



Arab Defense Industry Papers News Bulletin

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The Big Picture

Qatar

Department of Defense, 14 January 2019. “The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) and the Ministry of Defense of the State of Qatar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning Qatar’s support of DOD activities at Al Udeid Air Base (AUAB) during the second U.S.-Qatar Strategic Dialogue in Doha, Qatar Jan. 13. The MOU will help promote interoperability, support regional stability, and reaffirm the U.S.-Qatar defense relationship. It also represents a positive step towards the eventual formalization of Qatar’s commitment to support sustainment costs and future infrastructure costs at AUAB, which the State of Qatar proposed at the first U.S.-Qatar Strategic Dialogue in January 2018” (<https://bit.ly/2MHJ6V0>).

C4Defence, 2 January 2019. Mali has received 24 Storm armored personnel carriers as a military donation from Qatar. The vehicles shall support security operations (<https://bit.ly/2S0hxxH>).

Saudi Arabia

Jane’s Defence Weekly, 25 January 2019. “Satellite imagery suggests Saudi Arabia has built a solid-propellant rocket motor production facility next to its Al-Watah missile base, the *Washington Post* cited experts as saying on 24 January. The work appears to have begun in 2013 and includes the construction of high-bay buildings that are tall enough to be used to fill rocket motor cases

as well as one that appears to be a test stand for solid-propellant rocket motors (...)" (<https://bit.ly/2WtqX1A>).

Turkey

Sputnik, 17 January 2019. "Turkey is counting on the US to provide it with the technology behind the Patriot missile system before a deal can be reached, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has said. 'We received a proposal [on the Patriots] from the delegation that came from the US. For us, the timing of the delivery of the systems is important. We purchased the S-400, but we still need more similar systems. Our criteria are also joint production and technology transfer, the Turkish foreign minister said" (<https://bit.ly/2G2dqsK>).

C4Defence, 5 January 2019. Aselsan has opened a new research center in the Northern part of Cyprus. Together Aselsan and METU Northern Cyprus Campus will operate the Kalkanli technology valley with a focus on communication technologies (<https://bit.ly/2WvezOy>).

United Arab Emirates

Jane's Defence Weekly, 29 January 2019. According to the 2019 Worldwide Threat Assessment by the US Director of National Intelligence, "Iran continues to provide support that enables Houthi attacks against shipping near the Bab al-Mandab strait and land-based targets inside Saudi Arabia and the UAE using ballistic missiles and UAVs" (<https://bit.ly/2FZizSv>).

Defense Industry

Israel

Jane's Defence Industry, 30 January 2019. Following the takeover of IMI Systems from the Israeli government, Elbit Systems has announced the reorganization of the company and the set-up of the new business divisions for land systems as well as C4I and cyber (<https://bit.ly/2sWS1c0>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 3 January 2019. Rafael and Aeronautics have agreed to co-develop unmanned aerial vehicles of the Orbiter family. In 2018, Rafael failed to take over Aeronautics; now IAI is reportedly interested in acquiring the UAV company (<https://bit.ly/2TmfKhr>; <https://bit.ly/2FY9fhw>).

Iran

Jane's Defence Weekly, 31 January 2019. "Iran displayed what appeared to be a refined version of its stealthy armed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) during the Eqtedar 40 defence exhibition that opened in Tehran on 30 January. (...) Labelled in Persian as a medium-range combat reconnaissance UAV and reportedly called the Saegheh-2, the version displayed at Eqtedar 40 had no apparent undercarriage, indicating that it is launched from a rail and probably uses a parachute to land" (<https://bit.ly/2Tsgul2>).

C4Defence, 22 January 2019. Iranian destroyers are reportedly going to be equipped with the indigenous Kamand close-in weapon system. The system is said to hit targets at a distance of up to two kilometers (<https://bit.ly/2Tpxngl>).

Saudi Arabia

Jane's Defence Weekly, 30 January 2019. Saudi Arabian Military Industries has launched new joint ventures with Belgium's CMI Defence and Thales of France (<https://bit.ly/2SkrlA2>).

Defence Blog, 22 January 2019. Saudi Arabia is reportedly developing electromagnetic pulse weapons using Ukrainian technology. An Ukrainian news portal claimed that the Yuzhnoye State Design office had transferred the respective technology to the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (<https://bit.ly/2TqwEey>).

Turkey

Jane's Missiles & Rockets, 17 January 2019. On 10 January 2019, Roketsan and Aselsan have signed a contract for the "serial production of an imaging infrared seeker to equip the new OMTAS 160 mm-calibre man-portable/vehicle-mounted medium-range anti-tank guided missile weapon system". The contract is reportedly worth around US\$47M (<https://bit.ly/2RZ5wqn>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 15 January 2019. "In a ceremony on 13 January, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the establishment of a BMC production and technology base in the northwestern Turkish province of Sakarya. The site will produce Altay main battle tanks (MBTs), military and commercial vehicles, and engines of various platforms" (<https://bit.ly/2WrjUGN>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 11 January 2019. "Turkey has been developing stand-alone software to control imported missile systems without jeopardising its sovereign rights, Ismail Demir, head of the Presidency of Defence Industries (SSB), said in a meeting with representatives of local dailies on 7 January. Demir reiterated that Turkey would go ahead with the purchase of a Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile (SAM) battery under a USD2.5 billion deal, which includes an option for a second one, despite strong US opposition. Turkey will begin deploying S-400s in October" (<https://bit.ly/2RW5DmK>).

Stern, 11 January 2019. Rheinmetall is about to dissolve the RBSS joint venture established in 2016 with Turkey's BMC and Etika Strategy of Malaysia, German news weekly Stern reported. The magazine quoted Rheinmetall spokesman Peter Rucker confirming the fact, but no further details were provided. Rucker also said the company was no longer holding firm to participating in the Altay MBT program (<https://bit.ly/2sXOkTv>).

Defense Exports

Israel

Jane's International Defence Review, 29 January 2019. "Elbit Systems UK has delivered a mobile close air support (CAS) and joint fires simulator to the British Army, the company announced on 24 January. The simulator was developed by Elbit Systems and QuantaDyn Corporation in response to a requirement to provide the 1st Artillery Brigade with a bespoke simulator" (<https://bit.ly/2UqIoxP>).

Jane's International Defence Review, 23 January 2019. "The US Army has selected Elbit Systems to satisfy its Air Soldier Common Helmet Mounted Display (CHMD) requirement, with a USD24.3 million contract awarded on 22 January. The initial firm-fixed-price award will see Elbit Systems of America's subsidiary Elbit Fort Worth Inc providing an undisclosed number of helmets through to 21 January 2024. Further funding will be provided for additional orders, with the US Army planning to acquire 1,825 such helmets over a five-year ordering period" (<https://bit.ly/2DJc9o5>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 21 January 2019. Finland has ordered an undisclosed number of ELM-2311 Compact Multi-Mission Radars (C-MMR) from IAI's Elta Systems division. Deliveries are said to start in 2022 (<https://bit.ly/2Bd1IHG>).

Defence-Blog, 17 January 2019. The U.S. Army is reportedly considering buying two batteries of the Iron Dome air defense system, co-developed by Raytheon and Rafael. The U.S. Army is said to receive 12 launchers and 240 interception missiles by 2020 (<https://bit.ly/2TquZ8O>).

Turkey

Yeni Safak, 31 January 2019. "Turkish defense giant ASELSAN has begun producing the country's first indigenous navel satellite communications system, solely relying on its development of local talent and expertise. The newly-developed X Band satellite communications system has a range of 1.8 meters, and will greatly improve Turkish naval units' communications capacity in a secure and reliable manner" (<https://bit.ly/2RsTCQA>).

Hurriyet Daily News, 31 January 2018. Aselsan has reportedly delivered around 500 IHASAVAR C-UAV systems to national and international customers in 2018. The systems is said to have "the capacity to program more than 100 different jamming profiles" for use in different scenarios (<https://bit.ly/2sWjQkE>).

Jane's Defence Industry, 16 January 2019. Jihaz Production Association of Azerbaijan, which manufactures infantry weapon systems and armored vehicles, and Aselsan have signed an agreement to co-manufacture military equipment in Azerbaijan (<https://bit.ly/2Smceq9>).

Jane's Defence Industry, 8 January 2019. Turkish defense industry has achieved exports of more than US\$2bn in 2018, *Aanadolu Agency* reported, adding that

the “defense and aerospace industry reported the strongest growth of all industry sectors in Turkey” last year (<https://bit.ly/2CTEUg9>).

Defense News, 8 January 2019. “A parliamentary motion revealed that in recent months a total of 272 defense industry officials, mostly senior engineers, fled Turkey for new jobs abroad, with the Netherlands, the United States and Germany topping the list, respectively. Other recipient countries are Britain, Canada, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Italy, Sweden, Poland, France, Finland, Japan, Thailand, Qatar, Switzerland and Ireland, according to the SSB’s internal study” (<https://bit.ly/2MLbANC>).

Defense Modernization and Support

Egypt

Defence Blog, 16 January 2019. Tecmotiv has been awarded a US\$19.6M contract to overhaul engine packages for Egypt’s M60 Patton main battle tanks (<https://bit.ly/2HMDdqC>).

Oman

Jane’s Defence Industry, 23 January 2019. “Austrian small arms manufacturer Steyr is to develop two maintenance centres in the Sultanate of Oman, the head of the Oman Partnership for Development (OAPFD) offset agency has disclosed. In comments reported in local media on 22 January, Dr Dhafer bin Awad al-Shanfari revealed that the company would be providing training, equipment, and tools to undertake advanced maintenance of Steyr weapons in-country” (<https://bit.ly/2CUUMzb>).

United Arab Emirates

Jane’s Defence Weekly, 23 January 2019. “The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has revealed a new weaponised variant of the Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, developed by Abu Dhabi-based Advanced Military Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul Center (AMMROC). Images of the (22 January 2019) event show the transport and utility platform as having been upgraded with a nose-mounted electro-optic/infrared (EO/IR) sensor turret; stub-wing pylons with four hardpoints carrying rocket pods and air-to-surface missiles; door-mounted Gatlin guns; as well as engine intake-mounted flare dispensers and modified exhaust outlets” (<https://bit.ly/2RZOacU>).

Defense Procurement

Kuwait

Jane’s Defence Weekly, 10 January 2019. “Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Nasser Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has decided to set up a committee of inquiry into military procurement contracts signed between 2015–17, the Kuwaiti military General Headquarters (GHQ) announced on 6 January. The statement released by the GHQ said the inquiry would include

investigations into possible financial violations in respect of the procurement of Eurofighter Typhoon multirole fighters and Airbus EC725 (H225M) helicopters” (<https://bit.ly/2Tifzni>).

Qatar

Defence Blog, 24 January 2019. Qatar expects the first Rafale fighter jets on 7 February 2019 (<https://bit.ly/2MIdoa0>).

Saudi Arabia

Jane's Navy International, 16 January 2019. “Spanish state-owned shipbuilder Navantia held a steel-cutting ceremony for the first of five corvettes for the Saudi Arabian Navy at its San Fernando shipyard in the Bay of Cadiz on 15 January. Work on the corvettes, which are based on Navantia’s Avante 2200 design, is being carried out under a EUR1.81 billion (USD2.1 billion) contract signed in 2018. According to Navantia, three ships are expected to be under construction by the end of 2019, with two at keel-laying stage” (<https://bit.ly/2t4A7nT>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 10 January 2019. “Saudi Arabia's Border Guard has revealed itself as an operator of the 120 mm Alakran rapid-deployment mortar when it displayed the system during the Al-Janadriyah Festival, an annual cultural event in the kingdom” (<https://bit.ly/2Tp7Kw0>).

Military Cooperation and Training

Egypt

Al Defaiya, 29 January 2019. “Egypt’s Minister of Defense, Mohamed Zaki, met his New Zealand counterpart, Ron Mark, during the latter’s visit to Cairo (...) Both discussed various issues of common interest, including enhancing joint military cooperation and exchanging expertise aimed to maintain security and stability and confront potential threats” (<https://bit.ly/2G3u62W>).

Iraq

Al Defaiya, 8 January 2019. Chief-of-Staff of the Iraqi Army General Othman Al-Ghanmi met with his U.S. counterpart General Mark Millie to discuss cooperation and coordination in the military field, National Iraqi News Agency (NINA) reported (<https://bit.ly/2G34mnl>).

Jordan

Petra, 3 January 2019. “Jordanian Prime Minister Omar Razzaz Monday discussed with French Minister of the Armed Forces, Florence Parly, and her accompanying delegation ways and means of enhancing bilateral cooperation, especially in military, security and training fields, and exchanging expertise. The meeting (...) focused on cooperation in the arms and defense

industries, mainly between the King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau and its French peers” (<https://bit.ly/2RZzgnl>).

Lebanon

Al Defaiya, 18 January 2019. Australia has donated ten cargo vehicles and four ambulances to the Lebanese Army, Australian Defense Minister Christopher Pyne announced during his visit to Beirut on 16 January 2019 (<https://bit.ly/2ToyAEA>).

Oman

Al Defaiya, 16 January 2019. Vessels of the Royal Navy of Oman and the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan conducted the Good Fruit naval exercise on 16 and 17 January 2019 (<https://bit.ly/2FZkI0B>).

ONA, 4 January 2019. LTG Ahmed bin Harith al-Nabhani, Chief-of-Staff of the Sultan’s Armed Forces (SAF) met General Sir Nicholas Carter, Chief of the Defense Staff of the United Kingdom to discuss a range of military issues relevant for both countries (<https://bit.ly/2S5C9CT>).

Qatar

Jane’s Defence Weekly, 25 January 2019. “Qatar has received its first Airbus Helicopter H125 training platforms, national media and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) have revealed. At least two helicopters were seen on static display in footage aired by *Al-Rayyan News* (on 23 January 2019” (<https://bit.ly/2Rs2IwN>).

United Arab Emirates

WAM, 31 January 2019. “His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces met Sheikh Nasser bin Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of Kuwait. Both discussed issues of mutual interest in particular opportunities to deepen defense cooperation” (<https://bit.ly/2G0EFE1>).

WAM, 24 January 2019. “Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, UAE Minister of State for Defense Affairs, met with Ron Mark, New Zealand Defense Minister (...). At the meeting, the two sides explored ways of enhancing cooperation in the defense field between the UAE and New Zealand” (<https://bit.ly/2Ut8AI4>).

WAM, 23 January 2019. “Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, UAE Minister of State for Defense Affairs, received Yousef Mohammed Ali, Director of the President’s Office and Acting Minister of Defense of the Union of the Comoros, and explored ways of boosting ties” (<https://bit.ly/2RsbETb>).

WAM, 16 January 2019. “His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, received Christopher Pyne, Australian Defense

Minister, at Qasr Al Bahr in Abu Dhabi. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed discussed with the Australian Defense Minister ties of friendship and cooperation and ways to enhance bilateral cooperation, especially in defense and military domains” (<https://bit.ly/2RtkMo>).

Cybersecurity and Space

Egypt

Spacewatch Global, 29 January 2019. “China has agreed to grant U.S.\$72 million for the EgyptSat-2 Earth observation satellite programme under a contract signed on 21 January 2019. This is the third grant provided by China to Egypt for the satellite project, with an initial grant of U.S.\$23 million given in 2016, and a second grant worth U.S.\$45 million provided in 2018” (<https://bit.ly/2t11W0g>).

Israel

Spacewatch Global, 1 February 2019. “OHB System and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) have signed an agreement that will see the companies collaborate on a commercial Lunar Surface Access Service (LSAS). The agreement (...) will provide a lunar lander that can allow payloads up to 150kg to the European Space Agency (ESA)” (<https://bit.ly/2Wtt6dH>).

Iran

Spacewatch Global, 30 January 2019. “Iran’s ICT Minister, Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, and his Iraqi counterpart have called for broadening joint cooperation in space and information technology (IT) after a meeting on 22 January 2019. In the meeting, Iranian ICT Minister Jahromi pointed to the country’s achievements in the fields of space and the construction of satellites, saying the achievements pave the way for enhancing bilateral cooperation with neighbouring Iraq” (<https://bit.ly/2Wzw4NK>).

Spacewatch Global, 17 January 2019. “Days after Iranian President Hassan Rouhani defiantly declared that Tehran will launch several satellites using indigenous launch vehicles over ‘the coming weeks,’ Iran followed through on its promise by attempting to launch its Payam-e Amirabir-1 Earth observation microsatellite on 15 January 2019, using a Simorgh satellite launch vehicle. The launch ended in failure when the third stage of the Simorgh SLV failed to put the satellite into its intended orbit” (<https://bit.ly/2HK2iTd>).

United Arab Emirates

Space News, 22 January 2019. The UAE Space Agency announced a new National Plan for the Promotion of Space Investments. “The plan seeks to encourage foreign investment in the UAE’s emerging space sector, while also encouraging the country’s own investment vehicles to invest in the industry, either within or outside the country, according to a statement from the space agency. It added that details about the plan will be released in the coming

months, but will include creation of business accelerators, funds and specially designated economic zones” (<https://bit.ly/2DrZA0e>).

WAM, 3 January 2019. “The University of Sharjah signed a cooperation agreement with Kazakhstan Gharysh Sapary Company to share space technology and systems located in Astana, Kazakhstan. (...)The aim of the agreement is to cooperate in research and promoting the use of space for peaceful purposes, while developing and applying space technology to support the economy, scientific research, safety, and community development through the exchange of space images and providing remote sensing data in the UAE by using the Kazakh satellites KazEOSat-1 and KazEOSat-2” (<https://bit.ly/2G048gZ>).

About the ADIP News Bulletin

The Arab Defense Industry Papers (ADIP) is a new professional series focusing on the role of the defense industry in Algeria Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. The focus of the series is on the establishment of national defense industrial bases in these countries and joint collaborative defense projects as well as defense exports. The ADIP News Bulletin complements the analytical papers by providing information about current and upcoming developments relevant for the Arab defense industrial establishment. The ADIP News Bulletin is available by subscription. ADIP and the ADIP News Bulletin are joint initiatives of Borchert Consulting & Research AG and Verocy. For more information about ADIP, see: <http://www.arabdefenseindustry.com>.

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