



Arab Defense Industry Papers News Bulletin

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The Big Picture

Bahrain

Ministry of Defence, 5 April 2018. "Britain has cemented its enhanced and permanent presence in the Gulf with the opening of the United Kingdom Naval Support Facility at a ceremony at Mina Salman port in Bahrain (on 5 April 2018). The facility will provide an enduring, self-sufficient operating base capable of meeting the needs of any British warship operating in the region including Britain's new (...) future flagships HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales. It will be home to just over 300 British military personnel and supporting civilians, and accommodates up to nearly 550 for short periods" (<https://bit.ly/2KPsHwb>).

Jordan

Jane's Defence Weekly, 9 May 2018. During the 2018 SOFEX defense exhibition in Jordan the Royal Jordanian Air Force has officially shown the CH-4B armed UAV. According to Jane's, the UAV can carry different missiles and small precision-guided bombs (<https://bit.ly/2wpl8Iv>).

Qatar

Daily Sabah, 5 April 2018. "The Emir of Qatar (on 5 April 2018) signed a decree to provide voluntary recruitment for women and to extend the length of

compulsory military service for conscripts from three months to one year" (<https://bit.ly/2jL20fG>).

Saudi Arabia

AlBawaba, 7 May 2018. "The Saudi Ambassador to Khartoum Ali Hassan Ja'afar (on 6 May 2018) said his country would sign a number of defence and economic cooperation agreements with Sudan pledging more investments to raise trade exchange between the two countries. The ambassador's statements came less than a week after the Sudanese State Defence Minister Ali Ahmed Salim said the army is assessing the participation of the Sudanese troops in the Saudi-led coalition fighting the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen" (<https://bit.ly/2rwCmz0>)

Jane's Defence Industry, 9 April 2018. A new Saudi-French procurement agreement brings ODAS to an end. In the future there will be no go-between organization for bilateral arms projects (<https://bit.ly/2wlQQHw>).

Syria

Jane's Defence Weekly, 2 May 2018. "US AC-130U Spooky gunships are being targeted by electronic warfare (EW) attacks when flying over Syria, General Raymond Thomas, the commander of US Special Operations Command, revealed on 24 April. 'Right now in Syria, we're in the most aggressive EW environment on the planet from our adversaries. They're testing us every day, knocking our communications down, disabling our AC-130s etc,' Gen Thomas told the Geospatial Intelligence Foundation's Geoint Symposium in Tampa (FL)," without providing further details (<https://bit.ly/2rvPCVj>).

Kommersant, 23 April 2018. Russian sources expect that components of the S300 air defense system such as radar stations, control posts, launchers could soon be delivered either by air transport or by the Russian Navy to Syria. The system is expected to be supplied as a military-technical "donation" at no cost for Syria (<https://bit.ly/2vBbIKD>).

Turkey

Jane's Defence Industry, 4 April 2018; *Daily Sabah*, 19 April and 8 May 2018. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to provide Turkey with S400 air defense systems by July 2019, rather than early 2020 as had been indicated before. Erdogan also "confirmed that systems were to be manufactured in Russia, and that the two sides were looking at alternatives for defence industrial cooperation."

In mid-April 2018 Wess Mitchel, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, warned Turkey about possible consequences related to the S400 purchase. He said the U.S. "had been very clear with Ankara that it would have to face sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act" and "consequences for potential participation in an F-35 program and more broadly our military-industrial cooperation with Turkey".

Meanwhile U.S. Congressman Mac Thornberry, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee has drafted a law "that asks the Trump

administration to provide a comprehensive report on the Turkish-American defense relationship and submit it to the Congress. The proposed legislation blocks the delivery of military equipment to Turkey until the report is submitted in 60 days after the enactment of the bill." In response "Haluk Görgün, chairman of the executive board of Aselsan (...), said that it is not possible to impose (sanctions on) Turkey because the F-35 program will be collapsed if the U.S. blocks deliveries of the fighter jets to Turkey" (<https://bit.ly/2jHOVno>; <https://bit.ly/2F2IYL6>; <https://bit.ly/2jKdXIU>).

United Arab Emirates

Jane's Defence Weekly, 4 May 2018. "UAE soldiers, BMP-3 infantry fighting vehicles, and military trucks were seen being unloaded from C-17 transport aircraft at the airport on the Yemeni island of Socotra (Suqutra) in photographs that began circulating on social media on 3 May. Two C-17s and at least two BMP-3 were seen in the photographs, which could be geolocated to Socotra's airport" (<https://bit.ly/2wqTvzK>).

Yemen

Jane's Defence Weekly, 19 April 2018. On 18 April 2018, WAM news agency released a statement of the UAE Armed Forces indicating that "one of its defence units had shot down a Qasef-1 UAV that the rebels launched at 'strategic positions' of the coalition-backed Yemeni forces on Yemen's Red Sea coast. 'Upon examining the aircraft, military defence teams discovered a large quantity of explosive materials" (<https://bit.ly/2IaLvVa>).

Defense Industry

Egypt

The National, 6 May 2018. "South African defence company Paramount Group is in discussions with the Egyptian government to expand the country's defence manufacturing capabilities and boost its position as an arms exporter to Africa. Paramount is seeking to set up a modernised defence industrial complex to produce advanced land, air and naval equipment, Ivor Ichikowitz, the group's chairman", told *The National*. "The response from the Egyptian government has been 'positive' as it understands the need to consider a defence industrial complex that's not reliant on U.S. and Russian production licensing, Mr Ichikowitz said" (<https://bit.ly/2rqQhr9>).

Israel

Jane's Defence Industry, 1 May and 16 April 2018. IAI "has opened a new office in Berlin to facilitate further growth in the European market. The new entity will replace the Paris office that the company previously operated from, as the company considers Germany to have a central role in Europe, as well as being a market that will facilitate co-development of defence and aerospace technologies." Citing the same argument, Elbit Systems also announced establishing a new office in Berlin on 16 April 2018. (<https://bit.ly/2K7gC4s>; <https://bit.ly/2ruDjsd>).

Jordan

Jane's, 8 May 2018. The King Abdullah II Design and Development Bureau (KADDB) showed the latest Al-Mared 8x8 armored fighting vehicle at the 2018 SOFEX defense exhibition in Jordan. The vehicle is based on a Tatra chassis and powered by a 420hp diesel with maximum road speed of 110km/h (<https://bit.ly/2FYtNIO>).

Turkey

Interfax, 3 May 2018. During the Eurasia 2018 Airshow, that took place in Antalya in late April 2018, Turkey and Ukraine have agreed to "switch to the practical implementation" of the joint agreement to develop the An-188 military transport aircraft (<https://bit.ly/2K8mpGV>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 27 April 2018. According to Turkish press reports, Turkish Defense Minister Nurettin Canikli has indicated the country was working on an advanced long-range missile called Bora-2. The missile's range is limited to 300 km in order to comply with the Missile Technology Control Regime (<https://bit.ly/2wzQBcf>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 26 April 2018; *Defense News*, 3 May 2018. "Turkey's Undersecretariat for Defence Industries (SSM) decided in March to start contract negotiations with BMC on the production of 250 Altay main battle tanks (MBTs) as well as the development of its powerpack, the SSM tweeted on 24 April. The SSM did not give financial or technical details of the long-delayed project." The green light for BMC is interpreted as a signal that underlines close Turkish-Qatari defense industrial relations, as Qatar has a major stake in BMC (<https://bit.ly/2K7hZQE>; <https://bit.ly/2wts3RS>).

C4 Defence, 25 April 2018. Meteksan's Retinar OPUS Surveillance Radar and Saver's Laser Anti-Drone System (LaDRONS) have been combined to provide a counter-drone system (<https://bit.ly/2KNEv27>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 17 April 2018. Aselsan is developing a counter-rocket artillery and mortar system (C-RAM), Mustafa Kaval, the company's head of defense system technology, told *JDW* at the Defence Services Asia exhibition in Kuala Lumpur. He also said the system would be based on the Korkut self-propelled anti-aircraft gun system (<https://bit.ly/2wqYsZf>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 16 April 2018. "Turkey's Kale Group will begin delivering its KCR-556 5.56x45 (5.56 mm NATO)-calibre assault rifles to the Turkish armed forces once final qualification trials for the weapon are completed later this month, a company official told *Jane's* at the Defence Services Asia 2018 exhibition in Kuala Lumpur" (<https://bit.ly/2I3IF8c>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 12 April 2018. "Turkey's state-owned Machines and Chemical Industries Board (MKEK) successfully test-fired 120 mm high-explosive tracer (HE-T) tank gun ammunition, Turkish Defence Minister Nurettin Canikli tweeted on 8 April. Serial production will start in the second half of 2018 and 3,000 HE-T rounds will be delivered to the Turkish military, he said" (<https://bit.ly/2KOJcIP>).

Jane's Defence Industry, 11 April 2018. "Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan unveiled a TRY135 billion (USD33 billion) incentive package on 9 April as part of an effort to boost technology-based investment to create jobs and narrow the country's current account deficit. Of the announced funding, TRY 7.7 billion will go to various Turkish defence industry projects that are intended to help manufacture high technology value-added products and increase the share of such products in exports. Ismail Demir, Undersecretary for Turkish Defence Industries (SSM), tweeted on 10 April that programmes covered by the new funding include the Turkish Fighter – Experimental (TF-X) project, the development of laser weapon systems, wheeled and tracked armoured vehicles, unmanned armoured vehicles, as well as steel, aluminium, and batteries" (<https://bit.ly/2KM9n2V>).

Quwa, 8 April 2018. The Turkish Armed Forces have received two additional Anka-S UAV supplied by TAI, thus bringing the total to six Anka-S UAV currently operated. Together with 46 Bayraktar TB2 UAV the Turkish Armed Forces now operate 52 UAVs (<https://bit.ly/2I1eGxI>).

United Arab Emirates

Jane's Defence Industry, 9 May 2018. UAE-based aerospace manufacturer Strata and Italy's Dema have signed an agreement to "work together on manufacturing service exchange and knowledge transfer relating to aerospace systems" (<https://bit.ly/2K5gWk2>).

The National, 2 May 2018. Strata, the UAE aerospace manufacturer, is in talks with potential partners in Malaysia and China to expand into Asia. In addition, the company is in talks with Saudi Arabia's Taqnia to "outsource work on aerostructures production to the country in two years and avoid duplicating efforts of the neighboring countries' aerospace sectors", Strata CEO Ismail Abdullah told *The National* (<https://bit.ly/2rcW03G>).

WAM, 2 May 2018. "Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, UAE Minister of State for Defense Affairs, has discussed with Marilyn A. Hewson, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lockheed Martin Corporation, ways to enhance co-operation in training, science, technology, engineering and aviation, and qualify the distinguished national cadres to be able to lead the aviation industry and compete globally" (<https://bit.ly/2G13xHh>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 16 April 2018. EDIC Caracal and MKU of India have signed an MoU to manufacture the CARB817AR Advanced Gas Piston-based assault rifle in India. "The MoU also covers the endorsement of KMU's electro-optics and ballistic armour protection to the UAE military by EDIC Caracal" (<https://bit.ly/2I2JONu>).

Defense Exports

Israel

Jane's Defence Industry, 3 May 2018. "Israeli defense companies signed export contracts valued at USD9.2 billion in 2017, according to figures unveiled by

the country's Ministry of Defense. The figures represent a 40% increase compared with 2016, the MoD's International Defense Cooperation department (SIBAT) added. The sales comprised air defense systems (31%); radars and electronic warfare systems (17%); upgrades and avionic components for aircraft (14%); land systems and weapons stations (9%); C4I systems (9%); observation and optronic equipment (8%); intelligence, data, and cyber systems (5%); various services (3%); unmanned air systems (2%); naval systems (1%); and satellite and space systems" (1%) (<https://bit.ly/2wr1hJN>).

Turkey

Jane's Defence Weekly, 17 April 2018. TAI seems confident there is a market for its Anka MALE UAV in Southeast Asian countries, a company official told *JDW* at the at the Defence Services Asia exhibition in Kuala Lumpur. TAI has also partnered with DRB-HICOM Defence Technologies to meet the wide-area aerial surveillance requirement of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (<https://bit.ly/2jICPKU>).

United Arab Emirates

Jane's Defence Weekly, 5 April 2018. "Abu Dhabi Shipbuilding (ADSB) has completed Kuwait's order for landing ships and craft, the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army announced on 4 April. When ADSB announced the Kuwaiti order in 2013 it said it would supply eight landing craft and high-speed protection ships to Kuwait" (<https://bit.ly/2rx1PrU>).

Defense Modernization and Support

Iran

Al Defaiya, 23 April 2018. "Commander of the Iranian Army Ground Force Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari announced that the Army's Airborne Unit has tripled the range of missiles mounted on its helicopters, *Fars News Agency* (FNA) reported. "Three major changes have been made in the Airborne Unit, including, equipment of helicopters with night-vision systems, tripling the range of missiles mounted on them and increasing the speed of overhaul," he said (<https://bit.ly/2Ibp15a>).

Turkey

Jane's Defence Weekly, 4 April 2018. "Turkey is upgrading its M60A3 main battle tanks, in addition to M60Ts, Ismail Demir, Undersecretary for Defense Industries (SSM), tweeted on 1 April. (...) An infographic accompanying Demir's tweet also shows the upgrade includes additional spall liners and an electrical system" (<https://bit.ly/2rsYdbw>).

Defense Procurement

Bahrain

Defense Security Cooperation Agency, 27 April 2018. Bahrain has been given the green light to procure 12 AH-1Z attack helicopters with additional equipment worth around €911M (<https://bit.ly/2wr1htA>).

Jordan

C4 Defence, 30 April 2018. Jordan is said to receive four Mi-26T heavy-lift helicopters later this year. The helicopters can carry up to 20 tons of cargo (<https://bit.ly/2Iu59i0>).

Oman

Department of Defense, 30 April 2018. The U.S. Army has selected Raytheon to deliver TOW anti-tank missiles to Oman. The contract also includes TOW missiles for Taiwan and is worth around \$130M (<https://bit.ly/2rhtKgy>).

Qatar

Defense Security Cooperation Agency, 9 April 2018. Qatar got the green light to procure 5,000 Advanced Precision Kill Weapon Systems (APKWS) II Guidance Sections with additional equipment for its AH-64E Apache helicopters. The program value is around \$300M (<https://bit.ly/2I3qb7I>).

Saudi Arabia

Jane's Defence Industry, 12 April 2018. While Saudi Crown Prince and Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman was in Spain, Navantia and the Saudi government have signed an agreement for five Avante 2200 corvettes for the Royal Saudi Navy. Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI) and Navantia will create a joint venture to deliver the vessel. The joint venture is also expected to create around 1,000 jobs in Saudi Arabia (<https://bit.ly/2rw9lmR>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 11 April 2018. "Boeing has been awarded a USD64 million contract to restart its production line for Standoff Land Attack Missile-Expanded Response (SLAM-ER), the Department of Defense announced on 10 April. Expected to be completed by March 2019, the contract also covers the redesign of obsolete, nearly obsolete, or uneconomical parts for the new production run. It was announced in October 2013 that the US government had approved the sale of 650 AGM-84H SLAM-ER missiles to Saudi Arabia and another 300 to the UAE" (<https://bit.ly/2rwnEss>).

Defense Security Cooperation Agency, 5 April 2018. The U.S. State Department has okayed Saudi Arabia's requested sale of 180 155mm M109A5/A6 Medium Self-Propelled Howitzer structures for conversion to M109A6 Paladin Howitzer systems for an estimated cost of \$1.31bn (<https://bit.ly/2I42vAk>).

Military Cooperation and Training

Bahrain

WAM, 8 May 2018. Military delegations of Bahrain and Pakistan met in Manama to discuss ways to "broaden military cooperation, joint training and the exchange of expertise" (<https://bit.ly/2jKGGqH>).

Jordan

Defense News, 3 May 2018. Eager Lion 2018, a joint exercise involving troops of Jordan and the U.S., took place from 15-26 April 2018 and included a CBRN scenario with a focus on detecting a simulated "unknown material in a smuggling incident. Mobile laboratory teams were deployed to survey the area, collect and test samples, and then process through a decontamination line" (<https://bit.ly/2FXyf41>).

Oman

FNA, 26 April 2018. "Deputy Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces for International Affairs Brigadier General Qadir Nezami in a meeting with Commander of the Royal Navy of Oman Rear Admiral Abdullah al-Raisi in Tehran on (26 April 2018) stressed the necessity for holding more joint military wargames by the two countries (...). Rear Admiral al-Raisi, for his part, underscored that Oman's Sultan Qaboos is deeply willing to further expand ties with Iran" (<https://bit.ly/2ry2UzX>).

Jane's Defence Industry, 9 April 2018. Canada's CAE has signed a service agreement with the Omani Authority for Partnership for Development to create the Omani Aviation Academy in order to train and educate future pilots for Oman (<https://bit.ly/2rvVo9r>).

Qatar

Jane's Defence Weekly, 19 April 2018. "The Qatari Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced on 19 April that it had sent a contingent to the recently concluded 'Gulf Shield 1' multinational exercise held in Saudi Arabia, despite Riyadh's attempts to isolate the emirate since June 2017" (<https://bit.ly/2rxTYKC>).

United Arab Emirates

Jane's Defence Weekly, 18 April 2018. The UAE "announced on 15 April that it was disbanding its military training programme in Somalia. A statement reported by the official WAM news agency said the move was a response to the seizure of a UAE-registered private aircraft by Somali security forces at Mogadishu airport and the confiscation of USD9.6 million destined for Somali soldiers. It said the programme to improve the capabilities of the Somali army began in 2014 and included the construction of three training centres, a hospital, and the UAE paying the salaries of 2,407 Somali soldiers" (<https://bit.ly/2Ii8rnZ>).

Cybersecurity and Space

Israel

Via Satellite, 2 May 2018. "Spacecom Satellite Communications notified the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange on Monday that it had learned from a government source that the State of Israel intends to buy a new communications satellite from Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). The new satellite will be positioned at 4 degrees west, in accordance with the state's needs. This represents a serious blow to Spacecom, after it announced a month ago that it would buy its planned Amos 8 satellite from U.S. company SSL, and not from IAI" (<https://bit.ly/2wxtU8a>).

Saudi Arabia

Spacewatch Middle East, 9 April 2018. "Prince Mohammed bin Salman al Saud, the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, visited Lockheed Martin's satellite manufacturing facilities in California's Silicon Valley on 5 April 2018, where the prospect of a Saudi Arabian-Lockheed Martin joint venture to assemble satellites in the desert kingdom was discussed" (<https://bit.ly/2K8jNIS>).

United Arab Emirates

Al Defaiya, 3 May 2018. "The UAE Space Agency organized the second meeting of leaders of Arab space agencies and presidents of organizations and authorities in the Arab space sector, to discuss the future of the sector and the means of unifying their efforts to promote the relevant capacities of Arab countries" (<https://bit.ly/2IbJFDv>).

Critical Infrastructure Protection and Border Security

Saudi Arabia

Jane's Defence Weekly, 3 April 2018. "A Saudi oil tanker suffered minor damage when it was attacked by Yemeni rebels in international waters west of the Red Sea port of Al-Hudaydah on 3 April, the official *Saudi Press Agency* (SPA) reported the spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition as saying. Colonel Turki al-Maliki said the attack was aborted due to the swift intervention of a coalition naval vessel, which then escorted the tanker as it continued its northwards journey" (<https://bit.ly/2ruiyNA>).

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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