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# Arab Defense Industry Papers News Bulletin

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## The Big Picture

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### Bahrain

*Al Bawaba*, 12 July 2018. Pilot Officer Shaikha Aisha bint Rahid Al-Khalifa, the granddaughter of Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman and a graduate of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, took off with a Hawk jet as the first female fighter pilot of the Royal Bahrain Air force. (<https://bit.ly/2utZb7R>).

### Iraq

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 11 June 2018. "Iraq's newly arrived T-90S tanks have been delivered to units that previously operated M1A1 Abrams tanks. The Iraqi Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced the decision to swap the US-made tanks for Russian ones on 6 June, saying 39 T-90S tanks had been handed over to the 35th Brigade of the 9th Armoured Division to equip two battalions. It said the units' officers and crews had been retrained with Russian assistance and their Abrams tanks transferred to the division's 34th Brigade" (<https://bit.ly/2NaNRFp>).

### Qatar

*Bloomberg*, 11 July 2018. Qatar reportedly seeks a US\$4bn loan from banks for the purchase of Eurofighter Typhon fighter jets. "The government is working with financial advisers on the deal that will be backed by export credit agencies," the news agency reports (<https://bloom.bg/2m6s32m>).

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 10 July 2018. "The 36 Dassault Rafale multirole fighters that Qatar has ordered will arrive in the emirate between 2019 and 2022, according to Eric Chevallier, the French ambassador to Doha. (...) Chevallier told journalists that more than 200 pilots and technicians have been trained; this number will rise to 400, the Qatari newspaper *Al-Raya* reported on 10 July" (<https://bit.ly/2LcaLeU>).

### Saudi Arabia

*Arab News*, 13 July 2018. Ahmed bin Aqeel Al-Katib, Chairman of the Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI), met South African Defense Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula to discuss defense industrial cooperation. Both countries seem to have agreed on a plan for bilateral cooperation that fits the strive for defense technology transfer and nationalization within the Vision 2030 (<https://bit.ly/2KRyfK9>).

*ArabNews*, 27 June 2018. "Saudi Arabia plans to forge new links with UK academic and research institutions as part of a \$1.6 billion initiative to enhance the Kingdom's domestic research & development capabilities. A high-level Saudi delegation, representing the country's Ministry of Education and leading public universities, is visiting the UK this week to explore R&D partnership opportunities, with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics" (<https://bit.ly/2MsQP7I>).

### Turkey

*C4Defence*, 9 July 2018. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has appointed General Hulusi Akar as the country's new Defense Minister. Since mid-2015 General Akar had been Commander of the Turkish Armed Forces (<https://bit.ly/2ugb1Dv>).

*Daily Sabah*, 27 June 2018. According to a diplomatic source quoted by Turkish newspaper *Daily Sabah*, "Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu told his counterpart, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, during his latest visit to Washington that Turkey could not undo the already signed deal for the S-400s. Instead, Çavuşoğlu said Turkey can work with the Trump administration to make sure that the system does not constitute a threat to NATO installations in the country. 'We are part of NATO. Of course, we don't want to risk our own national security either,' the official said. In fact, to alleviate Washington's concerns, Turkey has already taken a step. Russia proposed to deliver the S-400 systems in nine months by deploying Russian military technicians on the ground in Turkey. However, Ankara refused and asked Moscow to train Turkish military experts to assemble and run the system on their own without Russians setting foot on Turkish soil – or to put it differently, in NATO territory. This will take about 19 months" (<https://bit.ly/2zwACwK>).

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 21 June 2018; *Financial Times*, 19 June 2016. Despite the row about the possible delivery stop of F35 jets to Turkey, Lockheed Martin handed over the first F35 to Turkey on 21 June 2018. Pilots of the Turkish Air

Force will start training on the new jet at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. On 18 June 2016, the U.S. Senate had voted to block the transfer of F35 jets to Turkey (<https://bit.ly/2JlxG7k>; <https://on.ft.com/2JTUPxk>).

*Hürriyet*, 14 June 2018. "Turkey has proposed Russia the joint production of S-500 anti-ballistic missile systems, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has revealed, reiterating his government's determination in deploying the S-400 missile systems on Turkish soil, despite opposition from the United States. (...) The S-500s are still under development and believed to be deployed by 2020 as a supplement but with a longer range to the existing S-400s sophisticated surface-to-air missiles" (<https://bit.ly/2sZ2IR2>).

### **United Arab Emirates**

*Reuters*, 8 July 2018. The UAE has extended compulsory military service for men from 12 to 16 months. Mandatory military service was introduced in 2014 (<https://reut.rs/2L7NHhp>).

*Jerusalem Post*, 8 July 2018. The Israeli Defense Forces have denied reports by the local news portal *i24news* that a military delegation from the UAE had recently visited the Israel Air Force to review F35 fighter jets. The UAE has for years been trying to acquire this platform, but for the time being, the IAF is the only air force in the region flying the US jet (<https://bit.ly/2m9oRmu>).

### **Defense Industry**

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#### **Israel**

*Jane's Missile & Rockets*, 3 July 2018. "Rafael Advanced Defence Systems has finalised development of a new lightweight, vehicle-integrated evolution of its SPARC trailer-mounted and remote-controlled launch system for the Spike non-line-of-sight (NLOS) multipurpose tactical missile. (...) (The) new Spike NLOS Modular Launcher is an adaptable, palletised, stand-off launch system specifically configured for light rapid response/all-terrain-type vehicles – typically deployed as an air portable capability – by reconnaissance units and special forces" (<https://bit.ly/2mc5SYn>).

*Jane's Missiles & Rockets*, 2 July 2018. IAI has unveiled Barak-MX, a modular and scalable networked air/missile defence system that links various sensors, launchers and Barak effectors in a single architecture that can be scoped and optimised to meet specific customer mission requirements" (<https://bit.ly/2ueWXtT>).

*Jane's Missiles & Rockets*, 20 June 2018. "Israel Aerospace Industries and IMI Systems have disclosed co-development of a new stand-off precision air-to-surface missile (ASM) system – designated Rampage – designed to address protected high value targets including command and control (C2) centres, air bases, maintenance centres, and other key infrastructure assets" (<https://bit.ly/2NLcr0B>).

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 19 June 2018. The Israeli government has given Elbit Systems the green light to acquire IMI (<https://bit.ly/2L4wCrP>).

*Jane's Defence Industry*, 12 June 2018. "Yoav Turgeman has been appointed as executive vice-president of Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and CEO of its subsidiary Elta. Turgeman was previously general manager of IAI's MLM integration house, and headed up the company's Arrow anti-ballistic missile programme prior to that, for which he was responsible for developing system configuration. He served for 25 years in the Israeli navy before joining IAI" (<https://bit.ly/2NFimo9>).

### Middle East

*Al Defaiya*, 26 June 2018. "Lockheed Martin announced Robert (Bob) S. Harvard will expand his role to lead the company's growing Middle East business as the Chief Executive for Lockheed Martin in the Middle East. In this new role he will be responsible for the company's strategy, operations and growth in the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan" (<https://bit.ly/2uwx7AT>).

### Turkey

*Jane's International Defence Review*, 11 July 2018. "The Turkish Aselsan Alkar 120 mm Weapon Mortar System (WMS) has completed initial firing trials installed in the rear of a BMC Vuran 4x4 multipurpose armoured vehicle (...). The latest series of BMC Vuran testing included a complete system trial with the computerised fire-control system. According to Aselsan, 'development of the Alkar 120 mm WMS will be completed by the end of July 2018'" (<https://bit.ly/2L5SCCM>).

*Defence Blog*, 10 July 2018. Roketsan's KHAN advanced long-range surface-to-surface missile system is reportedly undergoing acceptance trials, as announcements on the Twitter account of the Turkish Undersecretariat for Defense Industries (SSM) suggests (<https://bit.ly/2NLP3QU>).

*Monch Publishing Group*, 9 July 2018. According to the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, Turkey and Ukraine have signed a MoU to "develop cooperation in the direction of unmanned weapon systems and discussed the possibility of creating a joint design office for the development of new engines for armored vehicles." Turkey also seems to be interested in procuring An-178 transport aircraft from Ukraine, Monch reported (<https://bit.ly/2us6oFA>).

*Defence Blog*, 6 July 2018. Turkey's Undersecretariat for Defense Industries (SSM) has released a video that shows new high energy laser systems developed by Tübitak Bilgem. Mounted on a Cobra vehicle the 20kW laser "successfully cuts a 22mm steel armor plate from a range of 500 meters" (<https://bit.ly/2L1dHyn>).

*Defence Blog*, 5 July 2018. TAI has selected software from Dassault Systèmes to accelerate the TF-X development program (<https://bit.ly/2JhwxvX>).

*Defence Blog, 4 July 2018.* Roketsan has concluded the development phase of the new Teber precision-guided bomb kit, which can be used to convert bombs into precision weapons (<https://bit.ly/2ug2ekZ>).

*C4Defence, 4 July 2018.* Aselsan and Ukraine's SpetsTechnoExport STE have signed the first offset agreement as part of an ongoing military communication equipment program for Ukraine. According to *C4Defence* Ukraine will receive state of the art technologies and software that are to increase the capabilities of Ukraine's armed forces (<https://bit.ly/2KLGVAW>).

*Defence Blog, 29 June 2018.* Nurol Makina has started serial production of the new Yoruk 4x4 armored vehicle (<https://bit.ly/2JiH9uz>).

*Jane's Defence Weekly, 15 June 2018.* Aselsan has successfully tested the vehicle-mounted Lazer Savunma Sistem'nin (LSS). The Laser can be used to destroy IEDs, temporary obstacles and UAVs (<https://bit.ly/2uhh0rv>).

### **United Arab Emirates**

*Jane's 360, 13 June 2018.* "A supplier of electromechanical assemblies for military applications, Milectria has created a manufacturing base in the UAE to better serve customers in the MENA region and worldwide. Its product range comprises cable harnesses, electrical panels and assemblies for vehicles. Called Milectria Middle East Cables, the new company's aim is to act as a local partner for international OEMs, especially those interested in manufacturing or service partnering from the UAE" (<https://bit.ly/2Jh4qx9>).

## **Defense Exports**

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### **Israel**

*Defence Blog, 21 June 2018.* Elbit Systems has been awarded a US\$17M contract from an undisclosed European country to provide ground-based electronic warfare and signal intelligence systems (<https://bit.ly/2uhXY4a>).

### **Turkey**

*Daily Sabah, 5 July 2018.* "Turkey has won the tender for the procurement of four corvettes by the Pakistani Navy, Defense Minister Nurettin Canikli said." No contract value was disclosed, but he said this had been the single biggest export contract for Turkey (<https://bit.ly/2L4gZAU>).

*Jane's Defence Weekly, 4 July 2018.* "Turkish state news service *Anadolu Agency* revealed details of the country's defence and aerospace sector's export performance on 2 July, with figures for the first six months of 2018 showing a year-on-year increase in foreign sales of almost 14%. In total Turkey exported USD906.4 million in military and aerospace products in the first half of the year, compared with USD795.7 million during the same period in 2017." This accounts for about 1.1% of all Turkish exports in the first half of 2018 (<https://bit.ly/2L7GDVp>).

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 29 June 2018. Turkey's STM and BrasFELS shipyard have teamed for the Tamandaré-class corvette program of Brazil's Navy. Four corvettes shall be built in Brazil. There is a total of nine contenders for the \$1.6bn program (<https://bit.ly/2zynDLd>).

*Azeri Defence*, 24 June 2018. The Air Force of Azerbaijan is reportedly the first foreign operator of SOM cruise missiles developed by Roketsan. The missile had been demonstrated on the occasion of the 100th anniversary parade of the Azerbaijan Army (<https://bit.ly/2uqJjD1>).

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## Defense Modernization and Support

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### Jordan

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 8 June 2018. "Jordan has received back into service the first of 12 Bell AH-1F Cobra attack helicopters that are being put through an extensive upgrade process. (...) The aircraft are being rewired and reconditioned by SES to ensure their quality and integrity, before Northrop Grumman integrates the new avionics solution. Further to SES and Northrop Grumman, Bell is helping with the refurbishment of the airframes while Honeywell is involved in upgrading the helicopters engines" (<https://bit.ly/2L8blxw>).

### United Arab Emirates

*Saab*, 18 June 2018. "Saab has received an order from the United Arab Emirates for additional functionality for the advanced airborne early warning & control (AEW&C) solution GlobalEye" worth around US\$39M (<https://bit.ly/2lgXczL>).

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## Defense Procurement

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### Bahrain

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 24 June 2018. Lockheed Martin has received a US\$1.12bn contract to deliver 16 F-16V aircraft to Bahrain until 2023. In September 2017, the U.S. State Department approved the sale of a total of 19 F-16V (<https://bit.ly/2mflxWR>).

### Kuwait

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 27 June 2018. "Boeing has received a USD1.5 billion contract for the production and delivery of 28 F/A-18E/F Super Hornet combat aircraft for Kuwait. (...) The fixed-price-incentive-firm contract provides for the production and delivery of 22 single-seat F/A-18Es and six twin-seat F/A-18Fs by the end of January 2021" (<https://bit.ly/2KqZElr>).

### Middle East

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 15 June 2018. "The Australia-based company Drone-Shield announced on 14 June that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of a Middle Eastern country had placed a USD3.2 million for 70 units of its Drone-Gun tactical jammer. "This is the largest known order for tactical drone mitigation equipment of this kind globally [and] establishes Drone-Shield as the industry leader," it said. It did not identify the country, but said it is allied with Western governments and has one of the largest defence budgets in the world. It noted that the United States needed to approve the order, but said this is expected in the next two months" (<https://bit.ly/2L6sp71>).

### Qatar

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 3 July 2018. "Qatar has added nine BAE Systems Hawk advanced jet trainer aircraft to its previously disclosed procurement of Eurofighter Typhoons. The company announced on 29 June that the emirate has amended the contract it signed in late 2017 for 24 Typhoons to include nine Hawks (previously, it had stated its intention to buy six of the trainers). Hawk deliveries will commence in 2021, with the first of the Typhoons following in 2022. No financials pertaining to the details of the Hawks were disclosed" (<https://bit.ly/2Jgd5Qz>).

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 11 June 2018. "Qatar has selected the Lockheed Martin AN/AAQ-33 Sniper advanced targeting pod (ATP) to equip its fleet of Dassault Rafale combat aircraft (...). The Qatar Emiri Air Force (QEAF) will receive the pods, spares, and deployment support from 2019" (<https://bit.ly/2uf7Z2h>).

### United Arab Emirates

*Jane's Defence Weekly*, 15 June 2018. "The UAE Armed Forces is set to receive and field its first Rabdan 8×8 infantry fighting vehicles (IFV) in 2018, *Jane's* has been told. The selection of the Rabdan was announced during IDEX 2017, with Otokar's Land Systems subsidiary forming a joint venture with Tawazun Holdings subsidiary Heavy Vehicles Industries (HVI) called Al-Jasoor. Speaking to *Jane's* at Eurosatory, Al Jasoor Board Member Sedef Vehbi said that the project is for 700 8×8 vehicles in total, with Otokar currently executing the production of the first batch of 100 IFVs" (<https://bit.ly/2ji-ozCX>).

## Military Cooperation and Training

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### Bahrain

*Bahrain News Agency*, 26 June 2018. Commander-in-Chief of Bahrain Defense Force (BDF) Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa signed a joint defense cooperation agreement with Pakistani Defense Secretary Zamir Ul Hassan Shah. Details were not disclosed (<https://bit.ly/2KVnXZN>).

### **Egypt**

*Ekathimerini*, 22 June 2018. Greece, Egypt, and Cyprus have conducted a joint land air exercise "stretching from the island of Crete to the coast of the North African country" (<https://bit.ly/2LbHukE>).

*Al Bawaba*, 20 June 2018. Naval forces of Spain and Egypt have carried out a joint training over several days off Egypt's coast. The exercise included "the implementation of sea navigation and supply formations, inspecting suspected vessels, the search for and discovery of enemy submarines, and securing vessels carrying important cargo" (<https://bit.ly/2Na22uB>).

### **Saudi Arabia**

*Arab News*, 9 July 2018. "Saudi Arabia signed a bilateral military agreement with France aimed at protecting classified information. The deal was signed by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and French Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly, the Saudi press agency reported" (<https://bit.ly/2NaP6EC>).

### **United Arab Emirates**

*WAM*, 10 July 2018. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces has received U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. They "discussed means to deepen bilateral relations, strategic cooperation and coordination in various fields, including joint efforts to confront extremism, terrorism and its affiliated groups. They also explored ways to enhance security and stability and achieve peace in the region" (<https://bit.ly/2N9PzqN>).

*WAM*, 6 July 2018. "Mohammed bin Ahmad Al Bawardi, UAE's Minister of State for Defense Affairs, received, at the headquarters of the Ministry of Defence in Abu Dhabi, Hadi Tjahjanto, Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of Indonesia (...) Both sides discussed ways of promoting their friendship and cooperation in military and defense affairs, to serve their mutual interests. They also exchanged opinions about regional and international developments and issues of mutual interest" (<https://bit.ly/2NPbhBB>).

## **Cybersecurity and Space**

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### **Iran**

*Spacewatch Global*, 6 June 2018. "The head of the Iran Space Agency (ISA), Morteza Barari, announced on 3 June 2018 that all current Iranian satellite projects are funded until the end of the Iranian fiscal year ending 21 March 2019" (<https://bit.ly/2NfFJDN>).

### **Oman**

*SatelliteProMe.com*, 14 June 2018. "The Sultanate of Oman has confirmed plans to launch two medium-sized satellites by the end of 2019, according to Dr. Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Salim al Futaisi, Minister of Transport and

Communications. The Oman Astronomical Society (OAS), which has been heading the project will supervise the project, in partnership with prominent academic figures and several government ministries (such as) transport, communication, telecommunications and armed forces" (<https://bit.ly/2uwSWA2>).

### Saudi Arabia

*Arab News*, 4 July 2018. "Former members of the US Department of Defense will be working with the Prince Mohammed bin Salman College of Cyber Security, Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies in teaching various aspects of cyber warfare. The announcement follows the signing of an agreement between the college and IronNet Cybersecurity. College Dean, Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Dahlawi, who signed on behalf of the advisor at the Royal Court, Saud bin Abdullah Al-Qahtani, said the agreement meant the college was the first in the region to teach cyber warfare at a high level" (<https://bit.ly/2tVn0pL>).

*Al Bawaba*, 26 June 2018. "Newly released statistics from *Trend Micro Incorporated* (...) revealed that the Kingdom's vulnerability to malicious online attacks has decreased. Numbers for KSA in Q1 of 2018 show marked improvements against previous tallies, with a sum of 2.7 million malware detections and 9.5 million ransomware threats, or 0.55% of the 1.7 billion ransomware attacks globally. Malware threats in the Kingdom was at its highest in the first month of the year when 921,512 infected files were detected by Trend Micro. It dwindled down to 898,093 in February and saw a slight uptick in March, reaching 904,983. Trend Micro also revealed that online banking malwares for Q1 of 2018 stood at 636, while macro malware total was 206 in the same period. Ransomware remains a major threat, especially in a country of over 32 million people and one of the largest ICT market in the Gulf. Yet, Saudi Arabia fared well in dodging ransomware attacks, landing only on the third spot in the whole of the Middle East behind Iran and Israel, which accounted for 1.66% and 1.44% respectively of global ransomware threats" (<https://bit.ly/2mbJ4Z1>).

*Arab News*, 24 June 2018. "Prince Mohammed bin Salman College for Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies has signed a strategic partnership deal with Stanford University in the US. (...) Stanford will contribute to the development of academic content at the college covering cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, high-performance computing and cloud computing" (<https://bit.ly/2JgLsGS>).

### Turkey

*Al Bawaba*, 11 June 2018. "An instructor at the cosmonaut training center in Russia has invited Turkish pilots to join his country's cosmonaut training program. 'If Turkey wants to participate in the program, choose strong and healthy people with higher technical education and send [them here], we are ready to train them,' Viktor Suvorov, an instructor at Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center, told *Anadolu Agency* (<https://bit.ly/2LhG4oZ>).

### United Arab Emirates

*WAM, 9 July 2018.* "The Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) has announced that 18 candidates are currently undergoing the final stage of the interviews leading up to choosing the first Emirati astronaut corps of the UAE Astronaut Programme. The programme aims to train and prepare the first Emirati astronaut corps to be sent to space for various scientific missions" (<https://bit.ly/2zKNu2L>).

*Al Bawaba, 26 June 2018.* "From facial recognition and iris scans, to crypto currency, the UAE's banking and finance security innovation is driving the GCC's cybersecurity market to USD 8 billion in 2018, industry experts announced today. UAE banks are rapidly deploying multi-factor authentication to confirm a person's identity, with several factors, such as a smartphone, a password, and a facial scan. The Emirates Blockchain Strategy 2021 could also see digital banking transactions on bitcoins, based on the secure digital ledger technology called blockchain" (<https://bit.ly/2NMfENC>).

*Al Defayia, 25 June 2018.* "The UAE Space Agency and the South African National Space Agency, SANSA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation between them in the areas of peaceful exploration of the outer space. As per the MoU, the two parties will work together in the different areas of peaceful uses of outer space and exchange of information, data and expertise related to space sciences, technologies, applications, policies and laws. They will also support their respective plans for human resources development and exchange of engineers, professionals and academics" (<https://bit.ly/2uw9PuO>).

#### 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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