraft TC-12B Huron Aircraft
- India seeking energy, lithium investments in Argentina

### Brazil

- Brazilian Navy's marine corps successfully launches MANSUP missile for enhanced coastal defence
- Brazil's INB gets approval for Caldas decommissioning

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- Canada, Poland sign nuclear energy cooperation agreement
- Canada takes a global lead on tripling nuclear
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## A. India

### India welcomes US decision to lift restrictions on 3 Indian nuclear entities

*The Economic Times, January 17, 2025*

India on 17 January welcomed the US lifting restrictions on three Indian nuclear entities and said the move will open up new avenues for collaboration in the civil-nuclear field. The US on 15 January removed restrictions on Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Indira Gandhi Atomic Research Centre (IGCAR) and the Indian Rare Earths (IRE). The decision came over a week after NSA Jake Sullivan announced that Washington was finalising steps to “remove” hurdles for civil nuclear partnership between Indian and American firms. “It is a welcome step,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a regular media briefing.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-welcomes-us-decision-to-lift-restrictions-on-3-indian-nuclear-entities/articleshow/117338678.cms?from=mdr>

### India-US must collaborate on emerging nuclear technologies, not reactor construction

*Saurabh Todi*

*Deccan Herald, January 30, 2025*

On January 15, the United States announced removing three Indian entities: the Indian Rare Earths, the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), and the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) from the US Entity List. This removes one of the last remaining vestiges of the sanctions imposed on Indian defence, space, and nuclear sectors in the aftermath of 1998 nuclear tests. The entity list, managed by the US Department of Commerce, restricts exports to foreign entities involved in military or weapons of mass destruction programmes. It requires companies to obtain licenses before exporting to listed entities,

and violations can lead to heavy fines and loss of export rights.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/opinion/india-us-must-collaborate-on-emerging-nuclear-technologies-not-reactor-construction-3379865>

### Pralay, India's first ballistic missile for conventional strikes, to be showcased at Republic Day parade

*Dinakar Peri*

*The Hindu, January 30, 2025*

With a range of 400 kilometres, Pralay adds to the BrahMos and Parahar missiles already in the inventory giving the Indian military an option for standoff missile strikes; it is meant for deployment along both the Line of Control and Line of Actual Control. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is set to showcase the indigenous short-range quasi-ballistic missile Pralay at this year's Republic Day parade. The missile, which is meant for the Army and Air Force, will be the first ballistic missile in India's missile arsenal meant for conventional strikes. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday flagged off the Battlefield Surveillance System 'Sanjay', which marked the handing over of the system to the Army and will also be seen on Kartavya Path on 26 January.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pralay-indias-first-ballistic-missile-for-conventional-strikes-to-be-showcased-at-republic-day-parade/article69136778.ece#:~:text=In%202023%2C%20the%20Defence%20Acquisition,option%20for%20the%20Indian%20military.>

### India about to sell Russia-backed BrahMos cruise missiles

*The Economic Times, January 22, 2025*

India is considering a \$450 million deal to sell Russian-backed supersonic cruise missiles to Indonesia as the Southeast Asian country looks to bolster defences, according to people familiar with the

matter. The sale of the BrahMos cruise missiles is expected to be announced as early as this week when Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto officially visits India, the people said, asking not to be identified as discussions are private. Prabowo is set to attend the Republic Day celebrations as a special guest on 26 January.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-about-to-sell-russia-backed-brahmos-cruise-missiles/articleshow/117443364.cms?from=mdr>

### **‘India is technology powerhouse in data and generative AI’: HCLTech’s Prabhakar Appana**

*Bijin Jose*

*The India Express, January 20, 2025*

“In terms of skill, technological capability, and adoption of industry-specific use cases, India has got everything,” said Prabhakar Appana, SVP and Head of AWS Ecosystem at HCLTech. With the rapid adoption of cloud computing, AI, and digital transformation, India’s tech sector seems to be consolidating its position as a global leader. Companies like HCLTech are at the forefront, driving innovation and accelerating cloud adoption across diverse industries. In a recent interview with indianexpress.com, Appana threw light on how India’s technology landscape is undergoing transformation, powered by innovation, government initiatives, and collaboration with hyperscalers like Amazon Web Services (AWS).

<https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/india-is-techology-powerhouse-in-data-and-generative-ai-hcltechs-prabhakar-appana-9785851/>

### **India-Singapore working for development of semiconductor ecosystem: Prez Shanmugaratnam**

*The Economic Times, January 18, 2025*

Asserting that India is emerging as a major pole in the world economy, Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Saturday said his country was trying to contribute to the semiconductor ecosystem

and the air connectivity sector. “India aspires to be a pole in its own right, in a multipolar world that is true geopolitically, but it is also true economically. India is emerging as a major pole of the global economy. India is a nation with which we would like to collaborate,” he said, while briefing the media at the end of his two-day tour to Odisha. “Because of its demographics, its own development processes, and significant potential in its export economy, India is a nation that Singapore would likely collaborate with,” he added.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-singapore-working-for-development-of-semiconductor-ecosystem-prez-shanmugaratnam/articleshow/117358400.cms?from=mdr>

### **India, France discuss high-tech cooperation, civil nuclear issues ahead of Modi visit in February**

*Suhasini Haidar*

*The Hindu, January 22, 2025*

India and France have agreed to boost cooperation in “high-end technology sectors”, as senior officials held Foreign Office Consultations in Paris, and discussed long-pending civil nuclear cooperation issues ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit next month. A delegation, led by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and including newly appointed Indian Ambassador to France Sanjeev Singla, met French Secretary-General for Europe and Foreign Affairs Anne-Marie Descôtes and French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot. Mr. Modi will travel to Paris for a Summit for Action on Artificial Intelligence on February 10 and 11. Officials also discussed the Prime Minister’s programme and bilateral agenda during the visit. Last week, a French Minister had announced that India will “co-chair” the summit.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-france-discuss-high-tech-cooperation-civil-nuclear-issues-ahead-of-modi-visit-in-february/article69124019.ece>

## B. China

### China, the Philippines hold consultation meeting on South China Sea

CGTN, January 16, 2025

China and the Philippines held the 10th meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea (BCM) in Xiamen, southeast China's Fujian Province, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced in a statement. The two sides had a candid and constructive exchange of views on the situation in the South China Sea. Both sides reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea, believing that this serves the common interests of countries in the region, including China and the Philippines. They agreed to strengthen maritime dialogue and communication and properly handle maritime differences and disagreements.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2025-01-16/China-the-Philippines-hold-consultation-meeting-on-South-China-Sea-1AddfPCrEFa/p.html>

### China's electronic war gadget turns small drone into flying stadium on radar

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, January 17, 2025

While China's sixth-generation fighter jets pierce the skies in their boundary-pushing stealth coating, a team of scientists has been breaking new ground in electronic warfare technology from the opposite direction. Instead of a stealth approach, the Chinese researchers aim to fool radar operators into thinking that a radar reflector – roughly the size of an iPad tablet – is an unidentified flying object (UFO) as big as a sports stadium. The effect – similar to a giant flying saucer suddenly materialising in mid-air – would be reminiscent of a scene from a science fiction film but it is achievable, according to a peer-reviewed paper published on January 8.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3294661/chinese-military-tests-electronic-war-gadget-turns-drone-giant-ufo>

### Chinese FM urges US to stop wrongdoing after cyberattacks revealed targeting

Chinese tech firms

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 17, 2025

This report by the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team/Coordination Center of China (CNCERT) brought to light again the attempts by the US government to conduct cyberattacks and theft of trade secrets and intellectual property targeting China. We express serious concerns about such attempts, and urge the US to immediately stop the malicious activities. China will take necessary measures to safeguard its own cyber security and interests. Cyberspace bears on national security and economic prosperity of all countries. The US should reflect on what it's doing, and stop its political smears. The US should live up to its standards first before asking other countries to do the same, responsibly observe the same international rules respected by other countries, and work with the international community to maintain peace and security in cyberspace.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250117\\_11538094.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250117_11538094.html)

### China's subsea 'gray zone' tactics

Gahon Chiang

Taipei Times, January 19, 2025

China's illegal, coercive, aggressive and deceptive activities represent an escalating threat to global democracies. Among these, subsea cable sabotage stands out as a critical challenge, endangering international communication, economic stability and democratic values. The Taiwan Strait has become a focal point for China's "gray zone" tactics, which includes deliberate interference with subsea cables. Early this year, the Xingshun-39, a Tanzania-flagged ship controlled by a Chinese entity, severed critical cables near the northeastern coast



of Keelung, hampering vital communication links between Taiwan and the global network.

<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2025/01/19/2003830451>

## **China completes three rocket engine ignition tests in single day**

*Xinhua, January 19, 2025*

China successfully completed three ignition tests for liquid oxygen-kerosene engines, according to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC). This marks the first time that the country has conducted three ignition tests on two types of liquid oxygen-kerosene engines within a single day. The tests were carried out by the Academy of Aerospace Propulsion Technology, a subsidiary of CASC, at a facility in the Baolongyu area of Xi'an, the capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province. The tests involved two 120-tonne liquid oxygen-kerosene rocket engines and one 18-tonne liquid oxygen-kerosene rocket engine. The institute noted that this marks a major advancement in the country's testing and verification capabilities for the mass production and delivery of its new-generation launch vehicle engines, which will provide robust support for more frequent launch missions in the future.

<https://english.news.cn/20250119/b2f84b26b6d5478e860ff9556f090daf/c.html>

## **China runs final tests of hypersonic air-to-air missile in extreme Mars mission tunnel**

*Stephen Chen*

*South China Morning Post, January 19, 2025*

Chinese hypersonic air-to-air missiles have undergone extreme heat-resistance testing to meet the stringent performance requirements of the PLA Air Force, according to scientists involved in the project. This is the first official confirmation of the existence of this mysterious weapon, which could pose an unprecedented threat

to US military aircraft, including the B-21 stealth bomber that is currently undergoing flight testing. Details of the final evaluations of full-scale missile prototypes were given in a peer-reviewed paper published in Chinese-language journal *Equipment Environmental Engineering* last month.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3294958/china-runs-final-tests-hypersonic-air-air-missile-extreme-mars-mission-tunnel>

## **Galactic Energy launches five satellites into orbit**

*Zhao Lei*

*China Daily, January 20, 2025*

Galactic Energy, a private rocket maker based in Beijing, successfully launched a mission on January 20, deploying five satellites into orbit. The company said in a news release that the Ceres-1 rocket lifted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the Inner Mongolia autonomous region. The rocket carried five remote-sensing satellites to a sun-synchronous orbit approximately 535 kilometers above Earth. Remote-sensing satellites are designed to detect and monitor physical characteristics of objects on land or sea by measuring reflected and emitted radiation. The five satellites will gather atmospheric data, including temperature, humidity, and pressure, and capture hyperspectral images of designated areas on Earth.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202501/20/WS678e57d8a310a2ab06ea8217.html>

## **Shanghai rolls out the country's first heterogeneous humanoid robot training ground**

*Zhang Weilan*

*Global Times, January 21, 2025*

China's first heterogeneous humanoid robot training facility was officially inaugurated in Shanghai, a milestone in

the country's efforts to advance the practical application and large-scale development of humanoid robots. The training facility, also known as Humanoid Robot Kylin Training Ground, is owned by Shanghai-based National and Local Co-Built Humanoid Robotics Innovation Center, Humanoid Robot (Shanghai) Co. Currently, the training ground is able to accommodate more than 100 humanoid robots, making it the largest of its kind in China. By 2027, it aims to train 1,000 general-purpose robots simultaneously, according to Yang Zhengye, the company's marketing director.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1327325.shtml>

### **Chinese "Artificial Sun" sets milestone record towards fusion power generation**

*Chen Na*

*Chinese Academy of Sciences, January 21, 2025*

The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), commonly known as China's "artificial sun," has achieved a remarkable scientific milestone by maintaining steady-state high confinement plasma operation for an impressive 1,066 seconds. This accomplishment sets a new world record and marks a significant breakthrough in the pursuit of fusion power generation. The duration of 1,066 seconds is a critical advancement in fusion research. This milestone, achieved by the Institute of Plasma Physics (ASIPP) at Hefei Institutes of Physical Science (HFIPS) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, far surpasses the previous world record of 403 seconds, also set by EAST in 2023. The ultimate goal of developing an artificial sun is to replicate the nuclear fusion processes that occur in the sun, providing humanity with a limitless and clean energy source, and enabling exploration beyond our solar system.

[https://english.cas.cn/head/202501/t20250121\\_899060.shtml](https://english.cas.cn/head/202501/t20250121_899060.shtml)

### **Shenzhou-19 crew completes second series of extravehicular activities**

*The State Council Information Office, the People's Republic of China, January 21, 2025*

Members of the Shenzhou-19 crew aboard China's orbiting space station completed their mission's second series of extravehicular activities (EVAs). Astronauts Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze worked for 8.5 hours to complete multiple tasks, including the installation of space debris protection devices and an extravehicular inspection. They were assisted by the space station's robotic arm and a team on Earth. Cai and Song, the two crew members assigned to undertake spacewalk duties, have since returned to the Wentian lab module safely. Since completing their first spacewalk on December 17, 2024, the crew members have undertaken a series of tasks, including the inspection and maintenance of the space station's equipment, systemwide pressure emergency drills, and preparations for the second series of EVAs.

[http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/chinavoices/2025-01/21/content\\_117677800.html](http://english.scio.gov.cn/m/chinavoices/2025-01/21/content_117677800.html)

### **Taiwan lawmakers risk alienating Donald Trump with defence funds freeze**

*Kathrin Hille*

*Financial Times, January 21, 2025*

Taiwan's parliament has frozen critical parts of the 2025 defence budget, heightening the risk that the country alienates US President Donald Trump just at the moment that it needs firm US support against security threats from China. But just hours after Trump was inaugurated to a second term on Monday, Taiwan's opposition-controlled legislature voted to freeze half the country's budget for its submarine programme, 30 percent

of the military's operations expenditure and one-third of the funding for a drone industry park. It also cut 60 per cent of the defence ministry's publicity budget.

<https://www.ft.com/content/105ed24f-30e3-41ac-b5b1-0efeb4e3a625>

### **China's submarine-launched drones can do more than the US military thinks: study**

*Stephen Chen*

*South China Morning Post, January 22, 2025*

The US military is reportedly considering a tactic that involves deploying a submarine near the Chinese coast to release a large number of drones from under the water. These drones would then form a swarm in the air and launch surprise attacks on the People's Liberation Army fleet during any potential attempt to land in Taiwan, thereby reducing the need for US ships to get too close to the combat zone and risk being hit. But there's a twist: China has already turned this idea into reality, and test flights suggest its drones could accomplish much more than the Pentagon has envisioned for its own.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3294993/chinas-submarine-launched-drones-can-do-more-us-military-thinks-study>

### **Chinese Foreign Ministry on the US Department of Treasury's sanctions against relevant Chinese company and citizen that were involved with Salt Typhoon's cyberattack**

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, January 22, 2025*

China opposes the accusations made by the Biden administration without any convincing evidence and their abuse of sanctions against China. In fact, the US has conducted large-scale and systemic cyberattacks on China for years. We have

made very clear our concerns and opposition on this for many times. When it comes to cyber issues, China and the US are countries with big influence. The two sides share similar concerns on safeguarding cybersecurity, especially the security of key infrastructure. It's important for the two countries to follow the principle of equality and mutual respect, frankly discuss issues of respective concerns on the basis of fact and evidence, observe the same international rules, and jointly keep the cyberspace peaceful and stable. The US needs to stop abusing sanctions.

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250122\\_11543056.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202501/t20250122_11543056.html)

### **Chinese company unveils supersonic plane prototype that can fly at Mach-4**

*Global Times, January 22, 2025*

A Chinese company working on a commercial transport plane capable of flying at Mach-4, twice the speed of the Concorde - unveiled the prototype of its next-generation supersonic aircraft, the Global Times learned. The supersonic aircraft, named Cuantianhou or Soaring Monkey from the Yunxing series, was revealed in Chengdu, capital city of Southwest China's Sichuan Province, Sichuan Lingkong Tianxing Technology Co said in a statement sent to the Global Times. The plane is scheduled for its maiden flight in 2026 to test key metrics such as aerodynamics, heatresistant materials and power systems, according to the company. The aircraft is designed to operate in near space, approximately 20-100 kilometers above the Earth. The company said it aims to conduct the maiden flight of its supersonic passenger plane, Dasheng or Monkey King, in 2030.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1327366.shtml>



## **Ships carrying missile propellant ingredients set to sail from China to Iran, say officials**

*Demetri Sevastopulo and Kathrin Hille*

*Financial Times, January 22, 2025*

Two Iranian cargo vessels carrying a crucial chemical ingredient for missile propellant will sail from China to Iran over the next few weeks, according to intelligence from security officials in two western countries. The Chinese embassy in Washington said it was “not familiar” with the situation and that Beijing was committed to “maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East and Gulf region and actively promoting the political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue”

<https://www.ft.com/content/f0bc9fcc-11b3-4615-bd24-163f8938f2a5>

## **PLA Navy commissions new guided-missile frigate**

*Zhao Lei*

*China Daily, January 23, 2025*

China commissioned its first Type 054B guided-missile frigate in Qingdao, Shandong province, according to the People’s Liberation Army Navy. The Navy said in a news release that the CNS Luohe was delivered to the North Sea Fleet at a commissioning ceremony at a naval port in Qingdao. Officials from the Navy and the city government of Luohe, Henan province, as well as representatives from China State Shipbuilding Corp, the ship’s builder, attended the event, it added. The Type 054B has a displacement of nearly 5,000 metric tons and has better capabilities than its predecessor Type 054A in all aspects. It features technological breakthroughs in stealth, combat command, firepower control and other functions, and can better conduct naval battles and other missions. Its service will extensively bolster the naval fleet’s overall operational ability, the Navy said. Currently, the Navy’s frigate forces mainly consist of Type 054A ships, which began to be deployed in 2008.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202501/23/WS679177dba310a2ab06ea8b01.html>

## **China’s air-to-air hypersonic US B-21 bomber’s kryptonite**

*Gabriel Honrada*

*Asia Times, January 23, 2025*

China’s hypersonic air-to-air missiles, designed specifically to shoot down US stealth bombers, signal a potential seismic shift in the future of air combat, one that could dramatically reshape the Indo-Pacific’s balance of power. Chinese scientists have confirmed the existence of a new hypersonic air-to-air missile, which has reportedly undergone extreme heat-resistance testing to meet the People’s Liberation Army Air Force’s stringent performance requirements, according to a recent report. Developed by the China Airborne Missile Academy (CAMA) in Luoyang, Henan province, the new missile poses a significant threat to US military aircraft, including the B-21 stealth bomber.

<https://asiatimes.com/2025/01/chinas-air-to-air-hypersonic-us-b-21-bombers-kryptonite/>

## **China’s expenditure on R&D exceeds \$495 billion in 2024, up 8.3% from 2023**

*Du Qiongfang*

*Global Times, January 23, 2025*

China’s total expenditure on research and experimental development (R&D) exceeded 3.6 trillion yuan (\$494.69 billion) in 2024, marking an 8.3 percent year-on-year increase, China’s National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced. The R&D expenditure recorded a steady growth, ranking as the second-largest globally last year, the Beijing Daily reported. According to the latest data from the NBS, China’s expenditure on R&D has steadily increased, with China’s total expenditure on R&D surpassing 3.6 trillion yuan in 2024, an increase of 8.3 percent compared with the previous year, realizing a stable growth. The total investment remained the secondhighest in the world.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1327442.shtml>

## Trump wants China to join nuclear arms talks with US and Russia. Will Beijing listen?

Amber Wangin and Sylvie Zhuang

*South China Morning Post, January 24, 2025*

US President Donald Trump's latest call targeting China – this time to cut back on nuclear weapons – may be ignored by Beijing, according to some analysts. They said this was because China did not view its nuclear arsenal as being on a par with either the United States or Russia. The call from Trump was part of his address to the World Economic Forum in Davos, where he floated the idea of talks with Russia and China about reducing nuclear weapons stockpiles. Shi Yinhong, a professor of international relations at Renmin University in Beijing, said China's response to such calls had always been that "it would join after the US and Russia reduced their nuclear warheads to the level of China".

[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296211/trump-wants-china-join-nucleararms-talks-us-and-russia-will-beijing-listen?module=top\\_story&pgtype=subsection](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296211/trump-wants-china-join-nucleararms-talks-us-and-russia-will-beijing-listen?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection)

## China detects first soft X-ray signals of early universe explosion using Tianguan satellite

*Global Times, January 25, 2025*

China has detected a gamma-ray burst, designated as EP240315a, that originated approximately 12.5 billion light years away using its Einstein Probe (EP) astronomical satellite, also known as the Tianguan satellite, the Xinhua News Agency reported. This is the first instance of humanity detecting soft X-ray signals from an early universe explosion, opening a new window for research into the young cosmos. The relevant research paper has been published online in the international academic journal *Nature Astronomy*, Xinhua said. There are numerous violent explosive events in the universe. Such events occur randomly and vanish swiftly, resembling fleeting cosmic "fireworks." Observing these cosmic "fireworks" is of great significance for researching frontier issues in fields such as

black holes, gravitational waves, and cosmic evolution, the report said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1327551.shtml>

## China's Hainan commercial launch site to build two new launch pads

*Xinhua, January 25, 2025*

A commercial spacecraft launch site on China's southern island province of Hainan started constructing its second phase that will include two launch pads designed for liquid propellant rockets. In addition to the two launch pads and their supporting systems, such as a propellant fueling system and a gas supply system, the second phase will also include a commercial aerospace command and control center, a rocket assembly and testing building, and a tracking, telemetry and command station. According to HICAL, the second phase will enhance the comprehensive launch capabilities of the site, meet the growing demand for commercial space launches in China, and boost Hainan's efforts to build an innovative industrial cluster for the commercial space sector.

<https://english.news.cn/20250125/5eabbadc778e4ce48956d407eedf6b02/c.html#:~:text=China's%20Hainan%20commercial%20launch%20site%20to%20build%20two%20new%20launch%20pads,Source%3A%20Xinhua&text=HAIKOU%2C%20Jan.,designed%20for%20liquid%20propellant%20rockets>

## Chinese scientists build world's first deep sea radar that detects high-flying aircraft

Stephen Chen

*South China Morning Post, January 26, 2025*

China's intelligence gathering network has achieved a significant technological breakthrough that could reshape the future of sea battles. In a secret location, an acoustic sensor array deployed on the seabed at a depth of 1,000 metres (3,280

feet) has successfully detected and tracked a fixedwing aircraft flying at an altitude of 5,000 metres, according to scientists involved in the project. This groundbreaking deep sea radar has the potential to turn China's submarines from prey to predator in the game of anti-submarine warfare.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3295925/chinese-scientists-build-worlds-first-deep-sea-radar-detects-high-flying-aircraft>

### **DeepSeek: The Chinese AI app that has the world talking**

*Kelly Ng, Brandon Drenon, Tom Gerken and Marc Cieslak*

*BBC, January 27, 2025*

A Chinese-made artificial intelligence (AI) model called DeepSeek has shot to the top of Apple Store's downloads, stunning investors and sinking some tech stocks. Its latest version was released on 20 January, quickly impressing AI experts before it got the attention of the entire tech industry - and the world. US President Donald Trump said it was a "wake-up call" for US companies who must focus on "competing to win". What makes DeepSeek so special is the company's claim that it was built at a fraction of the cost of industry-leading models like OpenAI - because it uses fewer advanced chips.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5yv5976z9po>

### **Images show China building huge fusion research facility, analysts say**

*Gerry Doyle*

*Reuters, January 28, 2025*

China appears to be building a large laser-ignited fusion research centre in the southwestern city of Mianyang, experts at two analytical organisations say, a development that could aid nuclear weapons design and work exploring power generation. Satellite photos show four outlying "arms" that will house laser bays, and a central experiment bay that will hold a target chamber containing hydrogen isotopes the powerful lasers will fuse together, producing energy, said Decker Eveleth, a researcher at U.S.-based

independent research organisation CNA Corp.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/images-show-china-building-huge-fusion-research-facility-analysts-say-2025-01-28/>

### **China wants to see US, Russian nuclear disarmament efforts before talks**

*Channel News Asia, January 28, 2025*

China called on Washington and Moscow to "further reduce" their nuclear arsenals as a precondition for its participation in potential disarmament talks called for by US President Donald Trump. Trump said in a video address to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland that "we'd like to see denuclearisation", and reiterated his desire for three-way talks with Russia and China. Beijing says it favours disarmament in principle but has regularly rejected Washington's invitations to join US-Russian talks on reducing their nuclear arsenals.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/east-asia/china-wants-see-us-russia-nuclear-disarmament-efforts-talks-4901501>

### **Lessons for Russia as China builds navy to rival US by 2049: Moscow think tank**

*Victoria Bela*

*South China Morning Post, January 29, 2025*

China is seeking global leadership in key defence and military technologies amid fierce rivalry with the West - and Russia should learn from it, a Russian think tank has said. "By 2049, we can expect the PRC navy to achieve a combat potential comparable to the US Navy," the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) said in a report earlier this month, using the acronym for China's official name. The year 2049 marks the 100th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, by when it aims to have a "world-class military".

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296622/lessons-russia-china-builds->



*navyrival-us-2049-moscow-think-tank?module=top\_story&pgtype=subsection*

## **US Navy confirms drone 'hellscape' for use against PLA in Taiwan Strait is on track**

*Seong Hyeon Choi*

*South China Morning Post, January 30, 2025*

The first iteration of drones, set to form part of America's "unmanned hellcape" strategy to be used against China in a potential war in the Taiwan Strait, is on track to meet its August 2025 deadline, according to a US Navy official. Speaking at the West 2025 conference hosted by the US Naval Institute and AFCEA, Alex Campbell, maritime portfolio director of the US military's Defence Innovation Unit (DIU), said the Replicator initiative would meet the goal set by former deputy defence secretary Kathleen Hicks. The US would turn the Taiwan Strait "into an unmanned hellcape using a number of classified capabilities" by launching thousands of drones, from surface vessels and submarines to aerial drones, in response to a potential use of force by the PLA against the self-ruled island.

*[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296808/us-navy-confirms-drone-hellscapeuse-against-pla-taiwan-strait-track?module=top\\_story&pgtype=subsection](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3296808/us-navy-confirms-drone-hellscapeuse-against-pla-taiwan-strait-track?module=top_story&pgtype=subsection)*

## **China builds huge wartime military command centre in Beijing**

*Demetri Sevastopulo, Joe Leahy, Ryan McMorro, Kathrin Hille and Chris Cook*

*Financial Times, January 31, 2025*

China's military is building a massive complex in western Beijing that US intelligence believes will serve as a wartime command centre far larger than the Pentagon, according to current and former American officials. Satellite images obtained by the Financial Times that are being examined by US intelligence show a roughly 1,500-acre construction site 30km south-west of Beijing with deep holes that military experts assess will house large, hardened bunkers to protect Chinese military leaders during any conflict — including potentially a nuclear war.

*<https://www.ft.com/content/f3763e51-8607-42b9-9ef9-5789d5b353d>*

## **Is China's DeepSeek blessing or curse for Korean chipmakers?**

*Lee Yeon-woo*

*The Korea Times, January 31, 2025*

Samsung Electronics and SK hynix are expected to face growing uncertainties in the rapidly growing artificial intelligence (AI) memory chip business following the emergence of Chinese AI startup DeepSeek, which has dealt a blow to Nvidia and other U.S. AI tech firms, experts said. DeepSeek recently introduced its latest inference model, R1, which delivers performance comparable to OpenAI's o1. The startup said training the model cost just over \$5.5 million despite using lower-grade Nvidia graphic processing units (GPUs) designed for the Chinese market.

*[https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/tech/2025/01/129\\_391287.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/tech/2025/01/129_391287.html)*

## **C. Pakistan**

### **When will 5G technology launch in Pakistan?**

*News Desk*

*The Express Tribune, January 17, 2025*

The federal government has finalised the framework for the auction of the 5G technology spectrum. According to official documents, the Ministry of Information Technology has developed a roadmap for the rollout of 5G, and the technology is set to launch nationwide in June 2025. The spectrum auction will be completed in five phases, with the auction process scheduled to begin next month. The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) will provide recommendations to the Spectrum Advisory Committee based on consultations with experts. In the second phase, the Advisory Committee will finalise policy reforms. By March, the committee will determine the prices for the 5G spectrum and set the commercial terms.

*<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2522763/when-will-5g-technology-launch-in-pakistan>*

## **'Pakistan must continue to preserve and strengthen its nuclear capability'**

*Peerzada Salman*

*Dawn, January 26, 2025*

National Command Authority (NCA) Adviser retired Lieutenant General Khalid Ahmed Kidwai has stressed the need for preserving and strengthening the country's nuclear capability. Speaking at a seminar here on Saturday, he said when the former USSR collapsed, Ukraine gave up almost 2,000 nuclear weapons and the consequences are there for everyone to see. The lesson: "Pakistan must continue to preserve and strengthen its nuclear capability against all potential threats." The seminar titled '2024 in Retrospect' was organised by the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA). Gen Kidwai read a paper on 'Nuclear Developments: Regional and Global Impact'.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1887717>

### ***D. Russia***

## **Russia discussing new nuclear energy units with Iran**

*World Nuclear News, January 2025*

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that progress on two reactors under construction is "going well" and the two countries are "now discussing the possibility of building additional units". The comments came during a joint press conference following talks with Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian in Moscow and the signing of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership treaty. Putin said: "Energy remains a crucial area of Russian-Iranian cooperation. The flagship joint project for the construction of two new units of the Bushehr nuclear power plant by Rosatom is making strides. Once implemented, this project will undoubtedly make a weighty contribution to enhancing Iran's energy security, spur national economic growth, and provide affordable and environmentally friendly electricity for Iranian households and industrial enterprises."

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/articles/russia-discussing-new-nuclear-energy-units-with-iran>

## **Russia's floating nuclear power plant passes one billion kWh**

*World Nuclear News, January 16, 2025*

The Akademik Lomonosov floating nuclear power plant in Russia's Arctic Chukotka region has generated its first billion kilowatt hours, as it approaches five years since entering commercial operation. The floating nuclear power plant (FNPP), part of the Rosenergoatom division of Rosatom, is providing about 60% of the energy for the western Chukotka region and Chersky in Yakutia and has been increasing its output each year. It began commercial operation in May 2020, and its operators say the amount of energy it has now generated would be enough to "make a double espresso for everyone on earth". Natalia Tarasova, Deputy Director for Human Resources Management at the FNPP, said: "The past year was a landmark one ... the first fuel campaign in the history of the plant was successfully completed. In the Arctic conditions, this is a challenge, and we coped with it."

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/articles/russias-floating-nuclear-power-plant-passes-one-billion-kwh>

## **Russian AI struggles in its own language**

*Ben Dubow*

*The Moscow Times, January 28, 2025*

In a sleek presentation hall at Sber's Moscow headquarters in November, executives showcased their latest achievement: GigaChat MAX, a new AI model they claimed would cement Russia's position as a leading AI power. The model's improved 80% score on the industry-standard MMLU math benchmark represents a major improvement on Russia's previous efforts. But beneath the corporate optimism lay an uncomfortable reality: American models had achieved the same feat over a year ago. This widening capability gap represents more than just benchmark numbers. While Russian developers celebrate incremental improvements in basic language processing, American and Chinese models

are racing ahead with advanced capabilities like chain-of-thought reasoning and multimodal understanding.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/01/28/russian-ai-struggles-in-its-own-language-a87773>

## **EU threatens Russia with sanctions over possible hostilities in space**

AFP

*The Moscow Times, January 29, 2025*

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Wednesday that the bloc could impose sanctions in response to hostile actions in space, citing increasing threats from Russia. "We are already the targets of hybrid warfare, including in space, with systematic jamming of satellite navigation signals," Kallas told a conference in Brussels. "There are risks to our satellites, the ground infrastructure and our space industries from kinetic, electronic and high-energy weapons." The former Estonian prime minister pointed to Russia's previous test of an anti-satellite missile and a cyberattack on a space system just before its 2022 invasion of Ukraine. She urged the EU's 27 member states to strengthen their ability to counter threats in space, stressing the need for improved monitoring and attribution of attacks.

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/01/29/eu-threatens-russia-with-sanctions-over-possible-hostilities-in-space-a87788>

## **Kremlin seeks to resume nuclear disarmament talks with U.S.**

AFP

*The Moscow Times, January 24, 2025*

The Kremlin said January 24 that it wants to restart nuclear disarmament talks with U.S. President Donald Trump's administration "as soon as possible," after tensions over the war in Ukraine derailed negotiations. Russia withdrew from the New START treaty — the last remaining arms control agreement with the U.S. — in 2023 amid a sharp deterioration in bilateral relations. Both countries have indicated they will adhere to the treaty's warhead limits

until 2026, but they have yet to agree on a replacement, and discussions have been stalled for months. "We are interested in starting this negotiation process as soon as possible," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "The ball is in the Americans' court, who have stopped all substantive contacts."

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/01/24/kremlin-seeks-to-resume-nuclear-disarmament-talks-with-us-a87730>

## **Vietnam, Russia to Expand Nuclear Energy Cooperation**

*Kyiv Post, January 16, 2025*

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin called Vietnam an "important partner of Russia in Southeast Asia" during his two-day visit to Hanoi. Energy agencies in Vietnam and Russia signed an agreement on Tuesday to bolster cooperation in Vietnam's atomic energy development. The agreement was signed by Rosatom, Russia's state-owned nuclear energy company, and EVN, Vietnam's state-owned power utility company during Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's two-day visit to Hanoi, AP News reported. Due to costs and safety concerns, Vietnam shelved a plan to build two nuclear power plants in 2016, but now hopes to become energy-sufficient and reach its greenhouse emission goals by 2050 with the help of the plants and Moscow's assistance, AP News reported.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/post/45488>

## **E. United States of America**

## **US companies join forces to accelerate SMR deployment**

*World Nuclear News, January 20, 2025*

A TVA-led coalition including BWRX-300 developer GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy is applying for federal funding to support the US deployment of small modular reactors. Subsidiaries of American Electric Power are also seeking funding for the early stages of SMR development at sites in Indiana and Virginia. The TVA-led coalition has



submitted an application for USD800 million in funding from the US Department of Energy's Generation III+ SMR programme. As well as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the coalition includes Bechtel, BWX Technologies, Duke Energy, Electric Power Research Institute, GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy (GEH), American Electric Power company Indiana Michigan Power, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, Sargent & Lundy, Scot Forge, other utilities and advanced nuclear project developers and the State of Tennessee.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/articles/us-companies-join-forces-to-accelerate-smr-deployment>

### **Trump orders 'Iron Dome for America' in sweeping missile defence push**

*Sandra Erwin*

*Space News, January 28, 2025*

President Donald Trump signed an executive order Jan. 27 that calls for the development of a sweeping new missile defence system for the United States, including controversial space-based interceptors. The "Iron Dome for America" order, which invokes Israel's successful rocket defence system, directs the Pentagon to accelerate development of defences against hypersonic weapons and other advanced aerial threats that Trump's order describes as "the most catastrophic threat facing the United States." While drawing inspiration from Israel's Iron Dome system, the U.S. initiative would need to be dramatically different in scale and capability to defend the continent-spanning American territory against sophisticated intercontinental ballistic missiles, rather than the short-range rockets that threaten Israel.

<https://spacenews.com/trump-orders-iron-dome-for-america-in-sweeping-missile-defence-push/>

### **Next-gen missile shield: Donald Trump signs executive order, orders building of Iron Dome to defend U.S**

### **from Russian and Iranian missiles; here's what his plans are**

*The Economic Times, January 30, 2025*

Donald Trump is already thinking two steps ahead about America's safety and geopolitical future and has now signed an executive order for the development of an Iron Dome along the US border regions to protect the country from any Russian or Iranian missiles, according to reports. Is an 'American Iron Dome' in the works?

As one of his initial acts of the Presidency, President Trump signed this executive order that will straightway begin the planning for building interceptors for hypersonic missiles that could come from far-off distances, including the likes of enemy countries like Iran and Russia, according to The Sun's report.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/us/next-gen-missile-shield-donald-trump-signs-executive-order-orders-building-of-iron-dome-to-defend-u-s-from-russian-and-iranian-missiles-heres-what-his-plans-are/articleshow/117746152.cms?from=mdr>

### **Tech giants are putting \$500bn into 'Stargate' to build up AI in US**

*João da Silva, Natalie Sherman & Imran Rahman-Jones*

*BBC, January 30, 2025*

The creator of ChatGPT, OpenAI, is teaming up with another US tech giant, a Japanese investment firm and an Emirati sovereign wealth fund to build \$500bn (£405bn) of artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in the United States. The new company, called The Stargate Project, was announced at the White House by President Donald Trump who billed it "the largest AI infrastructure project by far in history" and said it would help keep "the future of technology" in the US. But Elon Musk - both a top adviser to Trump and rival to OpenAI CEO Sam Altman - on Wednesday said the venture does not "actually have the money" it has pledged to invest. Investment in AI is currently exploding, driving demand for new data



centres while also raising concerns about the huge amounts of water and power the facilities require.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy4m84d2xz2o>

## **Trump signals aggressive stance as US races China in AI development**

*Rob Garver*

*Voice of America, January 22, 2025*

Before he had been in office for 48 hours, President Donald Trump sent a clear signal that to outpace China, his administration will be pursuing an aggressive agenda when it comes to pushing the United States forward on the development of artificial intelligence and the infrastructure that powers it. On his first day in office, Trump rescinded an executive order signed in 2023 by former President Joe Biden that sought to place some guardrails around the development of more and more powerful generative AI tools and to create other protections for privacy, civil rights and national security. The following day, Trump met with the leaders of several leading technology firms, including Sam Altman, CEO of Open AI; Larry Ellison, chairman of Oracle; and Masayoshi Son, CEO of SoftBank, to announce a \$500 billion private sector investment in AI infrastructure known as Stargate.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/trump-signals-aggressive-stance-as-us-races-china-in-ai-development/7947068.html>

## **Bezos' Blue Origin reaches orbit in first New Glenn launch, misses booster landing**

*Reuters, January 16, 2025*

Blue Origin's giant New Glenn rocket blasted off from Florida early Thursday morning on its first mission to space, an inaugural step into Earth's orbit for Jeff Bezos' space company as it aims to rival SpaceX in the satellite launch business. Thirty stories tall with a reusable first stage, New Glenn launched around 2 a.m. ET (0700 GMT) from Blue Origin's launchpad at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, its seven engines thundering for miles under cloudy

skies on its second liftoff attempt this week. Hundreds of employees at the company's Kent, Washington headquarters and its Cape Canaveral, Florida rocket factory roared in applause as Blue Origin VP Ariane Cornell announced the rocket's second stage made it to orbit, achieving a long-awaited milestone. "We hit our key, critical, number-one objective, we got to orbit safely," Cornell said on a company live stream. "And y'all we did it on our first go."

<https://www.voanews.com/a/bezos-blue-origin-reaches-orbit-in-first-new-glenn-launch-misses-booster-landing/7938901.html>

## **F. South Asia**

### **Sri Lanka**

## **Adani Group loses Sri Lanka power contract as deal revoked amid corruption allegations; group denies report**

*The Economic Times, January 24, 2025*

In a significant setback for Adani Group, Sri Lanka has officially revoked a power purchase agreement with the Indian conglomerate in the wake of corruption allegations, news agencies reported citing sources from the country's energy ministry on January 24. The island nation's government led by President Anura Kumara Disanayake has initiated investigations into the company's local projects following accusations of bribery against billionaire founder Gautam Adani in the United States late last year, reports said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/sri-lanka-revokes-power-purchase-deal-with-adani-group/articleshow/117513309.cms?from=mdr>

### **Bangladesh**

## **Veon eyes space-based connectivity for Bangladesh in partnership with Starlink**

*Star Business Report*

*The Daily Star, January 22, 2025*

Veon Ltd, a Dubai-based telecommunications company, is exploring

opportunities to bring satellite-powered cellular services to Bangladesh in partnership with Elon Musk's Starlink. Veon Chief Executive Officer Kaan Terzioğlu revealed the plan during an interview with Bloomberg at the World Economic Forum in Davos. "It's not only about the war situation. Terrestrial networks have their limits," Terzioğlu said. "During times of floods or energy deficiencies, which our markets are exposed to, we truly believe that markets need both space-based and terrestrial network coverage." Veon's Ukraine subsidiary, Kyivstar PJSC, has already partnered with Starlink to provide satellite-to-cell services.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/veon-eyes-space-based-connectivity-bangladesh-partnership-starlink-3805946>

## G. East Asia

### Japan

#### **Japan Plans for Private Sector to be Involved in Next Space Station; JAXA Will Not Be Point of Contact for ISS Successor**

*The Yomiuri Shimbun*

*The Japan News, January 21, 2025*

The science and technology ministry is drafting a policy in which the private sector will participate in the building and management of the successor to the International Space Station. The next space station is being developed by a U.S. company. The current ISS was an initiative of the United States and was completed in 2011 but is expected to cease operations in 2030 due to aging. The United States plans to have the private sector build and manage the next space station. The Japanese government is also considering having a module, similar to the Kibo Japanese experiment module on the ISS, be built and operated by the private sector on the next space station. The Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Ministry hopes to privatize Japan's manned base of operations and expand its space business.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/science-nature/technology/20250121-234031/>

#### **Japan may sit out meeting on treaty to ban N-Weapons; Ishiba contemplates value of U.S. nuclear umbrella**

*The Yomiuri Shimbun*

*The Japan News, January 25, 2025*

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has begun making arrangements to forgo participating as an observer at a meeting of signatories to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to be held in the United States in March, it has been learned. As the security environment surrounding Japan is becoming increasingly severe, Ishiba has concluded that it would be appropriate to take a pragmatic approach based on the importance of deterrence capabilities supported by the U.S. nuclear umbrella, according to several government sources. Nuclear powers do not participate in the treaty, which prohibits the development and use of nuclear weapons. The Liberal Democratic Party's ruling coalition partner Komeito and the Nobel Peace Prize-winning group Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations) have requested of Ishiba that Japan, a nonsignatory state, participate in the meeting as an observer.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/society/general-news/20250125-235065/>

#### **Japan intends to boost defence capabilities on Yonaguni island; area set to deploy ballistic missile countermeasures**

*The Yomiuri Shimbun*

*The Japan News, January 23, 2025*

The government intends to develop facilities to deploy surface-to-air guided missile units on Yonaguni Island in Okinawa Prefecture, Defence Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters on Wednesday. "Strengthening the defence system in the Nansei area is an urgent issue," Nakatani said during a visit to the Ground Self Defence Force Camp Yonaguni, located on the island. Yonaguni Island is located at Japan's westernmost

point and is close to Taiwan, about 110 kilometers away, and island residents fear a Taiwan contingency. The Self-Defence Forces opened the camp in 2016, but only a coastal surveillance team is deployed to monitor naval vessels and aircraft.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/politics/defence-security/20250123-234651/>

## **U.S. approves sale of air-to-surface missiles to Japan**

*The Japan Times, January 16, 2025*

The U.S. government said Wednesday that it has notified Congress of its approval of the \$39 million sale of air-to-surface standoff missiles and related equipment to Japan. The move comes in response to the Japanese government's request to purchase up to 16 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles with Extended Range. The missiles have a range of about 900 kilometers, enabling strikes from beyond enemy firing ranges. The missiles are expected to be mounted on Japanese Air Self-Defence Force fighter jets. "This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region," the U.S. government said in a statement.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2025/01/16/japan/us-missiles-japan-sale/>

## **New attempt at moon landing: Open the way for private sector to lead space development**

*The Japan News, January 20, 2025*

Space development is shifting from being state-led to being led by the private sector. Japanese companies should not miss out on the global trend and should pioneer new areas. The Resilience, a lunar lander made by Japanese space startup ispace, inc., has been launched on a U.S. rocket. If all goes well, it will arrive at the moon as early as the end of May and then attempt to land on the moon, which would be a first for a Japanese private sector enterprise. The company first tried to put a lander on the

moon in 2023, but the attempt ended in failure due to an incorrect estimation of the altitude. At the time, the company had already overcome many difficulties, including putting the lander on a lunar orbit, and was only one step away from success. So far, only five countries have succeeded in landing on the moon: the now-defunct Soviet Union, the United States, China, India and Japan. In the private sector, a U.S. company was the first to succeed in 2024. If ispace succeeds, it will be a major first for an Asian company.

<https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/editorial/yomiuri-editorial/20250120-234075/>

## **North Korea**

### **North Korean leader inspects nuclear facility, calls 2025 'crucial year'**

*Islamuddin Sajid*

*Anadolu Ajansi, January 29, 2025*

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected a nuclear material production base and a nuclear weapons institute, describing 2025 as a critical year for his country, state media said on January 29. During the visit, Kim inspected the major core process of producing weapons-grade nuclear materials and was briefed on the current state of nuclear material production, the Korean Central News Agency reported. "This year is a crucial year as it is the year in which important period tasks are concluded and transferred to the next task in the course of carrying out the line of strengthening the nuclear force pursued by our Party and government," Kim was quoted by the news agency as saying. However, he did not explain what task would be concluded this year. Last month, South Korean media reported that Pyongyang could conduct a new nuclear test soon. Meanwhile, the White House said on Tuesday that President Donald Trump will pursue the "complete denuclearization of North Korea." Trump said earlier last week that he would reach out to Kim, as during his first term he held a historic meeting with



the North Korean leader. During his visit to the nuclear facility, Kim also vowed to strengthen his country's self-defence nuclear war deterrence.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/north-korean-leader-inspects-nuclear-facility-calls-2025-crucial-year/3465107>

### **Kim Jong Un approves new satellite development plan with Russian cooperation**

*Jeong Tae Joo*

*Daily NK, January 31, 2025*

North Korea appears to be accelerating its military reconnaissance satellite program through Russian cooperation, with plans for new deployments this year. According to a Daily NK source in North Korea, the National Aerospace Development Administration (NATA) submitted a proposal that received Kim Jong Un's approval on Jan. 18. The directive has been distributed to scientific research agencies in the defence and military sectors involved in satellite development. The proposal addresses technical limitations identified during launches following the successful deployment of the "Malligyong-1" reconnaissance satellite, outlining research and development plans for additional satellite launches this year. The source revealed that NATA conducted a thorough analysis of deficiencies in orbital deployment and high-resolution observation capabilities during the 11th General Meeting of the Eighth Central Committee last month. Since the year began, the agency has focused intensively on addressing these shortcomings.

<https://www.dailynk.com/english/kim-jong-un-approves-new-satellite-development-plan-russian-cooperation/?tztc=1>

### **N. Korea installs advanced fuel system at Sohae launch site**

*Jeong Tae Joo*

*Daily NK, January 17, 2025*

North Korea has installed a new fuel injection system at its Sohae Satellite

Launching Station in Tongchang-ri, North Pyongan province, marking a significant upgrade to its rocket propulsion capabilities. According to a Daily NK source in North Korea, work began in early January to install "a new fuel injection system capable of safely storing and rapidly injecting high-performance liquid fuel." The source emphasized that unlike previous systems, this one incorporates high-pressure fuel injection equipment. "This upgrade aims to reduce satellite and intercontinental ballistic missile launch preparation times while enhancing safety and efficiency of high-performance liquid fuel handling," the source explained. "The project involves renovating existing facilities and installing new equipment, with completion expected by month's end."

<https://www.dailynk.com/english/n-korea-installs-advanced-fuel-system-at-sohae-launch-site/>

### **North Korea tests sea-to-surface cruise missiles, state media says**

*Voice of America, January 25, 2025*

North Korea has test-fired sea-to-surface strategic guided cruise missiles, state news agency KCNA reported Sunday, adding that the weapons "precisely" hit their targets. "The war deterrence means of the armed forces of the DPRK are being perfected more thoroughly," North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said as he oversaw Saturday's test, the agency reported. The missiles hit their marks after travelling along the 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) elliptical and figure-eight orbits, the report said, adding that there was "no negative impact on the security of neighboring countries." KCNA did not say where the test took place. The weapons test by Pyongyang was the first since U.S. President Donald Trump returned to the White House on Monday. Shortly before his inauguration, North Korea fired several short-range ballistic missiles into the sea.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/nkorea-test-fires-sea-to-surface-strategic-cruise-missile-state-media-says-/7950531.html>

## North Korea fires 1st missile since Trump's inauguration

*Jung Min-kyung*

*The Korean Herald, January 26, 2025*

North Korea on Sunday said it tested sea-to-surface strategic cruise-guided missiles the previous day, in its first provocation since US President Donald Trump officially began his second term. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Missile Administration test-fired the missiles on January 25, which flew 1,500 kilometers along their flight trajectories for 7,507 to 7,511 seconds before precisely hitting their targets, according to the Korean Central News Agency. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea or DPRK is North Korea's official name. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un oversaw the test and said that the "war deterrence means of the armed forces of the DPRK are being perfected more thoroughly," the KCNA reported.

<https://www.koreaherald.com/article/10407561>

### South Korea

## Defence chiefs of S. Korea, Estonia discuss defence, arms cooperation

*The Korea Herald, January 27, 2025*

Acting Defence Minister Kim Seon-ho and Estonian Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur on Monday discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the defence sector and the arms industry, the defence ministry said. In the talks held in Seoul, Kim noted that the two countries' cooperation in the cybersecurity sector has been advancing and suggested expanding such ties to other areas, according to the defence ministry. Kim also briefed Pevkur on the South Korean weapons system, including the K9 self-propelled howitzer that Estonia has acquired. Both sides agreed to push for mutually beneficial cooperation, such as personnel exchanges and training, while closely communicating on ways to expand their defence and arms cooperation.

<https://www.koreaherald.com/article/10407922>

## Space agency to foster space economy, develop future technologies

*The Korea Times, January 21, 2025*

Korea's national space agency said Tuesday it will work to foster a private-led space economy and develop future aerospace technologies, such as reusable rockets and advanced satellites, this year. The Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) outlined its plan to advance Seoul's competitiveness in the global space market in a joint policy report, adding it will work to make the country one of five global leaders in the sector. Under the plan, KASA said it will push for the development of the space transportation technologies, such as reusable space rockets, and help a private firm to spearhead the fourth launch of the country's homegrown space launch vehicle Nuri in the fourth quarter. KASA aims to develop a reusable rocket that would only cost US\$1,000 to transport 1 kilogram of cargo to space by mid-2030. It will also launch research programs to develop an orbital transfer vehicle, manned spacecraft and space reentry technology.

<https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/foreignaffairs/20250121/south-koreas-national-space-agency-to-boost-space-economy-and-develop-future-technologies>

## Space agency to unveil road map for advancement of aerospace industry in February

*The Korea Times, January 17, 2025*

The national space agency plans to unveil its road map aimed at bolstering South Korea's aerospace capabilities next month, its chief said Friday. Yoon Young-bin, head of the Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA), announced the plan at an event for the new year attended by aerospace industry officials. "We will devise a road map on laying the foundation for a private-led aerospace economy, which will include projects to develop space vehicles, such as

Nuri space rockets, future-oriented aircraft and advanced satellites, as part of efforts to bolster the local space industry's competitiveness in the global market," he said. "Competition in the global aerospace industry is heating up with the advent of emerging powers and the acceleration of private-led growth." In detail, KASA plans to come up with measures to develop indigenous technologies for reusable rockets and aircraft gas turbine engines. It will also create a detailed business plan for setting up the world's first space observatory in L4, one of the stable Lagrange points, according to Yoon.

<https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/business/tech-science/20250117/south-koreas-space-agency-reveals-new-aerospace-industry-development-plan-in-february>

## H. Southeast Asia

### Indonesia

#### Russia Says Su-35 Jet Deal with Indonesia Still 'on Table'

Jayanty Nada Shofa

Jakarta Globe, January 23, 2025

Russian Ambassador to Indonesia Sergei Tolchenov recently said that the Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jet deal with the Southeast Asian nation remained "on the table". In 2018, Indonesia decided to buy 11 units of the Russian-made Sukhoi SU-35 fighter jets worth \$1.1 billion. Russia is still waiting for updates on the Su-35 deal, which has been hanging in balance since 2020. Indonesia at the time reportedly gave up on buying the fighter jet due to the pandemic-induced budget constraints. The Indonesian Air Force revealed in 2021 that they had scrapped the Su-35 deal in favor of US-made F-15s and France's Rafale warplanes. The odds for Indonesia to buy Russian jets got even slimmer after the government announced last year the final procurement of 18 additional French-made Rafale fighter jets, solidifying the total order count to 42.

<https://jakartaglobe.id/news/russia-says-su35-jet-deal-with-indonesia-still-on-table>

#### Indonesia plans defence budget hike to 1.5 percent of GDP

Antara News, January 16, 2025

Indonesia's Ministry of Defence aims to gradually increase the defence budget from 0.8 percent to 1.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) to enhance defence capabilities. The ministry discussed the planned budget hike during a leadership meeting with representatives of the National Armed Forces (TNI) in Jakarta on Thursday. "We are projecting an increase in the national defence budget, from 0.8 percent to over one percent, with a possibility of hitting 1.5 percent. The rise will occur gradually," said Brigadier General Frega Inkiriwang, the ministry's Head of Information Bureau. Speaking to the media after the meeting, he emphasized that the defence budget ratio of 1.5 percent of GDP is essential for Indonesia to bolster its defence posture by procuring weapons and equipment, developing defence infrastructure, and enhancing the quality of human resources. Indonesia's GDP in 2023 was estimated to reach US\$1.37 trillion.

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/341690/indonesia-plans-defence-budget-hike-to-15-percent-of-gdp>

#### Indonesia brings forward nuclear power plant development to 2029

Antara News, January 23, 2025

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is seeking to accelerate the development of nuclear power plants in Indonesia to 2029 from the initial target of 2032. "The development of nuclear power plants is being accelerated to 2029-2032," Deputy Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Yuliot Tanjung informed here on Thursday. The development of nuclear power plants is part of the government's efforts to support the energy transition, he added. Based on the National Electricity General Plan (RUKN) 2025-2060, the national power



plant capacity is projected to reach 443 gigawatts (GW) by 2060, with 79 percent of the capacity derived from new and renewable energy. "To meet the energy mix target, we see the need for acceleration of the construction of nuclear power plants," Tanjung pointed out. However, the ministry has not yet determined the companies it will partner with to develop the nuclear power plants.

<https://en.antaranews.com/news/342626/indonesia-brings-forward-nuclear-power-plant-development-to-2029>

### **Indonesia in talks to buy Russian-Indian missile as President Prabowo visits Delhi, sources say**

*The Economic Times, January 24, 2025*

Indonesia and India will discuss boosting defence ties, including a potential deal to sell Russian-Indian supersonic cruise missiles to Jakarta, during the Indonesian president's visit to New Delhi this week, according to people familiar with the discussions. Indonesia has been in protracted talks with BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between India and Russia, to procure a shore-based version of the mid-range missiles and a version that can be mounted on warships. BrahMos told Reuters in 2023 that it was in advanced discussions with Jakarta on a deal worth \$200 million to \$350 million. Two people familiar with the matter said a deal has not yet been finalised and talks are continuing.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indonesia-in-talks-to-buy-russian-indian-missile-as-president-prabowo-visits-delhi-sources-say/articleshow/117520860.cms?from=mdr>

### **Malaysia**

### **Armed Forces set to enhance defence capabilities with RM12b worth of new assets in 2025, including cannons, missiles and drones, says minister**

*Malay mail, January 16, 2025*

A total of RM12 billion has been allocated to the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) for

the acquisition of assets to enhance the country's defence capabilities this year, said Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin. According to him, among the major asset acquisitions approved this year include 105 mm cannons, surface-to-surface missiles (SSM) for KD Jebat frigate and three units of Medium Altitude Long Endurance Unmanned Aerial System (MALE UAS). The Defence Ministry, he said, will ensure that the construction of other important assets progress as scheduled, such as the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) 1 which is now 96.52 per cent complete and has commenced Harbour Acceptance Test (HAT) and Sea Acceptance Test (SAT). "LCS2 has also been launched and is undergoing work requirements, while LCS3 is in final preparations for its planned launch in January 2026.

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2025/01/16/armed-forces-set-to-enhance-defence-capabilities-with-rm12b-worth-of-new-assets-in-2025-including-cannons-missiles-and-drones-says-minister/163454>

### **PM Anwar: Malaysia not urgently pursuing nuclear power, focus on solar and Asean power grid**

*Malay Mail, January 22, 2025*

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said Malaysia is not in "pressing need" to adopt nuclear power as Malaysia still sees much potential in solar power and the ASEAN Power Grid (APG). However, the prime minister does not dismiss the "possibility" of having the said energy especially with the country having massive data centres in the pipeline. "But notwithstanding, just to make sure because the consuming (energy) of data centres is huge and in every meeting... people have been suggesting they want to put up small modular reactors (SMRs) and I don't want to frustrate them because that's part of the overall artificial intelligence (AI) requirements, which means that the nuclear option is there. "I know Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia have embarked on this and I'm trying to get us to work together to show that we have a better



budgeting position,” he told a media briefing at the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2025 here yesterday when asked on whether Malaysia is looking at promoting nuclear power especially SMR.

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2025/01/22/pm-anwar-malaysia-not-urgently-pursuing-nuclear-power-focus-on-solar-and-asean-power-grid/164181>

### **Malaysian defence ministry allocates RM12 billion for asset procurement this year**

*Defence Security Asia, January 16, 2025*

The Malaysian Ministry of Defence has allocated RM12 billion to the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) for the procurement of assets aimed at enhancing the nation’s defence capabilities this year. According to Bernama, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin stated that among the key approved acquisitions for this year are 105mm artillery guns, surface-to-surface missiles (SSM) for the KD Jebat frigate, and three units of the Medium Altitude Long Endurance Unmanned Aerial System (MALE UAS). The three MALE UAS units refer to the procurement of ANKA drones from Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI).

<https://defencesecurityasia.com/en/malaysian-defence-ministry-allocates-rm12-billion-for-asset-procurement-this-year/>

## **Philippines**

### **Nuclear energy to power economic growth – Alpas Pinas**

*Raffy Ayeng*

*Daily Tribune, January 31, 2025*

The Philippine economy stands at a critical crossroads, as based on the Philippine Economic Update (PEU) report released by the World Bank, the country is projected to achieve robust economic growth of six percent from 2024 to 2026. This presents a unique opportunity to chart a path toward lasting prosperity. However, this positive outlook comes with significant risks. The same report highlights potential threats such as geopolitical tensions, volatile commodity

prices and adverse weather conditions, which could destabilize the foundations of progress. At the core of these challenges lies the nation’s energy supply. In a separate report by Ember’s Global Electricity Review 2024, coal fuels 61.9 percent of the Philippines’ electricity generation, with 80 percent of this coal imported, a dependency that made the country the most coal-dependent country in Southeast Asia as of 2023, with electricity rates peaking at P11 per kWh – the second highest in the region.

<https://tribune.net.ph/2025/01/31/nuclear-energy-to-power-economic-growth-alpas-pinaz>

### **US deploys Typhon missile launchers to new location in Philippines**

*The Economic Times, January 23, 2025*

The U.S. military has moved its Typhon launchers - which can fire multipurpose missiles up to thousands of kilometres - from Laoag airfield in the Philippines to another location on the island of Luzon, a senior Philippine government source said. The Tomahawk cruise missiles in the launchers can hit targets in both China and Russia from the Philippines; the SM-6 missiles it also carries can strike air or sea targets more than 200 km (165 miles) away. The senior Philippine government source said the redeployment would help determine where and how fast the missile battery could be moved to a new firing position.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/us-deploys-typhon-missile-launchers-to-new-location-in-philippines/articleshow/117478666.cms?from=mdr>

## **Singapore**

### **Ships carrying missile propellant to sail from China to Iran, FT reports**

*The Straits Times, January 22, 2025*

Two Iranian cargo vessels carrying an ingredient for missile propellant will sail from China to Iran in the next few weeks,

the Financial Times reported on Jan 22, citing intelligence from security officials in two Western countries. The FT said the Iranian-flagged ships, the Golbon and the Jairan, are expected to carry more than 1,000 tonnes of sodium perchlorate, which is used to make ammonium perchlorate, the main ingredient for solid propellant for missiles. Ammonium perchlorate is among chemicals controlled by the Missile Technology Export Control Regime, a voluntary international anti-proliferation body, the FT said.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/ships-carrying-missile-propellant-to-sail-from-china-to-iran-ft-reports>

### **Singapore chip gear maker GVT says AI boom far from over**

*The Straits Times, January 16, 2025*

Semiconductor equipment maker Grand Venture Technology (GVT) is trying to turn the world's hunger for advanced memory chips into a chance to become a major supplier, as giants from Micron Technology to Infineon Technologies build new factories in Asia. Demand for artificial intelligence (AI) chips is set to grow in the coming years as healthcare, education and financial sectors adopt more services from AI agents such as Microsoft Copilot, said Mr Julian Ng, chief executive of Singapore-based GVT. That is a boon for up-and-coming equipment suppliers such as GVT, as chipmakers need to invest in their production systems.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/business/companies-markets/singapore-chip-gear-maker-gvt-says-ai-boom-far-from-over>

### **Vietnam**

### **Vietnam aims to open nuclear power plant by 2030**

*Tuoi Tre News, January 16, 2025*

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, head of the Steering Committee for Nuclear Power Plant Construction, chaired the committee's inaugural meeting on Wednesday, setting the goal for Vietnam to have an operational nuclear power plant by 2030. January 10, the prime minister issued

Decision No. 72 officially establishing the steering committee for the construction of a nuclear power plant in Ninh Thuan Province, located in the south-central region of Vietnam. The steering committee was tasked with overseeing the continued implementation of the Ninh Thuan nuclear power project, monitoring progress, and proposing solutions to resolve challenges during the project's execution. The committee will also focus on revising and improving legal regulations related to nuclear energy development, ensuring safety, security, and efficiency. Additionally, it will direct the creation of a national nuclear energy development program. The committee is also responsible for fostering international cooperation, including with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in nuclear energy development.

[https://news.tuoi-tre.vn/vietnam-aims-to-open-nuclear-power-plant-by-2030-10383979.htm#:~:text=Vietnam's%20legislative%20National%20Assembly%20\(NA,zero%20emissions%20target%20by%202050.](https://news.tuoi-tre.vn/vietnam-aims-to-open-nuclear-power-plant-by-2030-10383979.htm#:~:text=Vietnam's%20legislative%20National%20Assembly%20(NA,zero%20emissions%20target%20by%202050.)

## **I. Central Asia**

### **Kazakhstan**

### **Kazakhstan completes international visits ahead of nuclear power plant construction**

*The Times of Central Asia, January 22, 2025*

Kazakhstan has completed a series of international visits to evaluate technologies for its planned nuclear power plant (NPP). On January 21, 2025, a Kazakh delegation led by Energy Minister Almasadam Satkaliyev visited Russia to assess the operations of Generation 3+ nuclear power units at the Leningrad NPP. During the visit, the delegation examined key components of the plant, including its control systems, turbine hall, laboratory facilities, and cooling system. Particular focus was placed on the VVER-1200 reactor, the flagship project of Russia's state nuclear corporation, Rosatom. This visit marked the final stage of Kazakhstan's review process of potential

suppliers for the NPP. From October to December 2024, Kazakh specialists also visited South Korea, France, and China. As a result, the final list of candidate suppliers includes Russian Rosatom, Korean KHNP, Chinese CNNC, and French EDF. While in Russia, the Kazakh delegation also consulted with Leningrad NPP management and visited the satellite town of Sosnovy Bor, a scientific and engineering innovation hub. The Leningrad NPP is Russia's largest by installed capacity and features two types of reactors: uranium-graphite RBMK and water-water VVER.

<https://timesca.com/kazakhstan-completes-international-visits-ahead-of-nuclear-power-plant-construction/>

### **Kazakhstan's economy achieves 4.8% growth amid challenges in oil sector**

*Saniya Sakenova*

*The Astana Times, January 29, 2025*

Kazakhstan's economy grew by 4.8% despite a decline in oil production and prices in 2024, Governor of the National Bank of Kazakhstan (NBK) Timur Suleimenov said during a Jan. 28 expanded government meeting chaired by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, reported the Prime Minister's press service. According to Suleimenov, the country's overall inflation fell to 8.6%, which is 2.5 times lower than the 2023 peak. Food inflation stood at 5.5%, non-food inflation was 8.3%, contributing to the overall slowdown in inflation. Housing and communal services tariffs increased by 21.1%, attracting more than 600 billion tenge (US\$1.1 billion) in investments. The tenge exchange rate fell by 15.5% due to geopolitical tensions and increased demand for foreign currency. To address this, the NBK implemented measures such as interventions and the mandatory sale of 50% of foreign exchange earnings by the quasi-public sector, among others.

<https://astanatimes.com/2025/01/kazakhstans-economy-achieves-4-8-growth-amid-challenges-in-oil-sector/>

### **President Tokayev calls for creating nuclear cluster in Kazakhstan**

*Saniya Sakenova*

*The Astana Times, January 28, 2025*

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev called for accelerating the construction of Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant (NPP) and creating a broader nuclear cluster to address growing energy shortages and support the country's progress. He made these remarks during an expanded government meeting on Jan. 28, reported Akorda. He instructed the government and Samruk Kazyna Sovereign Wealth Fund to develop long-term plans for the nuclear industry's advancement and determine the most suitable locations for constructing future NPPs while adopting modern, safe technologies. To achieve complete self-sufficiency in electricity and create reserves of 15-20%, Tokayev directed the addition of at least three gigawatts of new energy capacity within two years, nearly 2.5 times higher than in previous years.

<https://astanatimes.com/2025/01/president-tokayev-calls-for-creating-nuclear-cluster-in-kazakhstan/>

### **Kazakhstan to build first nuclear power plant within eight years**

*Saniya Sakenova*

*The Astana Times, January 30, 2025*

Kazakhstan is working to accelerate the construction of its first nuclear power plant (NPP), aiming to complete the first unit within eight years, Energy Minister Almassadam Satkaliyev said at a briefing on Jan. 29, reported Kazinform. This follows President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's instructions to speed up the project amid the country's growing energy deficit. While NPP construction typically takes 10-12 years, Kazakhstan plans to negotiate with official vendors to shorten this timeline. Satkaliyev also outlined plans to localize the uranium conversion cycle. Kazakhstan already manufactures



pumping equipment for NPPs, and expanding domestic production of reactor components and power equipment is a priority. "To fully realize all the benefits we have, it is necessary to build at least three NPPs, according to our calculations. This is technically possible," he said.

<https://astanatimes.com/2025/01/kazakhstan-to-build-first-nuclear-power-plant-within-eight-years/>

### **Kazakhstan, Türkiye sign military cooperation plan for 2025 in Ankara**

*Dana Omirgazy*

*The Astana Times, January 27, 2025*

A military cooperation plan for 2025 was signed between Kazakhstan and Türkiye during a visit of a Kazakh delegation led by Colonel Olzhas Khussainov, head of the International Cooperation Department of the Defence Ministry, to Ankara. The agreement was signed by Khussainov and Turkish Brigadier General Çatal Erdoğan, reported the Kazakh Defence Ministry on January 27. The document outlines joint efforts in military education, peacekeeping, combat training, and medical cooperation, as well as the exchange of high-level visits between the two nations.

<https://astanatimes.com/2025/01/kazakhstan-turkiye-sign-military-cooperation-plan-for-2025-in-ankara/>

## **Kyrgyzstan**

### **Kyrgyzstan begins construction of a new solar power plant**

*The Times of Central Asia, January 22, 2025*

Kyrgyzstan has launched the construction of a new solar power plant in the Kemin district of the Chui region, approximately 100 kilometers east of the capital, Bishkek. The plant will have a capacity of 100 MW and is expected to generate 155 million kWh of electricity annually. According to the government, this will help reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 140,000 tons and coal consumption by 50,000 tons per year. At the January 21 groundbreaking ceremony,

Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Adylbek Kasymaliev described the project as a significant step toward achieving Kyrgyzstan's energy independence and advancing sustainable development. Acknowledging that the country still heavily relies on its Soviet-era hydroelectric power plants for electricity generation, Kasymaliev emphasized Kyrgyzstan's commitment to adopting modern and environmentally friendly energy solutions.

<https://timesca.com/kyrgyzstan-begins-construction-of-a-new-solar-power-plant/>

### **U.S. weapons smuggled into Russia via Kyrgyzstan, authorities state**

*The Times of Central Asia, January 31, 2025*

Kyrgyzstan's State Committee for National Security (GKNB) has claimed that it has uncovered and dismantled a criminal group that operated a smuggling network transporting firearms, ammunition, and military uniforms from the United States to Russia via Kyrgyzstan. According to Kyrgyz security services, the smuggling operation began in April 2022 and involved individuals from Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and the United States. The group illegally transported and sold firearms, including Glock, CZ, and SIG Sauer pistols, as well as assault rifles, shotguns, and corresponding ammunition. "It was established that Kyrgyz citizens and other individuals – whose names are not being disclosed due to the ongoing investigation – purchased firearms from U.S. manufacturers via online platforms. These weapons were then concealed in shipments disguised as video equipment and transported to Kyrgyzstan. Once in the country, the main firearm components were assembled, creating ready-to-use weapons, which were subsequently smuggled into Russia for illegal sale," the GKNB stated.

<https://timesca.com/u-s-weapons-smuggled-into-russia-via-kyrgyzstan-authorities-state/>

## *Tajikistan*

### **CSTO to strengthen Tajik-Afghan border in 2025**

*The Times of Central Asia, January 24, 2025*

The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) will begin implementing a program to reinforce the Tajik-Afghan border in 2025, CSTO Secretary General Imangali Tasmagambetov announced during a meeting in Moscow on January 23, according to Interfax. Tasmagambetov explained that the program outlines concrete measures to enhance security along the southern boundary of the CSTO's area of responsibility. This announcement was made during a meeting reviewing the CSTO secretariat's and joint staff's activities in 2024, as well as outlining objectives for 2025. The meeting was attended by Andrei Serdyukov, head of the CSTO joint staff. In 2024, the CSTO finalized and signed agreements related to equipping its collective forces with modern weapons and military equipment. The organization also conducted joint operational and combat training exercises and actively collaborated with international organizations. As it looks ahead to 2025, the CSTO is drafting an action plan to focus on key priorities, including securing the Tajik-Afghan border, which has long been a source of concern for member states.

<https://timesca.com/csto-to-strengthen-tajik-afghan-border-in-2025/>

### **New collaborating centre for nuclear security in Tajikistan**

*Vasiliki Tafili, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security*

*International Atomic Energy Agency, January 30, 2025*

Tajikistan's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Safety and Security Agency has been designated as a new IAEA Collaborating Centre for nuclear security. "The designation of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Safety and Security Agency (CBRN SSA) as an IAEA Collaborating Centre will strengthen the cooperation between Tajikistan and the

IAEA to efficiently support regional activities in key areas of nuclear security," said Lydie Evrard, IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, at the signing ceremony in Vienna. "That will contribute to enhance nuclear security in Central Asia and internationally," she added. The four year agreement from 2025 to 2029 aims to help countries in the region build capacity in the development and maintenance of their nuclear security regimes, including the assessment of nuclear security needs and priorities, computer security, the security of nuclear materials and facilities, and nuclear or other radioactive material out of regulatory control.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/new-collaborating-centre-for-nuclear-security-in-tajikistan>

### **Tajikistan begins talks with Iran over use of Chabahar port**

*The Economic Times, January 24, 2025*

India's Eurasia connectivity will get further boost with Tajikistan beginning negotiations with Iran on cargo transit via Chabahar port that New Delhi has assisted in building and signed a 10-year deal in 2024 with Tehran for the port management. Tajikistan is negotiating with Iran for the transit of its cargo through the Chabahar port as it seeks to widen its trade ties with India, the Gulf and Indian Ocean Region countries.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-transport/tajikistan-begins-talks-with-iran-over-use-of-chabahar-port/articleshow/117496996.cms?from=mdr>

## *Uzbekistan*

### **Uzbekistan plans to launch satellite jointly with Turkic countries in 2026**

*Orient, January 20, 2025*

Uzbekistan plans to launch a scientific satellite in 2026 in cooperation with the member states of the Organization of Turkic States At a press conference at the Agency of Information and Mass

Communications, the head of the department of the Uzbekcosmos Agency, Mukhiddin Ibragimov, announced significant progress in creating infrastructure for working with space monitoring data. Currently, a satellite data processing market has been formed in Uzbekistan, covering from 600,000 to 1 million square kilometers. Within the framework of the project, a technological part of the satellite will be created, in the development of which Uzbek specialists will take part. The launch is scheduled for mid-2026. In addition, negotiations are underway with other countries to create a constellation of Earth remote sensing satellites.

<https://www.orient.tm/en/post/80029/uzbekistan-plans-launch-satellite-jointly-turkic-countries-2026>

### **Russia and Uzbekistan sign military strategic partnership plan**

*The Moscow Times, January 22, 2025*

Russia and Uzbekistan adopted a military strategic partnership program set to run through 2030, Russia's Defence Ministry said Wednesday, as Moscow looks to deepen ties with traditional allies amid isolation from the West. The plan outlines 50 unspecified "joint military activities" scheduled for 2025, followed by broader strategic initiatives between 2026 and 2030, according to the ministry's statement. Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov formalized the agreement during a visit to Tashkent. While Uzbekistan maintains close ties with Russia, it has refrained from supporting Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The Uzbek government has also warned its citizens of potential criminal prosecution for engaging in mercenary activities if they participate in the conflict. Although Uzbekistan remains firmly within Russia's economic sphere, it has declined to join Moscow-led alliances like the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/01/22/russia-and-uzbekistan-sign-military-strategic-partnership-plan-a87693>

### **L&T to construct Uzbekistan's first AI-enabled, sustainable 10-MW data center in Tashkent**

*The Economic Times, January 28, 2025*

Engineering major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has received a project to build Uzbekistan's first AI-enabled and sustainable 10-Megawatt data centre in Tashkent, the company said in a press release on 28. The company called it a "significant" order. According to the company's project classification a "significant" order is one that is valued in the range of Rs 1,000-2,500 crore. L&T will be responsible for the engineering, procurement and construction of this new-age Data Centre equipped with advanced AI capabilities to power the next generation AI applications, minimise environmental impact and maximise energy efficiency, the company said in the release. The data centre will be equipped with robust security measures to protect sensitive data using cutting-edge security technologies, the statement noted.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/engineering/lt-to-construct-uzbekistans-first-ai-enabled-sustainable-10-mw-data-center-in-tashkent/articleshow/117637776.cms?from=mdr>

### **Uzbekistan to develop a national space program until 2035**

*UZ Daily, January 16, 2025*

The agency Uzbekcosmos will begin developing a national space program aimed at 2035. This was announced on January 16 during a press conference by Mukhiddin Ibrahimov, head of the department for the development of aerospace activities and space monitoring systems. In preparing the document, Uzbekcosmos will engage 4-5 consulting companies, including global leaders like SpaceX and the British Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL). The main goal of the strategy is to outline key areas for the development of the space industry over the next 10 years, including short-term,



medium-term, and long-term plans. “The primary focus will be on the use of data, primarily Earth observation (EO), infrastructure development, as well as satellites and ground systems for satellite navigation,” Ibrahimov clarified.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/uzbekistan-to-develop-a-national-space-program-until-2035/>

## **J. West Asia**

### **Armenia**

#### **Armenia Armenia’s interior minister lauds broad partnership with U.S.**

*Armenpress, January 16, 2025*

The recently signed Strategic Partnership Charter with the U.S. includes, among others, directions for development of cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Minister of Internal Affairs Arpine Sargsyan has said. “We have a rather broad partnership with our US colleagues,” Sargsyan said at a press conference. “And the recently signed document in Washington includes points pertaining to the continuity of partnership with the ministry of internal affairs.” On January 14, Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken launched the U.S.-Armenia Strategic Partnership Commission.

<https://armenpress.am/en/article/1209645>

#### **Armenia selects India’s Trajan 155mm howitzer to modernise its artillery capabilities**

*Global Defence News, January 16, 2025*

The selection of India’s Trajan 155mm towed howitzer represents a significant step in Armenia’s artillery modernization. It also highlights India’s growing influence as a supplier of advanced military technologies in the region. By partnering with India, Armenia gains access to state-of-the-art defence equipment, a crucial factor for a

country that has been trying to modernize its forces amid shifting geopolitical dynamics. The Trajan 155mm towed artillery gun system, developed by India’s Bharat Forge in collaboration with Indian defence agencies and French Company Nexter, now KNDS, is a next-generation piece of artillery that offers superior accuracy, mobility, and firepower.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/armynews/2025/armenia-selects-indias-trajan155mm-howitzer-to-modernize-its-artillery-capabilities>

## **Azerbaijan**

#### **Azerbaijan sets record \$5bn military budget amid looming economic hurdles**

*Vahram Revazyan*

*CivilNet, January 22, 2025*

Azerbaijan’s decision to allocate a record \$5 billion to military spending in its 2025 budget underscores a risky gamble amid economic uncertainties. This increase comes as the country grapples with declining oil revenues and the deterioration of fiscal buffers in the budget to sustain government spending. The 2025 budget projects oil prices at \$70 per barrel, significantly higher than the conservative benchmarks used in recent years. This assumption leaves little room to absorb shocks, especially given global market forecasts that suggest potential oversupply in the oil market. Should oil prices fall below the anticipated level, Azerbaijan’s budgetary stability will rely even more heavily on its State Oil Fund (SOFAZ), which already faces financial strain. Notably, international forecasts for oil prices 2025 hover around \$75 per barrel, indicating that the budget includes almost no buffer. If oil prices dip below \$70 per barrel, Azerbaijan may be forced further to increase transfers from SOFAZ to the state budget.

<https://www.civilnet.am/en/news/813320/azerbaijan-sets-record-5bn-military-budgetamid-looming-economic-hurdles/>



## Armenian intelligence sees low risk of large-scale conflict with Azerbaijan in 2025

*Akbar Novruz*

*Azernews, January 23, 2025*

Armenian intelligence has assessed the probability of large-scale military action by Azerbaijan against Armenia in 2025 as low, according to a recent report by Armenia's Foreign Intelligence Service, Azernews reports. The report, which examines key risks and threats for the year, underscores that while a full-scale war is deemed unlikely, localized skirmishes and escalations remain plausible. According to Armenian media, the analysis highlights that ongoing border delimitation and demarcation processes could play a role in reducing the likelihood of broader confrontations. However, the report also warns that the absence of a concrete peace treaty increases the risk of sporadic clashes. Bilateral negotiations between Armenia and Azerbaijan are noted as the most viable avenue for reducing tensions, but delays in normalizing relations or signing peace agreements may lead to prolonged uncertainty and heightened risks.

<https://www.azernews.az/karabakh/236835.html>

## Cyprus

### Cyprus hails new access to US defence goods

*Al-monitor, January 16, 2025*

Cyprus on Thursday heralded a move by United States President Joe Biden allowing the strategic Mediterranean country access to military equipment. Traditionally aligned with Russia, European Union member Cyprus has solidified a more pro-American stance since the election of President Nikos Christodoulides in 2023. In a memorandum issued by the White House on Wednesday, Biden said "the furnishing of defence articles and defence services to the Republic of Cyprus will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace." Biden's decision makes Cyprus eligible "to receive defence equipment, supplies, and

services" through programmes including Foreign Military Sales and the Excess Defence Articles divestment initiative, Washington's embassy to Nicosia said on its website.

<https://www.almonitor.com/originals/2025/01/cyprushails-new-access-us-defence-goods>

## Iran

### Russia-Iran pact will not include mutual defence clause

*Alarabiya, January 16, 2025*

A strategic cooperation agreement that Russia and Iran are poised to sign will not include a mutual defence clause like pacts that Moscow has signed with Pyongyang and Minsk citing Iran's envoy. "The nature of this agreement is different. They (Belarus and North Korea) established partnership relations (with Moscow) in a number of areas that we did not particularly touch upon. For all the latest headlines, follow our Google News channel online or via the app. Our country's independence and security, as well as self-reliance, are extremely important. We are not interested in joining any bloc," Kazem Jalali, Iran's ambassador to Moscow, was cited as saying by TASS. Russia has partnerships with North Korea and Belarus which include a mutual defence provision. Jalali was quoted as saying that Iran would ensure its own security.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middleeast/2025/01/16/russia-iran-pact-will-notinclude-mutual-defence-clause>

### Iran not to negotiate on its defence, military power ever

*Mehrnews, January 20, 2025*

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei has emphasized that the Islamic will never negotiate on its defence and military capabilities. Speaking at his weekly presser, Baghaei reacted to the rumors spreading over alleged negotiation between Iran and Europe over the Islamic Republic's missile program. "It is not

unusual for the parties to raise their arguments, and this is not unprecedented. However, what should be considered is that Iran will not negotiate about its defence and military capabilities in any way," the senior Iranian diplomat stressed. Elsewhere in his remarks, Baghaei said that the current Iranian administration will give a reciprocal answer if the so-called snapback mechanism is activated.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/227177/Iran-not-to-negotiate-on-its-defence-militarypower>

### **Iran and Pakistan consider strategic collaboration in military equipment production**

*Army Recognition, January 21, 2025*

General Baqeri's visit to Islamabad builds on a history of bilateral defence cooperation. In 2018, similar discussions resulted in commitments to develop joint defence projects. Agreements signed between Iran's Defence Minister, Brigadier General Amir Hatami, and Pakistan's Defence Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain included enhancing military training, intelligence sharing, and border security. While such exchanges have faced constraints due to international pressures, they demonstrate a consistent effort by both countries to strengthen their collaboration. During his visit, General Baqeri also met with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari to discuss ways to deepen strategic cooperation. The discussions highlighted both nations' commitment to addressing border-related challenges, including armed groups and ongoing security threats. This pragmatic approach reflects a shared intent to tackle immediate issues while laying the groundwork for sustainable cooperation.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/armynews/2025/iran-and-pakistan-considerstrategic-collaboration-in-militaryequipment-production>

### **Iran, Oman ink MoU in PTA, customs fields**

*Mehrnews, January 24, 2025*

Iran and the Sultanate of Oman on Friday signed a joint economic cooperation agreement in the fields of the Preferential

Trade Agreement (PTA) and customs cooperation. The 21st edition of IranOman Joint Cooperation meeting was held in the Omani capital of Muscat. Iranian Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Atabak pointed to the signing of a joint memorandum of understanding (MoU) inked between Iran and Oman and noted three specific agendas were put forward at the meeting including preferential trade agreement (PTA) and the removal of tariffs on goods between the two countries which was agreed upon, so that its executive activities will be carried out by the next week. Supporting the investment opportunities between the two countries was also put on the agenda and preliminary steps have been taken in this regard, the minister added. In addition, customs and administrative cooperation between the two countries were taken into serious consideration to facilitate trade activities.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/227358/Iran-Oman-ink-MoU-in-PTA-customs-fields>

### **Iran conducts first live firing of new 9-dey air defence missile due to rising threat of Israeli strikes**

*Army Recognition, January 24, 2025*

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) demonstrated its growing military self-sufficiency with a series of advanced capabilities showcased during a military drill in the Persian Gulf. Among the highlights was the successful live-fire test of the 9-Dey air defence missile system, a significant milestone in Iran's air defence strategy. This event marked the first public demonstration of the latest generation of the 9-Dey system, a domestically developed platform designed to defend critical infrastructure against a range of aerial threats. The drills also featured the deployment of AI-powered missiles, showcasing Iran's ongoing efforts to incorporate cutting-edge technology into its military arsenal.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/armynews/2025/iran-conducts-first-live-firingof-new-9-dey-air-defence-missile-due-torising-threat-of-israeli-strikes>

## Iran deploys AI-equipped missiles during drills

*Al-arabiya, January 27, 2025*

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has deployed missiles featuring artificial intelligence technology during military drills in the Gulf. The IRGC's naval force "fired Ghaem and Almas missiles equipped with artificial intelligence from advanced Mohajer-6 and Ababil-5 drones," the IRNA state news agency said. For all the latest headlines, follow our Google News channel online or via the app. The report added that the missiles "successfully destroyed hypothetical enemy targets" during the drills. Ghaem and Almas are both precision-guided missiles developed domestically by the Iranian defence ministry. On Friday, the IRGC launched a series of military exercises in the southwest of the country, including in Bushehr and Khuzestan provinces, and in Gulf waters. The provinces are home to Iran's major oil and petrochemical facilities, with Bushehr also hosting the country's nuclear power plant. Citing the "sensitive positions," IRGC naval commander Alireza Tangsiri told IRNA that the exercises simulated protecting these locations.

<https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middleeast/2025/01/27/iran-deploys-ai-equippedmissiles-during-drills>

## Iranian official confirms purchase of Russian Sukhoi-35 fighter jets

*Airforce Technology, January 28, 2025*

Iran has purchased Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, a high-ranking member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) has confirmed. Ali Shadmani was quoted by the state-affiliated website as saying: "The production of military equipment has accelerated and outdated systems are being retired and replaced with modern and updated ones. "Whenever necessary, we make military purchases to strengthen our air, ground and naval forces." Details regarding the quantity of jets procured and their delivery status remain undisclosed. He was further quoted as saying: "If the enemy acts foolishly, it will taste the bitter taste of

being hit by our missiles, and none of its interests in the occupied territories will remain safe." Previously, Iran revealed plans to purchase Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia in 2022.

<https://www.airforcetechnology.com/news/iranian-russiansukhoi-35/>

## Iran's Missile Milestones

*Iran Watch, January 29, 2025*

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Minister Mohsen Rafiqdoost leads a team of officials and commanders on a trip to Syria and Libya hoping to acquire ballistic missiles. The group includes deputy IRGC commander Yahya Rahim Safavi, commander of the IRGC's artillery division Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, his deputy Hassan Shafi'zadeh, Mohammad Bagheri, and Ahmad Vahid Dastjerdi. Syrian President Hafez Assad gives no missiles but offers training on how to operate them. In Libya, Muammar Ghaddafi agrees to transfer Scud-B missiles to Iran.

<https://www.iranwatch.org/ourpublications/weapon-program-backgroundreport/irans-missile-milestones>

## Iraq

## Iraq's Kurdish regional gov't official condemns terrorist PKK for years of violence

*Anadolu Agency, January 24, 2025*

A senior official from the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), Serbest Lezgin, denounced the PKK terror group for decades of violence targeting civilians, political leaders, and Peshmerga forces. Speaking at the funeral of Iraqi border guard Mevan Naci, killed by PKK terrorists in Zaho, Lezgin urged for an end to the group's presence in the region. "The PKK has oppressed our people for decades without justification," Lezgin said. "Our leaders are consistently martyred, roads are rigged with explosives, and our Peshmerga are targeted and killed." He emphasized the harm caused to the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR), noting that PKK



attacks have severely impacted civilians, including farmers and villagers, who have been killed in their own homes.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middleeast/iraqs-kurdish-regional-govt-officialcondemns-terrorist-pkk-for-years-ofviolence/3461661>

### **Memorandums of Understanding Signed Between Iraq and Egypt Under the Patronage of Al-Sudani and Egyptian Prime Minister**

*Iraq News Agency, January 30, 2025*

The Iraq-Egypt Joint Higher Committee held its third session in Baghdad, chaired by Prime Minister Mohammed S. Al-Sudani and his Egyptian counterpart, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly. "During the meeting, Iraq's Minister of Trade, Atheer Dawood Al-Ghurairi, and Egypt's Minister of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, Rania AlMashat, provided a briefing on the overall areas of cooperation between the two countries across various sectors," The office stated in a statement received by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). At the conclusion of the meeting, the minutes of the Iraq-Egypt Joint Higher Committee session were signed, along with the following bilateral memorandums of understanding.

<https://ina.iq/eng/38029-memorandums-ofunderstanding-signed-between-iraq-andegypt-under-the-patronage-of-al-sudaniand-egyptian-prime-minister.html>

### **Israel**

### **Israel orders more Iron Dome interceptors, using new tranche of US funding**

*Seth J. Frantzman*

*Breaking Defence, January 21, 2025*

The Israeli Ministry of Defence said it signed its first procurement deal using a recent tranche of US aid funds to buy more interceptors for Israel's Iron Dome batteries, one of the three tiers of Israel's multi-layered air defence systems. It has been used widely in the last 15 months of war on multiple

fronts to intercept rockets, drones and other projectiles. The new deal, announced last week with Iron Domemaker Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, is to expand serial production of the interceptors. Israel Ministry of Defence Director General, Maj. Gen. (Res.) Eyal Zamir said that the signing of the Iron Dome contract "is a central component in an unprecedented scope of effort, led by the IMOD together with Rafael and other defence industries, for force build-up and strengthening while fighting."

<https://breakingdefence.com/2025/01/israel-orders-more-iron-dome-interceptorsusing-new-tranche-of-us-funding/>

### **Elbit awarded \$80m IMOD contract for F-16I jets**

*Airforce Technology, January 27, 2025*

Elbit Systems has been awarded an \$80m (NIS289m) contract by the Israel Ministry of Defence (IMOD) to develop and implement an advanced Airborne SelfProtection Suite for the Israeli Air Force's F-16I aircraft fleet. This initiative is aimed at increasing the survivability of the F-16I jets, allowing them to operate securely in hostile territories. The suite will incorporate an electronic warfare (EW) solution alongside an Electro-Optical (EO) Passive Missile Warning and Launch Detection System, known as PAWS, to provide protection against a variety of threats, ensuring the safety of both the aircrew and the aircraft.

<https://www.airforcetechnology.com/news/elbit-israeli-f-16ijets/>

### **India signs USD 340 million contract for Israeli-designed MRSAM systems**

*Defence Industry Europe, January 27, 2025*

India has signed a USD 340 million contract for the procurement of over 70 Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) systems, developed in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). The systems will be manufactured by Bharat Dynamics

Limited (BDL), IAI's partner in India, and will be deployed on a significant number of the Indian Navy's future warships. The MRSAM system, based on the Barak 8 air defence platform, is designed to counter a wide range of aerial threats, with an operational range of up to 70 kilometres. It includes a phased array radar, a command and control system, mobile launchers, and interceptors equipped with advanced sensors. The system is already in service with the Indian Navy, Army, and Air Force. The contract is valued at approximately 29.6 billion rupees and is part of India's "Made in India" initiative, which mandates local production as a key component of defence agreements. The Indian Ministry of Defence highlighted the deal as a significant step in enhancing the country's defence capabilities. Reports estimate that it will generate approximately 350,000 workdays in India.

<https://defence-industry.eu/india-signs-usd-340-million-contract-for-israeli-designed-mrsam-systems/>

### **UAE conglomerate buys \$10m stake in Israeli tech security firm that detects drones**

*Sharon Wrobel*

*Times of Israel, January 28, 2025*

UAE-based advanced defence technology group EDGE will invest \$10 million to buy a 30 percent stake in Israel's Third Eye Systems, a developer of AI-based electrooptical systems to detect drones and unmanned aerial vehicles. The deal is subject to approval by Israel's Defence Ministry. The Netanyahu-based defence tech startup said Tuesday that Abu Dhabi's EDGE group has also committed to investing \$12 million to create a joint venture with Third Eye that will be tasked with the development and sales of electrooptical object recognition systems to new global regions and markets. According to the agreement, EDGE will be the majority owner of the joint venture with a 51% stake, Thirdeye will hold 43% and a third party the remaining 6%.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/uaeconglomerate-inks-10m-drone-tech-deal-to-buy-stake-in-israels-thirdeye/>

### **Has Israel sent weapons seized from Hezbollah in Lebanon to Ukraine?**

*Army Recognition, January 28, 2025*

Israel is reportedly considering transferring weapons captured from Hezbollah to Ukraine, raising speculation about a potential shift in its stance on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The initiative, discussed during a meeting on 21, January 2025 between Ukraine's ambassador to Israel, Yevgen Korniychuk, and Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Sharren Haskel, would involve providing Russian or Soviet-made equipment seized during military operations in Lebanon. Additionally, recent movements of American military aircraft between Israel and Poland, a key logistics hub for military aid to Ukraine, suggest that such a transfer may already be underway. However, the lack of official confirmation and counterarguments leave the matter unresolved.

<https://armyrecognition.com/focusanalysis-conflicts/army/conflicts-in-the-world/russia-ukraine-war-2022/has-israel-sent-weapons-seized-from-hezbollah-in-lebanon-to-ukraine>

### **Israel to remain in Syria? Defence Chief gives 'indefinite' timeline on troops**

*The Economic Times, January 29, 2025*

Israel's Minister of Defence Israel Katz has confirmed that the country's defence forces or IDF will remain in Syria's buffer zone indefinitely. On his visit to southern Syria, he said Israel will also connect with the Druze community to establish relations and continue their measure of preventing hostile forces from taking advantage of the power vacuum in Syria, after the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/israel-to-remain-in-syria-defence-chief-gives-indefinite-timeline-on-troops/video-show/117682709.cms?from=mdr>



## **Israeli army claims to have intercepted 'suspicious' aerial object near border with Lebanon**

*Ahmed Asmar*

*Anadolu Agency, January 31, 2025*

The Israeli army on Friday claimed to have intercepted an aerial "suspicious object" near the borders with Lebanon. In a statement, the Israeli army said it launched an interceptor missile toward a "suspicious aerial target" over the Zar'it settlement area in northern Israel, close to the borders with Lebanon. The military statement did not provide further details on the incident, but said it is under investigation. On Thursday, the Israeli army also said it downed a surveillance drone launched by the Hezbollah group. Hezbollah, however, did not comment on the claim. Earlier on Friday, the Lebanese Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike on Bekaa, eastern Lebanon, killed two people and injured 10 others. The latest breach brings the total number of violations since the agreement came into force in late November to 824, according to statistics compiled by Anadolu based on announcements from Lebanon's National News Agency.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middleeast/israeli-army-claims-to-have-intercepted-suspicious-aerial-object-near-border-with-lebanon/3468243>

## **Jordan King witnesses signing of joint declaration on EU-Jordan strategic, comprehensive partnership**

*Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, January 29, 2025*

The EU extended a package of assistance of 3 billion euros for Jordan. Partnership agreement stipulates enhancing Jordan-EU cooperation across various fields. Agreement stresses parties' commitment to preserving the historical status quo in Jerusalem's holy sites, importance of Hashemite Custodianship. Von der Leyen says Jordan is a key partner for Europe in the Middle East, Mediterranean, pillar of regional stability. His Majesty King Abdullah and European Commission President Ursula von

der Leyen in Brussels on Wednesday witnessed the signing of the Joint Declaration on the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership between Jordan and the European Union. To support the goals of this partnership, the EU is tabling a financial package of assistance for Jordan for 2025-2027, worth 3 billion euros. This includes 640 million euros in grants, 1.4 billion euros in investments, and 1 billion euros in Macro-Financial Assistance, according to a Royal Court statement.

[https://www.mop.gov.jo/En/NewsDetails/King\\_witnesses\\_signing\\_of\\_Joint\\_Declaration\\_on\\_EU\\_Jordan\\_Strategic\\_Comprehensive\\_Partnership](https://www.mop.gov.jo/En/NewsDetails/King_witnesses_signing_of_Joint_Declaration_on_EU_Jordan_Strategic_Comprehensive_Partnership)

## **Kuwait**

## **Kuwait air defence force commander receives commander of Bahrain's air missile defence**

*Defaiya, January 20, 2025*

Kuwait Air Defence Force Commander Major General Khaled Al-Shariaan discussed on Sunday with Brigadier General Abdullah Al-Nuaimi, Commander of Air Missile Defence of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the most important topics of common interest, especially those related to military aspects. This came in a press statement issued by the Kuwait Ministry of Defence after Major General Al-Shariaan received Brigadier General Al-Nuaimi and his accompanying delegation on his visit to the country, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. Both sides discussed the most important joint topics and means of enhancing and developing them between the two sides. The meeting was attended by several senior officers from both sides. In another development, the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF) held a graduation ceremony for a batch of female recruits last week. Major General Shaikh Ali bin Rashid Al Khalifa, Assistant Chief of Staff for Human Resources, was present.

<https://www.defaiya.com/news/Regional%20News/Kuwait/2025/01/20/kuwait-airdefence-force-commander-receivescommander-of-bahrain-s-air-missiledefence>

## Lebanon

### IDF warns Lebanese against return to border villages as it prepares to extend stay

*Times of Israel, January 25, 2025*

The Israeli army on Saturday warned residents of dozens of Lebanese villages near the border against returning until further notice, a day after Israel said its forces would remain in south Lebanon beyond the Sunday deadline for their departure. Listing the villages that cannot be entered alongside a map, IDF Arabic language spokesman Avichay Adraee said: "The IDF does not intend to target you and therefore at this stage you are prohibited from returning to your homes from this line south until further notice. Anyone who moves south of this line – exposes himself to danger." The line on the map stretches from Shebaa, less than 2 kilometers (1.5 miles) from the border in the east, to Mansouri in the west – about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the border.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-warnslebanese-against-return-to-border-villages-as-it-prepares-to-extend-stay/>

### Lebanese army seizes underground Hezbollah military complex in southern Lebanon

*Wassim Seif El Din*

*Anadolu Agency, January 29, 2025*

The Lebanese army took over an underground Hezbollah military complex in southern Lebanon, local media said on Wednesday. The channel said the underground complex is located between the towns of Wadi Jilou and Jouaiyya in southern Lebanon. On Tuesday evening, social media activists circulated footage of Lebanese army personnel inspecting the underground facility south of the Litani River. The activists suggested that the facility was the "Imad 4," which Hezbollah had introduced in August last year during the course of cross-border fighting with Israel. There was no comment from the Lebanese army or Hezbollah on the report. A fragile cease-fire has been in place since Nov. 27,

ending a period of mutual shelling between Israel and Hezbollah that began on Oct. 8, 2023 and escalated into a full-scale conflict on Sept. 23 last year.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middleeast/lebanese-army-seizes-undergroundhezbollah-military-complex-in-southernlebanon/3465559>

## Oman

### India, Oman aiming to seal mega trade deal

*The Tribune, January 16, 2025*

India and Oman are looking at sealing a broad trade and investment pact this year that will cut tariffs on each other's goods and boost the overall trade basket in line with renewed vigour in the relations, especially in the economic sphere. The negotiations for a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) gained new momentum after Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik travelled to India over a year back. Omani Commerce Minister Qais bin Mohammad Al-Yousef told PTI that Muscat is hopeful of concluding the ambitious trade pact with India this year that is expected to significantly expand the two-way trade and investment ties between the two countries. India was the fourth largest market for Oman's crude oil exports for the year 2023 after South Korea. India was also the third largest market for Oman's non-oil exports in 2023 after Saudi Arabia.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/business/india-oman-aiming-to-seal-mega-trade-deal/>

## Qatar

### Oman, Qatar sign two MoUs, 3 Executive Programmes

*Times of Oman, January 29, 2025*

The Sultanate of Oman and the State of Qatar today signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for cooperation in the field of diplomatic training and social development, in addition to three executive programmes in the fields of culture and education, sports, and youth.

The signing ceremony took place in Muscat within the framework of the state visit of Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, to the Sultanate of Oman. The first MoU is for cooperation in the field of diplomatic training between the Foreign Ministry (The Diplomatic Academy) and the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs (The Diplomatic Institute). Meanwhile, the second MoU is for cooperation in the fields of social development between the Ministry of Social Development and Qatar's Ministry of Social Development and Family. The two sides also signed an executive programme for cooperation in the cultural and educational fields between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in the State of Qatar.

<https://omannews.gov.om/topics/en/79/show/120740/dark>

### **Saudi Arabia**

#### **Why Saudi Arabia is so keen on the Turkish KAAN Ali Bakir**

*Atlantic Council, January 18, 2025*

Just before the turn of the year, Saudi and Turkish officials engaged in a flurry of talks on defence cooperation. In one such conversation – which included Turkish defence industry representatives – Saudi Arabia reportedly indicated it intends to buy one hundred Turkish KAAN fighter jets. But with Saudi Arabia previously keen on acquiring F-35 fighter jets from the United States, what has steered Riyadh toward Turkish technology? The KAAN is a Turkish fifth-generation, multi-role, stealth fighter aircraft developed by the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) and BAE Systems, which is based in London. The project to develop the aircraft began in 2010, with the aim of replacing Turkey's aging F-16 fleet and boosting Turkey's autonomy, self-dependency, and overall military and national power. The urgency to develop this aircraft increased after Turkey was removed from the F-35 program in 2019. The KAAN made its maiden flight in February 2024.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/saudi-arabia-turkey-kaan/>

#### **Italy, Saudi Arabia strengthen aerospace and defence ties**

*Airforce Technology, January 27, 2025*

The Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia (MISA), the General Authority for Military Industries (GAMI), and Italian aerospace company Leonardo have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This agreement, announced amid bilateral talks between the two nations, aims to explore and develop investment and collaboration opportunities within the aerospace and defence sectors. Building on the successful outcomes from a previous MoU signed early in 2024, this latest agreement seeks to extend industrial partnership, particularly in combat, air and helicopter domains.

<https://www.airforcetechnology.com/news/italy-saudi-arabia-mou/>

#### **Saudi Arabia in talks for \$6bn Turkish arms deal**

*Pramod Kumar*

*Arabian Gulf Business Insight, January 28, 2025*

Turkey expects to strike a \$6 billion agreement with Saudi Arabia for the sale of warships, tanks and missiles. The deal may include Saudi Arabia joining Turkey's fighter jet development project, which could be signed during the visit of President Tayyip Erdoğan to the kingdom in March, Bloomberg reported, citing unnamed officials.

Ankara aims to strengthen its defence industry and views Saudi Arabia as one of the world's biggest arms importers. In 2023 Saudi Arabia signed a deal to buy drones from Turkish company Baykar, in addition to localising drone manufacturing.

<https://www.agbi.com/economy/2025/01/saudi-arabia-in-talks-for-6bn-turkish-armsdeal/>



## Syria

### Syrian defence minister rejects Kurdish proposal for its own military bloc

*Arab News, January 19, 2025*

Syria's new defence minister said on Sunday it would not be right for US-backed Kurdish fighters based in the country's northeast to retain their own bloc within the broader integrated Syrian armed forces. Speaking to Reuters at the Defence Ministry in Damascus, Murhaf Abu Qasra said the leadership of the Kurdish fighters, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), was procrastinating in its handling of the complex issue. The SDF, which has carved out a semi-autonomous zone through 14 years of civil war, has been in talks with the new administration in Damascus led by former rebels who toppled President Bashar Assad on Dec. 8. SDF commander Mazloum Abdi has said one of their central demands is a decentralized administration, saying in an interview with Saudi Arabia's Asharq News channel last week that the SDF was open to integrating with the Defence Ministry but as "a military bloc," and without dissolving.

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2587007/middle-east>

### Syria minister says open to talks with Kurds, but ready to use 'force'

*Al-Monitor, January 22, 2025*

Syria's defence minister said that Damascus was open to talks with Kurdish-led forces on their integration into the national army but stood ready to use force should negotiations fail. "The door to negotiation with the (Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces) is currently open," Murhaf Abu Qasra told reporters. "If we have to use force, we will be ready." Last month, an official told AFP that an SDF delegation had met Syria's interim leader Ahmed al-Sharaa, who heads the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham group that spearheaded the rebel offensive that ousted Bashar al-Assad. Sharaa had told Al Arabiya television that Kurdish-led forces should be integrated into the new national army so

that weapons are "in the hands of the state alone". The US-backed SDF spearheaded the military campaign that ousted the Islamic State jihadist group from its last territory in Syria in 2019. The group controls much of the oil-producing northeast, where it has enjoyed de facto autonomy for more than a decade.

<https://www.almonitor.com/originals/2025/01/syriaminister-says-open-talks-kurds-ready-useforce>

### US transfers more troops, equipment from Iraq to Syria

*Mehrnews, January 28, 2025*

An Iraqi official announced that the US has transferred some of its military equipment and forces from Iraq to Syria. In order to provide logistical assistance to Syria, the United States provided air support to the Ain al-Assad base in the Anbar province of Iraq, the source said. The informed source added that the American forces stationed at the Ain al-Assad base in western Iraq provided air cover for 2 hours to ensure the movement of cargo planes toward Syria. According to him, the US move, which was carried out on Monday afternoon, would facilitate the movement of cargo planes carrying equipment and troops to the American bases in al-Hasakah in eastern Syria. He also underlined that the Ain al-Assad base has become a center for logistic support.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/227536/UStransfers-more-troops-equipment-fromIraq-to-Syria>

## Turkiye

### Turkish Cyprus slams Greek 'warmongering' after US arms decree

*Daily Sabah, January 16, 2025*

Turkish Cypriot foreign ministry denounces outgoing Joe Biden's decree on military sales to Greek Cyprus, warning the move is provocative of war preparations in the already tense Eastern Mediterranean. The Foreign Ministry of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus



(TRNC) on Thursday slammed the Greek Cypriot administration for “warmongering” on the divided island after a U.S. memorandum allowing military sales, including arms, to the Greek Cypriots. Days before he handed over his duty to Donald Trump, U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday issued a directive to boost his country’s aid to Greek Cypriots by issuing a memorandum that makes the southern side eligible to receive American defence articles, military sales and training. “The U.S. decision shows the Greek Cypriot administration will continue its arms race as if it were preparing for war,” the TRNC Foreign Ministry said in a statement. “We call on the countries that support the warmongering of the Greek Cypriot side to act by calculating the consequences of these actions and to be sensible,” the statement said, adding it would keep taking steps with Türkiye to protect the security of its citizens.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/turkish-cyprus-slams-greek-warmongering-after-us-arms-decree/news>

## **Turkish troops set to remain in Syria**

*Daily Sabah, January 23, 2025*

Turkish soldier deployment in Syria will continue, Defence Ministry sources said Thursday, as terrorist groups remain a threat to Turkey’s southern neighbor. The Turkish military presence in neighboring Syria will continue and may even relocate within that country based on “needs,” Turkish Defence Ministry. The statements come amid the fate of the U.S.-backed YPG, the Syria wing of the PKK terrorist group, which poses a direct threat to Türkiye. Sources said the tasks of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) have not been completed yet in Syria. “Depending on the need, the redeployment of our troops in Syria or their assignment to different regions may be considered,” sources said. As the civil war escalated in Syria, the terrorist groups Daesh and PKK/YPG emerged as major threats, especially in the country’s north. Fearing spillover of the violence and in support of Syrian opposition forces and civilians displaced by terrorists, Türkiye launched a

string of cross-border offensives into the country. Those include Operation Euphrates Shield in 2016, Operation Olive Branch in 2018 and Operation Peace Spring in 2019.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/war-on-terror/turkish-troops-set-to-remain-in-syria-defence-ministry-sources>

## **Türkiye ‘neutralizes’ 15 PKK/YPG terrorists in northern Iraq, Syria**

*Serdar Dincel*

*Anadolu Agency, January 28, 2025*

Turkish security forces “neutralized” 15 PKK/YPG terrorists in northern Iraq and northern Syria, Türkiye’s National Defence Ministry said Tuesday. Two of the terrorists were targeted in the Gara region of northern Iraq, while 13 terrorists were targeted in the Euphrates Shield and Peace Spring operation zones in northern Syria, the ministry said on X. The Turkish Armed Forces will continue to carry out “rapid and continuous operations to destroy terrorism at its source,” it added. The term “neutralize” is used by Turkish authorities to indicate that the terrorists were killed, captured, or surrendered. PKK terrorists frequently hide in northern Iraq to plan cross-border attacks against Türkiye. In northern Syria, Türkiye has carried out a series of successful antiterror operations since 2016, including Euphrates Shield (2016), Olive Branch (2018), and Peace Spring (2019), to prevent the establishment of a terror corridor and ensure the peaceful settlement of local residents.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkiye/turkiyeneutralizes-15-pkk-ypg-terrorists-in-northern-iraq-syria/3464477>

## **Türkiye reportedly targets \$6B defence deal with Saudi Arabia**

*Daily Sabah, January 28, 2025*

Türkiye aims to finalize a \$6 billion defence agreement with Saudi Arabia, covering warships, tanks and missile systems. The deal, which could include Saudi Arabia’s involvement in Türkiye’s fighter jet development program, is

expected to be finalized during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's potential visit to the kingdom in March, Bloomberg News reported. Saudi Arabia, one of the world's largest arms importers, represents a significant market for Türkiye's growing defence sector. In 2023, Saudi Arabia signed an agreement for the purchase of high-altitude drones from Baykar, dubbed the biggest defence contract in Türkiye's history. The new deal would extend cooperation to include the Altay main battle tank and missile defence systems, the report said, citing Turkish officials familiar with the matter. Additionally, Türkiye is keen for Saudi Arabia to become a partner in its Kaan fighter jet, which successfully completed its first test flight last year but is still several years from operational readiness.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defence/turkiye-reportedly-targets-6b-defencedeal-with-saudi-arabia>

### **United Arab Emirates**

#### **ADNEC Group reviews preparations for IDEX, NAVDEX with UAE diplomatic representatives**

*Emirates News Agency, January 16, 2025*

The ADNEC Group hosted a meeting with diplomatic representatives and military attachés accredited to the UAE to provide an update on the latest preparations for the largest editions of the International Defence Exhibition (IDEX) and Naval Defence & Maritime Security Exhibition (NAVDEX) 2025, along with the accompanying International Defence Conference. The exhibitions, held under the patronage of President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, are organised by ADNEC Group in partnership with the Ministry of Defence and Tawazun Council. Scheduled to take place at the ADNEC Centre Abu Dhabi from 17th to 21st February 2025, this edition promises to be the largest in the event's history. The exhibitions will bring together a diverse array of local, regional, and international participants, including leading global

companies at the forefront of defence industries and advanced artificial intelligence technologies, underscoring the remarkable advancements in this vital sector.

<https://www.wam.ae/article/bhwpw5i6-adnec-group-reviews-preparations-for-idex-navdex#:~:text=The%20ADNEC%20Group%20hosted%20a,2025%2C%20along%20with%20...>

#### **EDGE to showcase 200 disruptive technology and defence solutions at IDEX 2025**

*Zawya, January 28, 2025*

EDGE is making its third appearance at the International Defence Exhibition & Conference 2025 (IDEX 2025) and the Naval Defence & Maritime Security Exhibition (NAVDEX 2025) with its largest presence yet, reinforcing its position as one of the world's leading advanced technology and defence groups. Returning as the official Strategic Partner, the Group will showcase the rapid expansion of its highly competitive, all-domain portfolio, presenting double the number of products compared to IDEX 2023. EDGE will announce significant developments, including strategic partnerships and joint ventures with leading global industry players, alongside a broad range of new solutions and advancements across its portfolio.

<https://www.zawya.com/en/pressrelease/companies-news/edge-to-showcase200-disruptive-technology-and-defencesolutions-at-idex-2025-tw3004du>

#### **UAE to invest \$10m in Israeli arms company**

*Middle East Monitor, January 29, 2025*

The UAE-based advanced defence technology firm, EDGE, has announced plans to invest \$10 million for a 30 per cent stake in Israel's Third Eye Systems, a company specialising in AI-driven electrooptical solutions for detecting drones and unmanned aerial vehicles. According to the Times of Israel, the deal is pending approval from Israel's Defence

Ministry. Yesterday, Netanya-based Thirdeye revealed that EDGE has also committed an additional \$12 million to establish a joint venture focused on developing and marketing electro-optical object recognition systems in new international markets. Under the agreement, EDGE will hold a 51 per cent majority stake in the joint venture, while Thirdeye will retain 43 per cent, with the remaining 6 per cent allocated to a third party.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/2025-01-29-uae-to-invest-10m-in-israeli-arms-company/>

### **UAE receives first batch of Rafale fighter jets**

*Bahrain News Agency, January 30, 2025*

The Ministry of Defence of the United Arab Emirates has received the first batch of 80 Rafale fighter jets from France during an official ceremony in Paris. In a statement issued today, the ministry confirmed that this step is part of a “historic deal” signed with France’s Dassault Aviation, reflecting the deep strategic partnership between the UAE and France. According to the Emirates News Agency (WAM), the acquisition of these aircraft is part of a comprehensive plan to modernise the country’s defence capabilities, including upgrading the Air Force fleet with the latest military equipment to address regional and international security challenges. Brigadier General Pilot Mohamed Salem Ali Al Hameli from the UAE Air Force and Air Defence, stated that the Rafale jets are equipped with advanced technologies that enable them to carry out multiple missions, including reconnaissance and striking land and sea targets with high precision, making them a significant addition to the UAE Air Force.

<https://www.bna.bh/En/UAEreceivesfirstbatchofRafalefighterjets.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwIzON1%2BDm5S1pUWj1FCq2KGR0m5N%2F8%3D#:~:text=Paris%2C%20Jan.,an%20official%20ceremony%20in%20Paris.>

## **Yemen**

### **Houthis to limit attacks on international shipping off Yemen**

*Financial Times, January 20, 2025*

The Houthi militants who control northern Yemen said they would limit their attacks on commercial ships following the Israel-Hamas ceasefire deal, taking a potential step towards ending the disruption that has affected world maritime trade for more than a year. The Islamist group told shipowners, insurers and authorities that it was lifting its sanctions on ships, except those registered in Israel or wholly owned by Israeli individuals and entities, according to an email. In a show of support for Palestinians during Israel’s war against Hamas, the Houthis previously threatened any ship heading to Israeli ports, as well as those managed or only partially owned by Israelis. They also targeted ships owned by UK and US entities when the two countries launched strikes against the group in response to the attacks on sea trade.

<https://www.ft.com/content/e38d111de97e-4838-9742-ca3c37fb200c>

### **Yemen’s Houthis release crew of seized ship after Gaza ceasefire deal**

*Al-Jazeera, January 22, 2025*

The Houthi rebels in Yemen say they have released the crew of the Galaxy Leader cargo vessel that they confiscated shortly after the start of Israel’s war on Gaza. The Iran-aligned group said in a statement that the 25-strong crew of Filipinos, Mexicans, Romanians, Bulgarians and Ukrainians who spent 430 days in captivity were transferred to Oman by order of Houthi leader Abdel-Malik al-Houthi. The Supreme Political Council of the group said the release came “in coordination with



the Hamas movement and the mediation of the Sultanate of Oman". It took place "within the framework of the battle to support Gaza and in support of the ceasefire agreement", the council said. The Galaxy Leader was hijacked by armed Houthis fighters who rappelled down from a helicopter and escorted it to a Yemeni port in November 2023. The Bahamas-flagged vessel is affiliated with Abraham "Rami" Ungar, one of the richest men in Israel.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/1/22/yemens-houthis-release-crew-of-seizedship-after-gaza-ceasefire-deal>

## **K. Europe**

### **Germany**

#### **RFA gets U.K. launch license**

*Jeff Foust*

*Space News, January 16, 2025*

German launch vehicle startup Rocket Factory Augsburg (RFA) has received a license from British regulators to carry out its first orbital launch from a spaceport in the Shetland Islands later this year. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), which licenses launches and spaceports in the United Kingdom, announced Jan. 16 it issued a license to RFA allowing the company to conduct launches of its RFA ONE rocket from SaxaVord Spaceport. This was the first license issued by the CAA for a vertical orbital launch from the U.K., and the first license for a privately developed vertical orbital launch from Europe. "This is a groundbreaking moment for RFA and for Europe's space industry," Jörn Spurmann, co-founder and chief commercial officer of RFA, said in a statement. "This license marks Europe's bold step toward independent, competitive and sustainable space access. By enabling cost-effective and flexible launches from European mainland, we are laying the foundation for a new era of space exploration and commercialization, ensuring Europe remains at the forefront of the global space race."

<https://spacenews.com/rfa-gets-u-k-launch-license/>

#### **UK gives green light to German start-up for vertical rocket launch**

*Peggy Hollinger*

*Financial Times, January 16, 2025*

The UK has given the go-ahead to German start-up Rocket Factory Augsburg to launch satellites from British soil, in what it hopes will be the first commercial mission to space from Europe. The Civil Aviation Authority on Thursday granted RFA permission to fly its 30-metre-tall RFA ONE microlauncher into orbit from SaxaVord spaceport in the Shetland Islands. While no date has been announced for the maiden flight, people familiar with the plans said it was aiming for the summer. The licence for a vertical launch is the final authorisation needed to realise Britain's decade-long ambition to become an independent spacefaring nation with its own privately developed, commercial spaceports. It is also the first vertical launch licence to be granted to an orbital rocket in Europe, giving the UK an edge in the race with Norway's Andøya spaceport to send satellites into space. Isar Aerospace, another German rocket start-up, is also hoping to launch from Andøya this year.

<https://www.ft.com/content/a5d4e308-556a-41d2-9af3-874e1e40de27>

#### **German chancellor says he is open to using nuclear hydrogen to produce green steel**

*Polly Martin*

*Hydrogen Insight, January 28, 2025*

Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz has confirmed to local press that he would be willing to support the use of imported hydrogen made in France via nuclear power for the production of green steel. The Scholz-led government, in power since 2021, has committed billions of euros for the domestic steel industry to replace their blast furnaces with direct-reduced iron plants, which use natural gas or H<sub>2</sub> to extract iron from ore, and electric arc



furnaces, which can use this iron to make virgin steel. However, some of Germany's steelmakers such as ArcelorMittal have delayed investments, while others such as Thyssenkrupp have admitted that they may use natural gas instead of renewable hydrogen for many years, given that cheap supplies of the latter are not expected any time soon.

[https://www.hydrogeninsight.com/policy/german-chancellor-says-he-is-open-to-using-nuclear-hydrogen-to-produce-green-steel/2-1-1770893?zephrr\\_sso\\_ott=y0ooyb](https://www.hydrogeninsight.com/policy/german-chancellor-says-he-is-open-to-using-nuclear-hydrogen-to-produce-green-steel/2-1-1770893?zephrr_sso_ott=y0ooyb)

### *France*

## **India boosts domestic arms industry and looks West to pare back Russia reliance**

*France 24, January 27, 2025*

India's efforts to pare back a longstanding reliance on Russian military hardware is bearing fruit after the courting of new Western allies and a rapidly growing domestic arms industry, analysts say. At a time when Moscow's military-industrial complex is occupied with the ongoing war in Ukraine, India has made the modernisation of its armed forces a top priority. That urgency has risen in tandem with tensions between the world's most populous nation and its northern neighbour China, especially since a deadly 2020 clash between their troops. "India's perception of its security environment vis-a-vis China has been dramatically altered," Harsh V Pant, of the New Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation think-tank, told AFP. Relations between the two neighbours went into freefall after the clash on their shared frontier, which killed 20 Indian and at least four Chinese soldiers. "It has sort of shaken the system and there's a realisation that we have to do whatever is best now, and very fast," Pant said of the incident.

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250127-india-boosts-domestic-arms-industry-and-looks-west-to-pare-back-russia-reliance>

## **Macron says Israeli firms can participate in Paris arms fair**

*JNS, January 26, 2025*

Last year, the French government introduced extreme restrictions on Israeli entities taking part in weapons expositions in the country. French President Emmanuel Macron has assured Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Israeli defence firms will be able to participate in the June 16-22 Paris Air Show, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement following a call between the two leaders on Sunday. According to the PMO readout, Netanyahu and Macron also discussed other issues, "including developments in Lebanon and Gaza." Last year, the French government introduced extreme restrictions on Israeli entities taking part in arms fairs in the country, banning all firms whose products were used in the wars in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip. Virtually all Israeli arms manufacturers sell their products to the security forces, which have been conducting the fighting for more than 15 months.

<https://www.jns.org/macron-says-israeli-firms-can-participate-in-paris-arms-fair/>  
<https://www.jns.org/macron-says-israeli-firms-can-participate-in-paris-arms-fair/>

## **French DGA orders new SAM and C-UAS systems**

*Martin Manaranche*

*Naval News, January 29, 2025*

In December 2024, the French procurement agency (DGA) ordered new surface to air missiles (SAM) and counter UAS (C-UAS) systems for the three branches of the French military. Worth a total of around 600 million euros, these orders are part of the 2024-2030 Military Programming Law (LPM) which plans to strengthen and modernize forces' capabilities in these strategic areas. Steered by the DGA, these programs and their future increments should enable the continued improvement of weapon system

performance and the ramp-up of these new capabilities. The first order, placed with MBDA France, is for eight MICA VL launchers and ammunition for the French Air Force. It follows on from the delivery of the first VL MICA systems in the first half of 2024, which helped secure the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/01/french-dga-orders-new-sam-and-c-uas-systems/>

## Germany and France greenlight Meteor missile deal for Turkey

*Boyko Nikolov*

*Bulgarian Military, January 30, 2025*

Turkey is on the verge of strengthening its air force with the acquisition of advanced weaponry for its future Eurofighter Typhoon jets. According to recent international reports, a crucial factor in finalizing this deal is the support Turkey is receiving from Germany. Among the countries involved in the development of the Meteor missile, three key players – the United Kingdom, Spain, and Italy – maintain strong ties with Ankara and see no obstacles to the sale. Germany, meanwhile, recently eased its restrictions on arms exports to Turkey, effectively paving the way for this significant deal. As for France, it appears to have given its tacit approval for the potential sale of Meteor missiles to the Turkish Air Force. This development has triggered strong reactions in Athens, where the Greek government has voiced serious concerns

[https://bulgarianmilitary.com/2025/01/30/germany-and-france-greenlight-meteor-missile-deal-for-turkey/#google\\_vignette](https://bulgarianmilitary.com/2025/01/30/germany-and-france-greenlight-meteor-missile-deal-for-turkey/#google_vignette)

## France Orders 8 VL Mica Air Defence Missile Systems to Strengthen Its Air Space Defence Capabilities

*Army Recognition, January 30, 2025*

On January 28, 2025, the French Ministry of Armed Forces released a statement announcing the strategic acquisition of 8 additional VL Mica air defence missile launcher vehicles. This decision is part of France's ongoing effort to modernize and

enhance its defence capabilities, ensuring its military remains prepared to face various evolving threats. The new order, placed with MBDA France in December 2024, will significantly strengthen the French Armed Forces' air defence capabilities, particularly as tensions rise across Europe and the global security environment grows more unpredictable. The acquisition underscores France's commitment to maintaining state-of-the-art military technology to protect its sovereignty and strategic interests.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/france-orders-8-vl-mica-air-defence-missile-systems-to-strengthen-its-air-space-defence-capabilities>

## Italy

## French-Italian collaboration on SMR deployment

*World Nuclear News, January 17, 2025*

France's EDF, its Italian subsidiary Edison and Italy's nuclear research organisation ENEA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on the industrial applications of small modular reactors. In particular, the collaboration will focus on the analysis of thermo-hydraulic systems and passive safety systems, new technologies, integral system operation and the opportunity to provide electricity and heat in cogeneration mode for industrial needs. The agreement also provides for training activities and exchange of know-how between researchers and PhD students. "Thanks to our collaboration with ENEA, one of Italy's leading players in the field of new nuclear research, we are taking a further concrete step towards the use of new nuclear technologies to support the Italian industrial system, by pooling technical and scientific expertise, experience in the management of nuclear plants, and a forward-looking vision," said Edison Executive Vice President of Strategy, Corporate Development and Innovation Lorenzo Mottura.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/articles/french-italian-collaboration-on-smr-deployment>

## Italy selects Skynex air-defence system

Nicholas Fiorenza

Janes, January 16, 2025

The Italian Army has selected the Skynex short- and very-short-range air-defence system from Rheinmetall, the company announced in a press release on 15 January. The order placed with Rheinmetall is worth EUR73 million (USD75 million), with an option for three more systems worth EUR204 million until 2027. Delivery of the system is scheduled to be completed during the second quarter of 2026. Designed for national defence and the protection of deployed forces from missiles, artillery, mortars, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and loitering munitions, a Skynex system consists of a sensor and tracking unit for air surveillance, a control station for command and control, and four 35 mm guns. On 16 January a Rheinmetall spokesperson confirmed to Janes that the sensor and tracking unit was the Rheinmetall Italia X-Band Tactical Acquisition Radar 3D (X-TAR3D) and the control station an Oerlikon Skymaster TLCN fire-control system (FCS).

<https://www.janes.com/osint-insights/defence-news/industry/italy-selects-skynex-air-defence-system#:~:text=The%20Italian%20Army%20has%20selected,worth%20EUR204%20million%20until%202027.>

## Italian Navy Deploys Marceglia FREMM Frigate to the Indo-Pacific

Luca Peruzzi

Naval News, January 31, 2025

The Italian Navy's Bergamini-class frigate ITS Antonio Marceglia (F-597) departed from La Spezia on January 20, 2025, en route to Indo-Pacific region to take part in exercises, exhibitions and visit regional countries. The Italian Navy Antonio Marceglia (F 597) frigate belonging to Bergamini-class of FREMMs has left her homeport at La Spezia Naval Base on 20 January for an Operational 'Projection' Campaign in the Indo-Pacific area which will see the Italian vessel to visit in the incoming months at least twelve countries

and participate to both multinational exercises and exhibitions.

<https://www.navalnews.com/naval-news/2025/01/operational-projection-campaign-in-the-indo-pacific-area-for-marceglia-fremm-frigate/>

## Italy to purchase 1,050 German-made Rheinmetall Lynx armored vehicles under •16 billion A2CS program

Army Recognition, January 24, 2025

As reported by Jon Hawkes on January 21, 2025, Italy provided additional details about its Army Armoured Combat System (A2CS) program during the Defence IQ International Armoured Vehicles (IAV) conference, held in Farnborough, UK. This initiative aims to establish a new armored brigade within five years, using Rheinmetall's Lynx fighting vehicle as its foundation. The program includes the procurement of 1,050 armored vehicles in 16 variants, each designed to meet diverse operational requirements across multiple domains. To date, the Lynx stands as one of the most advanced armored fighting vehicles available on the market, as its modularity allows a complete reconfiguration between various roles, such as switching between an IFV and a command vehicle, in approximately eight hours.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/italy-to-purchase-1-050-german-made-rheinmetall-lynx-armored-vehicles-under-16-billion-a2cs-program>

## Ukraine

## IAEA Director General statement on situation in Ukraine

The International Atomic Energy Agency, January 23, 2025

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team based at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) has heard frequent explosions from outside the site over the past week, further underlining persistent dangers to nuclear safety and security during the



military conflict, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today. The team reported hearing multiple instances of such military activity in recent days, at varying distances from the ZNPP. There was no damage reported to the plant itself. Although the sound of nearby military action has been a common occurrence ever since the IAEA established a continued presence at the ZNPP in September 2022, it has happened virtually daily in recent weeks. "For almost three years now, we have been doing everything we can to help prevent a nuclear accident at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant and elsewhere in Ukraine. An accident has not occurred, but the situation is not improving. It is still precarious.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-271-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

### **Ukrainian parliament prepares to vote on Bulgarian nuclear reactor purchase**

*Stephen Blank*

*Atlantic Council, January 21, 2025*

The Ukrainian parliament is expected to vote soon on the possible completion of two nuclear reactors at its Khmelnytsky Nuclear Power Plant in the west of the country using Soviet-era equipment purchased from Bulgaria. The vote comes at a critical time for Ukraine's energy sector following a prolonged Russian bombing campaign targeting civilian infrastructure that has decimated thermal and hydro power plants. As a result, Ukraine is now heavily reliant on the nuclear power industry, which is currently thought to be providing over seventy percent of the country's electricity needs. With other sources of power at far greater risk of Russian attack, expanding the country's nuclear power generation capacity is seen by many in the Ukrainian energy sector as a priority.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukrainian-parliament-prepares-to-vote-on-bulgarian-nuclear-reactor-purchase/>

### **Investigation: Russia profits from arms exports to Saudi Arabia despite sanctions, leaks reveal**

*Alisa Yurchenko*

*The Kyiv Independent, January 24, 2025*

Few agreements are shrouded in more secrecy than inter-government arms deals — especially when one of the parties is a global pariah leading a bloody war. But a recent massive leak of emails and documents has given us an unprecedented glimpse into a particularly secretive transaction. The leak reveals that Saudi Arabia agreed to pay Russia over 2 billion euros under a contract signed in 2021 involving companies that were repeatedly sanctioned, both before and after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Saudi Arabia doesn't appear to have canceled the contract after the invasion started, despite the risk of repercussions from the U.S. — a major supplier of weapons to Saudi Arabia. Data included in the leak also shows that Russia has continued to sell arms to up to a dozen countries since the start of its invasion of Ukraine, bolstering its defence production and war effort.

<https://kyivindependent.com/investigation-how-saudi-arabia-helps-russia-profit-from-arms-exports-amid-war/>

### **US arms exports reach record \$318 billion in 2024 driven by Ukraine-related demand**

*Olena Goncharova*

*The Kyiv Independent, January 24, 2025*

U.S. military equipment sales to foreign governments jumped 29% in 2024, reaching a record \$318.7 billion, according to the State Department. Countries ramped up purchases to restock supplies sent to Ukraine and prepare for potential large-scale conflicts. The Biden administration's final-year figures reinforce expectations of strong performance for U.S. defence manufacturers like Lockheed Martin,



General Dynamics, and Northrop Grumman. Analysts predict their shares will rise in response to increasing global instability, according to Reuters. During his campaign, now President Donald Trump called on U.S. allies to invest more in their defences. He proposed raising NATO's defence spending target to 5% of GDP, a significant increase from the current 2% goal—a level no NATO member, including the U.S., currently meets.

<https://kyivindependent.com/us-arms-exports-reach-record-318-billion-in-2024-driven-by-ukraine-related-demand/>

### **Ukraine deploys long-range drone capable of 2,000 km strike, military says**

*Kateryna Denisova*

*The Kyiv Independent, January 31, 2025*

Ukrainian soldiers are now using a long-range drone capable of traveling up to 2,000 kilometers (1,242 miles) and carrying a 250-kilogram air bomb, the Unmanned Systems Forces said on January 31. The drone is described as a "unique development" and a potential game changer on the battlefield. The military did not disclose the number of drones in service or additional details about their capabilities. "Russian propaganda constantly claims to have 'shot down' such aircraft, but explosions at military-industrial complexes, refineries, and ammunition depots suggest otherwise," the statement read. Ukraine regularly targets Russian oil facilities with long-range drone strikes in an effort to disrupt fuel supplies to the Russian military and reduce Moscow's energy export revenues. Oil profits remain a crucial source of funding for Russia's war efforts.

<https://kyivindependent.com/ukraine-deploys-long-range-drone-capable-of-2-000-km-strike-military-says/>

### **Ukrainian drones and missiles target Putin's war machine inside Russia**

*David Kirichenko*

*Atlantic Council, January 28, 2025*

As the Trump administration outlines plans to pressure Vladimir Putin with economic

measures against Russia's energy sector, Ukraine is taking an altogether more direct approach. Since the start of 2025, Ukrainian forces have conducted a series of bombing raids on oil refineries and other energy infrastructure deep inside Russia. The attacks are part of an ambitious Ukrainian air offensive that is also targeting Russian military logistics and defence production sites. Ukraine's expanding airstrike campaign highlights the country's growing long-range capabilities thanks to the rapid evolution of domestic drone and missile production since 2022. The attacks come at a time when Russian troops are making slow but steady progress in eastern Ukraine. By bringing Putin's invasion home to Russia, Kyiv aims to disrupt Moscow's battlefield operations, expose Russia's vulnerability, and establish the kind of deterrence that could eventually help set the stage for a durable peace.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/ukrainian-drones-and-missiles-target-putins-war-machine-inside-russia/>

## **United Kingdom**

### **Rolls-Royce wins \$11 billion UK nuclear submarine contract**

*The Economic Times, January 24, 2025*

Britain said on Friday it had awarded Rolls-Royce a 9 billion pound (\$11 billion) eight-year contract to design, make and support the nuclear reactors that power its fleet of submarines, amid U.S. calls for higher defence spending. The deal will strengthen the Royal Navy's continuous at-sea deterrent - under which at least one nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarine patrols the seas at all times - while also boosting the AUKUS defence pact with the United States and Australia, Britain's Ministry of Defence (MOD) said. The announcement comes after U.S. President Donald Trump repeated demands on Thursday for NATO members like Britain to spend 5% of gross domestic product (GDP) on defence.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/rolls-royce-wins-11-billion-uk-nuclear-submarine-contract/articleshow/117502964.cms?from=mdr>

## UK to cut legal hold-ups to infrastructure projects

*World Nuclear News, January 24, 2025*

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced plans to limit legal challenges to major infrastructure projects - including nuclear power plants - to just one hearing in court instead of the current three hearings. "Current excessive rules mean unarguable cases can be brought back to the courts three times - causing years of delay and hundreds of millions of cost to projects that have been approved by democratically elected ministers, while also clogging up the courts," the government said. "Data shows that over half - 58% - of all decisions on major infrastructure were taken to court, getting in the way of the government's central mission to grow the economy, and put more money in hardworking people's pockets." On average, it said, each legal challenge takes around a year and a half to be resolved - with many delayed for two years or more - and the courts have spent more than 10,000 working days handling these cases.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/articles/uk-to-cut-legal-hold-ups-to-infrastructure-projects>

## EDF aims to maintain output of UK nuclear fleet in years ahead

*World Nuclear News, January 28, 2025*

EDF Energy said the performance of its UK nuclear power plants in 2024 was "very good", with an output of 37.3 TWh - a level it aims to maintain over the coming years. Meanwhile, a new report has highlighted the contribution that nuclear energy has made to economic growth in the UK. EDF manages the UK's eight nuclear power plant sites, five that are operating (Sizewell B, Torness, Heysham 2, Heysham 1 and Hartlepool) and three that have entered decommissioning (Hunterston B, Hinkley Point B and Dungeness B). It took over the sites when it acquired British Energy in 2009. The company is also constructing the new Hinkley Point C plant in Somerset, and there are advanced plans for a replica of Hinkley Point C at Sizewell C in Suffolk. "UK nuclear output in 2024 totalled 37.3 TWh -

the same as 2023 - and nearly four times more than was anticipated for 2024 at the point of acquisition in 2009," EDF Energy said. "The UK imported 21 TWh from France in 2024, the majority of which will have been generated by French nuclear reactors."

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/articles/edf-aims-to-maintain-output-of-uk-nuclear-fleet-in-years-ahead>

## UK to dispose of radioactive plutonium stockpile

*Victoria Gill*

*BBC, January 24, 2025*

The government says it will dispose of its 140 tonnes of radioactive plutonium - currently stored at a secure facility at Sellafield in Cumbria. The UK has the world's largest stockpile of the hazardous material, which is a product of nuclear fuel reprocessing. It has been kept at the site and has been piling up for decades in a form that would allow it to be recycled into new nuclear fuel. But the government has now decided that it will not be reused and instead says it wants to put the hazardous material "beyond reach" and made ready for permanent disposal deep underground. When spent nuclear fuel is separated it into its component parts, one of the products is plutonium. Successive governments have kept the material to leave open the option to recycle it into new nuclear fuel. Storing this highly radioactive material - in its current form - is expensive and difficult. It needs to be frequently repackaged, because radiation damages the containers it's kept in. And it's guarded by armed police. All that costs the taxpayer more than £70m per year.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjr8lzyg299o>

## United Kingdom and Denmark to deliver 15 Gravehawk air defence systems to Ukraine for 2025

*Army Recognition, January 17, 2025*

As part of a joint statement in January 2025, the United Kingdom and Denmark announced the delivery of a new mobile

air defence system, the Gravehawk, to Ukraine. This support aims to strengthen the country's protection against increasing air threats, including drones and cruise missiles. The system, introduced in September 2024 for operational testing, demonstrated its effectiveness, prompting both countries to commit to supplying 15 additional units in 2025. The Gravehawk is mounted on an all-terrain vehicle chassis, allowing for rapid deployment and mobility on the ground. It is equipped with infrared-guided missiles, including the AIM-132 ASRAAM and the Wympe R-73, providing an effective range of approximately 15 kilometers. This system is designed to address short-range threats, particularly those posed by fast-moving airborne objects, thanks to its ability to deploy high-performance missiles already used by Ukrainian forces, facilitating integration into their existing defence systems.

<https://armyrecognition.com/focus-analysis-conflicts/army/conflicts-in-the-world/russia-ukraine-war-2022/united-kingdom-and-denmark-to-deliver-15-gravehawk-air-defence-systems-to-ukraine-for-2025>

## **L. Africa**

### **Egypt**

#### **Egyptian space agency hosts Japanese delegation to boost space technology cooperation**

*Aayushya Ranjan*

*Tech Africa News, January 27, 2025*

The Egyptian Space Agency welcomed a Japanese delegation to strengthen collaboration in space technology, featuring discussions and tours of key facilities. On January 23, 2025, Dr. Sherif Sedky, CEO of the Egyptian Space Agency, welcomed Mr. Suzuki Yusuke, the Economic Advisor at the Embassy of Japan in Egypt, along with his accompanying delegation, at the agency's headquarters. Dr. Sedky expressed his delight at the visit, which strengthens the frameworks of mutual cooperation between the two sides, emphasizing the importance of bilateral relations between Egypt and Japan in the field of space technology.

The Japanese delegation included Mr. Kawashima Shizuki, Second Secretary at the Embassy, and Ms. Minas Ahmed, Senior Economic Analyst. The visit featured a meeting with the agency's senior management team to discuss ways to enhance cooperation in space technology and leverage shared expertise

<https://techafricanews.com/2025/01/27/egyptian-space-agency-hosts-japanese-delegation-to-boost-space-technology-cooperation/>

#### **Egypt and Kenya strengthen space collaboration with high-level delegation visit**

*Aayushya Ranjan*

*Tech Africa News, January 31, 2025*

Egypt and Kenya strengthen space cooperation, focusing on satellite technology, localization, and capacity building to advance Africa's space agenda. In a move that strengthens African collaboration in the space sector, Professor Dr. Sherif Sedky, CEO of the Egyptian Space Agency, received a high-level delegation headed by Brigadier Hilary Kipkosgei, CEO of the Kenya Space Agency, during an official visit aimed at enhancing the strategic partnership between the two countries and advancing Africa's space agenda to new horizons. The visit began with a bilateral meeting in the VIP hall at the Egyptian Space Agency headquarters, attended by senior management officials. The two sides discussed ways to enhance cooperation in the fields of satellite technology, technology localization, and human capacity building.

<https://techafricanews.com/2025/01/31/egypt-and-kenya-strengthen-space-collaboration-with-high-level-delegation-visit/>

#### **Egypt advances El-Dabaa nuclear power plant with parliamentary approval**

*Egypt Today, January 28, 2025*

The Egyptian House of Representatives has approved the Energy and



Environment Committee's report on Presidential Decree No. 515 of 2024, which ratifies a protocol amending the government financing agreement between Egypt and Russia. The agreement secures a government export loan from Moscow to support the construction of Egypt's first nuclear power plant, the El-Dabaa facility. The decree was reviewed by a joint committee that included members of the Energy and Environment Committee, as well as representatives from the Planning and Budget, Economic Affairs, and Foreign Relations Committees. During three sessions, the committee examined the decree, its explanatory memorandum, and feedback from government officials before recommending approval.

<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/3/138017/Egypt-Advances-El-Dabaa-Nuclear-Power-Plant-with-Parliamentary-Approval>

### **Egypt signs first export deal for Kader-1 and Kader-2 armored vehicles with Equatorial Guinea**

*Army Recognition, January 27, 2025*

As reported by El-Watan on January 11, 2025, Egypt's Arab Organization for Industrialization (AOI), through its Kader Factory for Advanced Industries, has finalized a contract with the Ministry of National Security in Equatorial Guinea for the export of two types of Egyptian-manufactured vehicles. This agreement involves the delivery of an unspecified number of Kader-1 riot control vehicles and Kader-2 4x4 armored vehicles, also referred to as "Shield" (Dar'a). The deal aims to address security and public order requirements in Equatorial Guinea. Equatorial Guinea's security situation is marked by a moderate risk of violent crime, including armed robbery, burglary, and assault, with incidents reported in urban areas like Malabo and Bata as well as in rural regions. Foreign nationals have occasionally been targeted, and local law enforcement may face challenges in effectively addressing serious criminal activity due to limited resources.

<https://armyrecognition.com/news/army-news/2025/egypt-signs-first-export-deal-for-kader-1-and-kader-2-armored-vehicles-with-equatorial-guinea>

## **Kenya**

### **Kenya halts nuclear projects after campaign led by Laureate Phyllis Omido**

*Right Livelihood, January 24, 2025*

On Tuesday, January 22, Kenya's parliament disbanded the agency tasked with developing nuclear projects, essentially putting all nuclear projects on hold. By closing the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA), parliament also eliminated its one-billion Kenyan shilling budget. The decision is a significant success for Right Livelihood Laureate Phyllis Omido, who has long campaigned against an ill-planned nuclear power plant in the Uyombo community. For the past three years, 2023 Right Livelihood Laureate Phyllis Omido has led a grassroots campaign calling for Kenya to abandon nuclear energy in favour of renewable alternatives. Her efforts emphasised the importance of respecting people's constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment. During her campaign, she has been especially critical of NuPEA for failing to conduct adequate environmental impact assessments.

<https://rightlivelihood.org/news/kenya-halts-nuclear-projects-after-campaign-led-by-laureate-phyllis-omid/>

### **Impact of Kenya's first nuclear power plant ambitions**

*Dan Kaburu*

*Lida Network, January 30, 2025*

Kilifi is one of the coastal counties in Kenya. The major economic activities in Kilifi include agriculture, tourism, and fishing. The county produces cash crops such as cashew nuts, sisal, coconut palms, and mangoes. Staples like bananas, cassava, maize, green grams, and cowpeas are also cultivated. In one of the remote parts of the county lies a sleepy Uyombo Village, where these economic activities are carried out on a small scale. However, in recent years, the village has become the center of a heated debate following the announcement of plans to build Kenya's



first nuclear power plant. The project, expected to cost a staggering Sh500 billion, has raised significant concerns among local residents, many of whom are opposed to the idea. An aerial view of Uyombo Village reveals a breathtaking scene, with the village overlooking sandy beaches along Kenya's coastline. Despite its beauty, Uyombo remains largely unknown to many.

<https://lidanetwork.org/features/impact-of-kenyas-first-nuclear-power-plant-ambitions/>

## Nigeria

### Nigerian government deploys technology to boost maritime trade

*Ochogwu Sunday*

*Daily Post Nigeria, January 29, 2025*

The Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, says Nigeria has commenced the deployment of advanced technology to enhance its global competitiveness in maritime trade. The minister made this remark on Wednesday, during the inauguration of the new executive committee of the Nigerian Institution of Facilities Engineering and Management, NIFEngM, in Port Harcourt. Oyetola, represented by Peter Mbam, Director of Legal Services in the ministry, affirmed that the adoption of cutting-edge technology was part of the President Bola Tinubu's administration's commitment to the blue economy initiative.

<https://dailypost.ng/2025/01/29/nigerian-government-deploys-technology-to-boost-maritime-trade/>

### RMAFC to boost government revenue with space technology

*Sami Tunji*

*Punch, January 30, 2025*

The Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission has announced plans to deploy space technology as part of a presidential initiative to optimise revenue generation and enhance digitalisation

efforts. The initiative was unveiled at a stakeholders' meeting held at the commission's boardroom on January 30 in Abuja. Speaking at the event, the Chairman of RMAFC, Dr Mohammed Shehu, described the initiative as a significant milestone in Nigeria's efforts to enhance fiscal efficiency. He emphasised that the move aligns with President Bola Tinubu's economic recovery agenda, which prioritises revenue enhancement by discovering new and innovative revenue streams.

<https://punchng.com/rmafc-to-boost-government-revenue-with-space-technology/#:~:text=The%20Revenue%20Mobilisation%20Allocation%20and,boardroom%20on%20Thursday%20in%20Abuja.>

### Nigeria to collaborate with Russia on space technology, others

*Emmanuel Elebeke*

*Vanguard, January 22, 2025*

Nigeria is to collaborate with the Republic of Russia in the areas of Space Technology, Agriculture, Science, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to strengthen the nation's socio-economic development. The Permanent Secretary of Innovation, Science and Technology, Mrs. Esuabana Nko Asanye, who announced this, said the collaboration will also focus on Agriculture, Science, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to strengthen the country's socio-economic development. According to Esuabana, Science does not operate in isolation, hence the need for nations to collaborate to strengthen Bilateral relationships. The Permanent Secretary said this when officials from the Embassy of the Russian Federation, led by the Senior Counselor on Trade and Economic Section, Sergei Pliushchov, paid her a courtesy call today in Abuja.

[https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/01/nigeria-to-collaborate-with-russia-on-space-technology-others/#google\\_vignette](https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/01/nigeria-to-collaborate-with-russia-on-space-technology-others/#google_vignette)

## Sudan

### **Sudan's Military Has Used Chemical Weapons Twice, U.S. Officials Say**

*Declan Walsh and Julian E. Barnes*

*The New York Times, January 16, 2025*

The determination came as the United States announced sanctions against the Sudanese military chief, saying there was strong evidence of atrocities in the country. Sudan's military has used chemical weapons on at least two occasions against the paramilitary group it is battling for control of the country, four senior United States officials said on January 16. The weapons were deployed recently in remote areas of Sudan, and targeted members of the Rapid Support Forces paramilitaries that the army has been fighting since April 2023. But U.S. officials worry the weapons could soon be used in densely populated parts of the capital, Khartoum. The revelations about chemical weapons came as the United States announced sanctions on Thursday against the Sudanese military chief, Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, for documented atrocities by his troops, including indiscriminate bombing of civilians and the use of starvation as a weapon of war.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/16/world/africa/sudan-chemical-weapons-sanctions.html>

### **Sudanese Armed Forces finds electronic warfare system at major RSF base**

*Jeremy Binnie*

*Janes, January 29, 2025*

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) discovered what was identified as a Belarusian-made electronic warfare system when it captured a major Rapid Support Forces (RSF) base north of Khartoum. The system was seen in a video showing SAF Commander General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan visiting the El-Gaili (Al-Jaili) and Garri (Qarri) areas. The general's helicopter landed outside a gate with a sign that said it was the RSF's Garri Military Base, which

satellite imagery shows is located just to the west of the Garri Refinery, north of Khartoum, and is unusually large and sophisticated by Sudanese standards. Gen Burhan met soldiers at the base before inspecting a burned-out van with mast-mounted antennas that Sudanese sources identified as the Groza-S, an electronic warfare system that Belarus's KB Radar developed to counter unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

<https://www.janes.com/osint-insights/defence-news/c4isr/sudanese-armed-forces-finds-electronic-warfare-system-at-major-rsf-base>

### **US sanctions Sudan army chief Burhan over civilian deaths**

*Damian Zane & Peter Mwai*

*BBC, January 17, 2025*

The US government has imposed sanctions on the head of Sudan's army and de facto president, Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan. He has been leading one of the two sides in the 21-month civil war that has killed tens of thousands, uprooted over 12 million and pushed the country to the brink of famine. In a brief statement, the US treasury department accused Gen Burhan of "destabilizing Sudan and undermining the goal of a democratic transition". The announcement follows reports of the killing of civilians in the central city of Wad Madani in recent days, however this was not mentioned in the statement. Sudan's foreign ministry has condemned the sanctions as "strange and troubling". Last week, Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, the head of the paramilitary group fighting the army, was also sanctioned by the US. The US accused Dagalo's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of committing genocide during the conflict. In announcing the sanctions on Burhan on Thursday, Washington said that the army under his command "has committed lethal attacks on civilians" including targeting "schools, markets and hospitals".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn8x5nkj8pyo>

## South Africa

### Small modular reactors – the future of SA's energy or a risky gamble?

*Ethan van Diemen*

*Daily Maverick, January 17, 2025*

As global nuclear capacity is set to break records, South Africa is eyeing small modular reactors for its energy future. But should the country take the leap? With 63 reactors representing more than 70 gigawatts (GW) of new nuclear capacity under construction globally, nuclear energy will be at a record high in 2025, according to a new report by the International Energy Agency (IEA). In the section about “recent policy decisions and nuclear energy developments”, the report notes that South Africa has been engaged in the development of two small modular reactor (SMR) designs, namely the HTMR-100 and A-HTR-100. Daily Maverick previously reported that Minister of Energy and Electricity Kgosisentsho Ramokgopa last year stressed that nuclear energy would be a crucial part of South Africa's energy mix and that activity was under way to re-energise the country's nuclear capacities.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2025-01-17-small-modular-reactors-the-future-of-sas-energy-or-a-risky-gamble/>

### African military orders airborne missile protection system from BIRD Aerosystems

*Defence Web, January 21, 2025*

An undisclosed African Ministry of Defence has ordered BIRD Aerosystems Airborne Missile Protection Systems (AMPS) for its Mi-17 and Mi-24 helicopter fleet in what the Israeli company said is a significant contract. The contract was announced on 15 January and will see delivery during the course of 2025. “The AMPS family of solutions is engineered to detect, verify, and neutralize threats with unmatched precision. A key system of the AMPS family is BIRD's Self Protection Radar Electro-Optic System (SPREOS) DIRCM [Directional Infrared

Countermeasures], which integrates multiple functions – threat detection, confirmation, tracking, and jamming – into a single, compact Line Replaceable Unit (LRU). With virtually zero false alarm rates and optimized jamming techniques, SPREOS ensures unparalleled protection for airborne platforms,” BIRD Aerosystems said.

<https://www.defenceweb.co.za/aerospace/aerospace-aerospace/african-military-orders-airborne-missile-protection-system-from-bird-aerosystems/>

### South Africa's MeerKAT Telescope Discovers New Giant Radio Galaxy

*Samuel Nyangi*

*Space in Africa, January 27, 2025*

South Africa's MeerKAT telescope has discovered a new giant radio galaxy, nicknamed ‘Inkathazo,’ meaning ‘trouble’ in Xhosa and Zulu languages, due to the difficulty in understanding the physics behind this discovery. The cosmic megastructure measures 3.3 million light-years, which is 32 times the size of our Milky Way galaxy and is 1.44 billion light-years away from Earth. Researchers anticipate that this discovery, published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, will provide valuable insights into the origins and evolution of some of the universe's largest structures. Giant radio galaxies (GRGs) are massive cosmic structures that shoot out jets of hot plasma, stretching millions of light-years into space. These glowing jets, visible at radio frequencies, are powered by supermassive black holes at the centres of galaxies. GRGs were once considered rare, but advanced radio telescopes like South Africa's MeerKAT have dramatically changed this view by uncovering many more of these massive galaxies.

<https://spaceinafrica.com/2025/01/27/south-africas-meerkat-telescope-discovers-new-giant-radio-galaxy/#:~:text=South%20Africa's%20MeerKAT%20telescope%20has,the%20physics%20behind%20this%20discovery.>

## *Tunisia*

### **Regimes in the Maghreb take a hard look at nuclear energy**

*Pierre Boussel*

*GIS Report, January 17, 2025*

Countries in North Africa are seeking nuclear energy for prestige and independence, despite security risks and the potential for renewables. The Maghreb has high potential for solar and wind energy production, which could position the region as a key player in renewable energy, yet countries in the region are not pursuing a significant rollout of such safe and zero-emission electricity sources. While aware of the economic and climate potential of renewables, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and even Libya are instead demonstrating a growing interest in nuclear facilities. They assert that nuclear power is a tool to support their energy transition, with the goal of reducing dependence on oil and moving toward sustainable development.

<https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/maghreb-nuclear-considerations/>

## *Uganda*

### **Uganda and Russia continue to brush over their nuclear deal**

*Chinedu Okafor*

*Business Insider Africa, January 24, 2025*

In November 2024, Uganda disclosed that it was trying to ink a nuclear deal with Russia, given Russia's nuclear expansion in Africa, in the last few years. Very recently, the conversation was brought back into the fold, as the CEO of the Russian state corporation; Rosatom revealed that Uganda and Russia are currently going over construction plans for a nuclear plant. In November 2024, Ugandan authorities and Rosatom decided on signing a memorandum of understanding for nuclear energy and nuclear power station building. At the time,

Ugandan Energy Minister Sidonius Okaasai Opolot revealed that the government and the Russian state enterprise were deciding on a location for the future power facility.

<https://africa.businessinsider.com/local/markets/uganda-and-russia-continue-to-brush-over-their-nuclear-deal/m1cm5wq>

## *M. The Americas*

### *Argentina*

### **RA-10 Multipurpose Reactor: The National Atomic Energy Commission is carrying out the construction of the RA-10 Argentine multipurpose nuclear reactor, located at the Ezeiza Atomic Centre**

*Argentina.gob.ar, January 28, 2025*

The project is financed by National Treasury and will have a strategic impact in the areas of health, science, technology and industry. It includes the design, construction, assembly, commissioning and delivery for operation of a multipurpose nuclear reactor, developed by CNEA and INVAP, with a contribution of more than 80% of local companies and institutions in technology and associated services. The facility will ensure domestic supply in radioisotopes for medical use, and will allow export of its products to cover 20% of world demand. It could also produce between 30 and 60 tons of doped silicon ingots, which would represent 40% of the current world market. In this way, the RA-10 will consolidate capabilities for cutting-edge technological developments in the nuclear and conventional industry and will open up new opportunities for research in basic sciences and applications based on the use of advanced neutron techniques.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/cnea/ra-10-multipurpose-reactor>



## Argentina Receives Second Beechcraft TC-12B Huron Aircraft

Giulia Bernacchi

*The Defence Post, January 27, 2025*

The Argentine Navy has received its second Beechcraft TC-12B Huron aircraft to enhance operational capabilities and naval patrols. The new aircraft will be assigned to the Naval Maritime Surveillance Squadron, part of the Naval Aviation Command, to improve logistical capabilities for territorial deployments. "We must protect and defend the interests of the country, we must ensure that Argentines are safer, at peace and free," said Argentina's Minister of Defense, Luis Petri. "These vital interests require us to control the exclusive economic zone and ensure that not a single ship crosses it, because the resources of all Argentines are at stake there," he added. Buenos Aires acquired two Beechcraft TC-12B aircraft from the US, with the first delivery received in July 2023. The Beechcraft TC-12B Huron is a pressurized twin-engine turboprop fixed-wing aircraft manufactured by Textron Aviation. It has a wingspan of 16 meters (52.4 feet), a length of 13.5 meters (44 feet), and a height of 4.6 meters (15 feet). It achieves a maximum speed of 550 kilometers (341 miles) per hour and cruises at 536 kilometers (333 miles) per hour.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2025/01/27/argentina-beechcraft-huron-aircraft/>

## India seeking energy, lithium investments in Argentina

*The Economic Times, January 29, 2025*

India is looking to expand its investments in Argentina's mining, gas and oil sectors, with a focus on lithium, to secure resources needed for its energy transition, the country's mining secretary told Reuters. Secretary V.L. Kantha Rao visited Buenos Aires for the first in-person meeting with Argentine counterparts since the two countries tied up a preliminary agreement in 2022 on mineral exploration, critical minerals supply and technology

development. Indian state firms Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) and Coal India, along with private company Greenko, are already exploring lithium in Argentina's northwest province of Catamarca, on the border with Chile. "We hope that in the next six months there will be a new announcement," Rao told Reuters at an event at the Indian embassy in Argentina on Tuesday, where he added that there is interest in other nearby provinces such as Salta.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-seeking-energy-lithium-investments-in-argentina/articleshow/117695387.cms?from=mdr>

## Brazil

### Brazilian Navy's marine corps successfully launches MANSUP missile for enhanced coastal defence

*Global Defence Insight, January 28, 2025*

The Brazilian Navy's Marine Corps, in collaboration with SIATT, successfully launched the MANSUP (Surface-Launched Anti-Ship Missile) from a land-based platform for the first time in December 2024. This milestone marks a significant advancement in Brazil's national security, positioning the MANSUP missile for integration and deployment in littoral defence operations. The MANSUP missile, a high-precision weapon system, is designed to safeguard Brazil's territorial waters from maritime threats, particularly hostile warships. The successful test highlights the missile's versatility, as it is now capable of being launched from both land-based and naval platforms, providing a flexible and powerful defence capability. One of the key innovations is the missile's integration with the artillery rocket system. This enhancement will allow military personnel to target maritime threats with remarkable accuracy, significantly bolstering Brazil's coastal defence operations. This system's launch is poised

to extend Brazil's capacity for threat deterrence, contributing to both national security and regional stability.

<https://defensetalks.com/brazilian-navys-marine-corps-successfully-launches-mansup-missile-for-enhanced-coastal-defense/#:~:text=Brazilian%20Navy's%20Marine%20Corps%20Successfully%20Launches%20MANSUP%20Missile%20for%20Enhanced%20Coastal%20Defense,-Global%20Defense%20Insight&text=The%20Brazilian%20Navy's%20Marine%20Corps,first%20time%20in%20December%202024.>

### **Brazil's INB gets approval for Caldas decommissioning**

World Nuclear News, January 17, 2025

The first licence for the decommissioning of a uranium mine in Brazil has been issued to the Caldas Decommissioning Unit of Indústrias Nucleares do Brasil. The licence has been issued by the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), which is part of the country's environment ministry. Indústrias Nucleares do Brasil (INB) said the operating licence, issued on 14 January, followed in-depth analysis of the plans by specialists from the company and IBAMA. Brazilian production of uranium began in 1982 in Caldas/Minas Gerais - it was the first ore extraction and processing unit in the country - and supplied the needs of the Angra 1 plant for 13 years before closing production in 1995 because of market conditions. INB President Adauto Seixas said that obtaining the licence was "further evidence of our commitment to decommissioning, transparency and sustainable development" and ensures that the area of the unit in Caldas can be made available for other uses in the future.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/articles/brazils-inb-gets-approval-for-caldas-decommissioning#:~:text=The%20first%20licence%20for%20the,of%20Ind%C3%BAstrias%20Nucleares%20do%20Brasil.>

### **Canada**

### **Developing space technology to safeguard Canadian data against cyberattacks**

Canadian Space Agency, January 20, 2025

In the era of online banking, smart phones, and cloud networks that store large amounts of personal information, reliable data encryption is essential. To advance the development of technology that could guarantee the privacy of Canada's public, private, and commercial data, the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) has awarded a \$1.4 million contribution to QEYnet (Maple, Ontario) for the demonstration of their quantum key distribution (QKD) technology in space. QKD technology aims to ensure the confidentiality of information exchanged between two parties by using photons (individual particles of light) to generate private encryption keys. QKD in space leverages satellites to securely transmit encryption keys between distant locations using quantum mechanics. The CSA's financial contribution will allow QEYnet to test a low-cost QKD technology in space, paving the way for secure global communications and the foundation of future quantum networks.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/space-agency/news/2025/01/developing-space-technology-to-safeguard-canadian-data-against-cyberattacks.html>

### **Canada, Poland sign nuclear energy cooperation agreement**

World Nuclear News, January 29, 2025

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has concluded a trip to Warsaw, Poland, with the signing of an agreement on cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Signed also by Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, the agreement calls

for cooperation in, among other things, the provision of nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes related to research, nuclear safety or the use of nuclear materials and the implementation of research and development projects. It also provides for technical training and the exchange of specialists and experts. "By working together to advance nuclear technology, Canada and Poland are pushing innovation forward and accelerating energy security," Trudeau said. "Once in force, the newly signed Canada-Poland Nuclear Cooperation Agreement will promote Canadian innovators, create good-paying jobs, and combine Polish and Canadian expertise in the sector. It's a testament to Canada's commitment to building a more secure future, alongside our closest allies."

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/articles/canada-poland-sign-nuclear-energy-cooperation-agreement>

## Canada takes a global lead on tripling nuclear

*Jacquie Hoornweg*

*NEI Magazine, January 21, 2025*

On 15 January, the government of Ontario announced plans for 10,000 MW of new nuclear on a single site and that's just the beginning as Canada stakes its claim in the global nuclear energy market. Canada has 13 provinces and territories, each decision makers on their own energy mix; increasingly several are betting on nuclear energy. They are led by Ontario, which made the country a global Tier-1 nuclear nation when it commissioned the first of many reactors in 1971. Most recently, Ontario jumped to the head of the triple-nuclear pack with a 15 January announcement for a 10,000 MW station in Port Hope, Ontario at the Ontario Power Generation-owned Wesleyville site. Over the past decade, refurbishments at Ontario's Darlington and Bruce Power multi-unit stations have created a Canadian supply

chain well-positioned to support domestic and global construction and services. Ontario is also the most advanced OECD country in development of small modular reactors (SMRs), having just completed extensive hearings for its license to construct up to four GE-Hitachi BWRX-300 MW reactors.

<https://www.neimagazine.com/analysis/canada-takes-a-global-lead-on-tripling-nuclear/?cf-view>

## Partnership to enhance UK-Canadian nuclear cooperation

*World Nuclear News, January 20, 2025*

The Advanced Nuclear Research Centre at the University of Strathclyde has signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the Candu Owners Group and the University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering. The Advanced Nuclear Research Centre (ANRC) undertakes research and translation for industry-led projects and acts as a hub for all nuclear activities at the University of Strathclyde. The Candu Owners Group (COG) is a Toronto-based nuclear energy not-for-profit corporation whose members are nuclear operators who invest in achieving operational excellence through collaboration. The University Network of Excellence in Nuclear Engineering (UNENE) is a network of Canadian universities, industry, government and international institutions dedicated to excellence in nuclear science, technology and engineering. Under the MoU, with a five-year renewable term, the three organisations will cooperate on nuclear engineering, science and technology initiatives in the areas of research and development, education and training, knowledge management, and nuclear operations support.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/articles/partnership-to-enhance-uk-canadian-nuclear-cooperation>

## *Columbia*

### **Why The Navy's Columbia-Class Nuclear-Armed Submarine May Save The World**

*Kris Osborn*

*Warrior Maven, January 23, 2025*

After years of science and technology, prototyping, and advanced design specs, the U.S. Navy is now building its first Columbia-class submarine, slated to arrive at the end of the decade. Columbia-Class Submarine: What Do We Know? Lurking secretly in dark waters around the world and holding potential adversaries at risk of nuclear destruction from unknown locations, US Navy's nuclear-armed ballistic missile submarines offer the backbone of U.S. strategic deterrence. Undersea strategic deterrence essentially guarantees second-strike retaliatory catastrophic destruction of any adversary who attacks the U.S. with nuclear weapons, thus preventing war by ensuring the complete annihilation of any country that attacks with nuclear weapons. The promise of total destruction, somewhat paradoxically one might say, keeps the peace.

<https://warriormaven.com/uncategorized/25539>

## *N. Oceania*

### *Australia*

### **Australia to Buy Additional Anti-Radar Missiles From US**

*Rojoeff Manuel*

*The Defence Post, January 31, 2025*

Australia is purchasing more Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile-Extended Range (AARGM-ER) missiles from the US. Under the foreign military sale, Canberra is investing 650 million Australian dollars (\$404.1 million) to increase its airborne firepower stockpile. The weapons add to a previous AARGM-ER package valued at 431 million Australian dollars (\$268 million) in August 2023. "This is the Albanese Government delivering the capabilities needed for the Australian Defence Force,"

Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles stated. "Australia and the United States continue to work as closely as ever, and the Alliance between our two countries ensures Australians are kept safe and our national interests are defended."

<https://thedefensepost.com/2025/01/31/australia-anti-radar-missiles/#:~:text=Australia%20is%20purchasing%20more%20Advanced,increase%20its%20airborne%20firepower%20stockpile>

### **Australian companies generating heat in the uranium universe**

*Russell Baker*

*Investment Magazine, January 31, 2025*

With opposition leader Peter Dutton swinging his nuclear nunchuks there may be fresh brawling in coming months over the future of uranium mining in Australia. The acrimonious debates over the decades about uranium have tended to generate more heat than light, and left a mining-reliant country that sits on 28 per cent of the world's uranium resources producing only 9 per cent of the globe's uranium. This is fantastic for some but frustrating for others. But it will probably be events playing out on the other side of the uranium universe involving some small Australian companies that will be more intriguing – and perhaps informative and insightful – over the coming months.

<https://www.investmentmagazine.com.au/2025/01/australian-companies-generating-heat-in-the-uranium-universe/>

### **Australia's new chief scientist open to nuclear power but focused on energy forms available 'right now'**

*Josh Butler*

*The Guardian, January 28, 2025*

Australia's new chief scientist has said he is open to the prospect of nuclear power playing a role in the country's energy mix, but remained focused on forms of energy that were "available to help us right now". On his first day in the job, Prof Tony



Haymet said new energy-intensive technologies like artificial intelligence could be powered by renewables, but that he thought serious discussions about nuclear in Australia were likely to be years away. "If you go back and look at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island and so on, there wasn't enough transparency and openness. I think the nuclear industry has accepted the fact that they have to rebuild their social licence to operate," Haymet told a press conference when asked about small modular reactors (SMRs). "You know, for the next chief scientist in 2030 or 2040, I think you can re-ask your question."

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/jan/28/australia-nuclear-power-plan-tony-haymet-chief-scientist>

## **We know why nuclear build costs are soaring — and Australia faces the biggest increases**

*Bernard Keane*

*Crikey, January 21, 2025*

The history of nuclear power construction is the history of costs going up and up, and delays getting longer and longer — not just over the past decade but since the 1960s. And studies of what has caused such rampant inflation show Australia is in the worst position to enter the complex and eye-wateringly expensive business of building nuclear power plants. Global price spikes in construction materials resulting from the pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine have helped push infrastructure costs up everywhere, but significant blowouts in the construction costs of nuclear power plants are a much older story (when Crikey first covered nuclear power in Australia, in 2009, the first thing we pointed out was the cost blowouts). The issue is so endemic to nuclear power that whole studies have been written on it, along with a lively debate about what exact costs should be included in the assessment (some countries don't provide proper costings of nuclear power plant construction; some researchers don't count costs like interest on loans used to fund construction).

<https://www.crikey.com.au/2025/01/21/australia-nuclear-energy-cost-peter-dutton/>

## ***New Zealand***

### **Rocket Lab to launch OroraTech satellites**

*Jeff Foust*

*Space News, January 22, 2025*

Rocket Lab announced Jan. 22 a contract to launch a set of wildfire-monitoring satellites for German company OroraTech on a short turnaround. Rocket Lab said it will launch eight of OroraTech's smallsats on an Electron rocket from Launch Complex 1 in New Zealand. The press release announcing the contract did not disclose a launch date, but Rocket Lab said in a social media post that the launch "is just a few weeks away." OroraTech is developing a constellation of satellites to detect and monitor wildfires, providing early warnings of fires to alert first responders. The company launched its third satellite, FOREST-3, on the SpaceX Transporter-12 dedicated rideshare mission January 14. The Munich-based company raised 25 million euros (\$26 million) in October 2024 and said at the time that, after the launch of FOREST-3, it would launch two sets of eight satellites each later in the year, but did not disclose its launch plans for them at the time. OroraTech plans to ultimately deploy a 100-satellite constellation.

<https://spacenews.com/rocket-lab-to-launch-ororatech-satellites/>

### **New Zealand launches second military satellite on Transporter-12**

*Adam Thorn*

*Space Connect, January 30, 2025*

New Zealand last week launched its second military satellite onboard SpaceX's Transporter-12 rideshare mission. The Tui CubeSat was a payload onboard the US National Reconnaissance Office's Otter mission. Its aim is to test technology that will help reduce communication delays in space operations. It comes after the New Zealand Defence Force's first orbital research payload, Korimako, was

successfully launched in March 2024. "The Tui payload launch demonstrates a continuation of DST's pathway into space operations research and development that began with the Korimako payload," Defence Science and Technology (DST) director David Galligan said. "We are delighted to be enabled in these endeavours through our strong international partnerships." New Zealand's DST is a unit of the country's military that employs scientists, technologists, technicians and business services professionals.

<https://www.spaceconnectonline.com.au/launch/6450-new-zealand-launches-2nd-military-satellite-on-transporter-12>

### **Philippines and New Zealand in Talks for Defense Pact**

*The Defense Post, January 29, 2025*

The Philippines and New Zealand have begun negotiating an agreement that would allow them to deploy troops on each other's soil, the two countries said Wednesday, as concerns over maritime tensions with China grow. Manila has been seeking to boost defence ties in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond in the face of China's growing confidence in asserting its claims over the hotspot South China Sea. A first round of talks was held in Manila on Thursday between the Philippines and New Zealand's defence departments, they said in a joint statement. "The first round of negotiations marked an important step in strengthening bilateral defence ties between the Philippines and New Zealand," the statement said. The Status of Visiting Forces Agreement will provide the legal framework for both countries "to elevate their cooperative activities and conduct exercises

in each other's territories, deepening overall defence and military cooperation," it added. New Zealand's ambassador to the Philippines Catherine McIntosh attended the Manila meeting, while other members of Wellington's delegation participated virtually. From the Philippines' side, negotiators included officials from the department of defence, justice and foreign affairs, as well as the Presidential Commission on Visiting Forces.

<https://thedefensepost.com/2025/01/29/philippines-new-zealand-defense-pact/>

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