



Arab Defense Industry Papers News Bulletin

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The Big Picture

Egypt

Jane's Defence Weekly, 19 October 2018. "The Egyptian military released the first imagery of one of its Chinese-made AVIC Wing Loong unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) on 14 October as part of a video to mark the Egyptian Air Force's 45th anniversary. The footage showed a single Wing Loong taking off from a desert airbase with one munition under each wing. The weapons appeared to be Blue Arrow 7 (BA-7) laser-guided missiles" (<https://bit.ly/2RbxPNN>).

TASS, 17 October 2018. The Russian and Egyptian Presidents have signed an agreement on cooperation and strategic partnership on 16 October 2018 in Sochi. No further details were given but Ury Ushakov, aid to Russian President Putin said the agreement "will also set tasks of boosting an entire range of bilateral issues in the future" (<https://bit.ly/2yqoR86>).

GCC

UK Ministry of Defense, 5 October 2018. "Gulf security is our security, Defence Minister Mark Lancaster reaffirmed whilst visiting Iraq, Bahrain and Oman." In Oman, Minister Lancaster visited Duqm port to open the Joint Logistics Support Base and witnessed the opening of Exercise Saif Sereea 3, involving 5,500 UK and Omani troops. In Bahrain and Iraq the Minister met local counterparts to discuss regional affairs (<https://bit.ly/2C1j0Jk>).

Jordan

Petra, 5 October 2018. "Jordan and Russia signed a memorandum of military technical cooperation on 3rd October 2018." Without providing further details, press reports indicated the memorandum was to "strengthen cooperation, joint work and exchange of experiences in various military fields" (<https://bit.ly/2qbW3fk>).

Oman

Financial Express, 27 September 2018. "India and Oman have agreed for deeper cooperation in maritime security and defence industry for future engagement and range of measures to enhance the defence relationship between the two countries" (<https://bit.ly/2PnP1SJ>).

Saudi Arabia

Arab News, 18 October 2018. "A Saudi defense ministry official has denied reports circulated on Israeli media claiming that a meeting was held between the Saudi military Chief of Staff, Gen. Fayyad bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, and his Israeli counterpart Gadi Eizenkot. The official said the correct information is that Al-Ruwaili participated in an international meeting for Defense Chiefs of Staff held in Washington, United States at the Andrews Air Force Base" (<https://bit.ly/2NN9J9F>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 18 October 2018. "Congressional momentum is building within the United States for blocking defence exports to Saudi Arabia after the disappearance of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi, although questions linger over what equipment to ban Riyadh from buying. Speaking to reporters at a 17 October breakfast in Washington, DC, Senator Jack Reed, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Service Committee, called for an "international investigation" into Khashoggi's disappearance and reported death during a visit to the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on 2 October" (<https://bit.ly/2yRq5IX>).

Syria

Jane's Defence Weekly, 11 October 2018. The US Federal Aviation Administration "posted a notice to airmen (NOTAM) on 9 October warning them to "be aware of possible loss of GNSS [global navigation satellite system] signal within Beirut FIR [flight information region] due to unforeseen reason". It recommended pilots use standard terminal arrival route (STARS) procedures when landing at Beirut's international airport. The NOTAM was posted after Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu announced on 2 October that additional electronic warfare systems had been deployed to Syria and switched on" (<https://bit.ly/2EBnQQ2>).

TASS, 4 October 2018. "The Russian Defense Ministry on (3rd October 2018) published a video showing the delivery of S-300 surface-to-air missile systems to Syria (...). The footage, aired by the Rossiya 24 and Zvezda TV channels, shows the missile systems being unloaded from the An-124-100 Ruslan strategic airlift jet aircraft at the Hmeymim air base in Syria" (<https://bit.ly/2qbc6K5>).

Turkey

Reuters, 25 October 2018; Defence Blog, 25 October 2018. According to Hulusi Akar, Turkey's Minister of Defense, delivery and installation of the Russian S-400 air defense system will begin in October 2019. Early next year Turkey will send personnel to Russia for training (<https://reut.rs/2CECLX6>, <https://bit.ly/2D3q8Gh>).

United Arab Emirates

Jane's Defence Weekly, 16 October 2018. With a video released on 12 October 2018 the Houthis claim responsibility for sinking one of the UAE's mine countermeasure vessels last year (<https://bit.ly/2J0tee9>).

WAM, 11 October 2018. "Mohammed bin Ahmad Al Bowardi, UAE Minister of State for Defense Affairs, received Salviano de Jesus Sequeira, Angolan Minister of Defense (photo), in the presence of Matar Salem Al Dhaheri, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Defense. They discussed means of promoting cooperation in defense and military affairs" and the possibility of "increasing cooperation in economic, commercial, investment and development fields" (<https://bit.ly/2ArTw6x>).

Defense Industry

Iran

C4 Defence, 17 October 2018. According to Amir Ali Hajizadeh, Head of the Air Force of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, the country has extended the reach of its naval missiles to hit targets at a distance of 700 kilometers. All missiles currently under production had "pin-point accuracy", he added (<https://bit.ly/2AeJPrS>).

Israel

Jane's Defence Weekly, 18 October 2018. IAI has reported progress on developing Unmanned Ground Vehicles (UGV). The Sahar UGV to detect and clear IED is about to "undergo trial and evaluation processes by a customer IAI did not identify". In addition, "another system that converts Caterpillar bulldozers into autonomous engineering vehicles has received a procurement contract" (<https://bit.ly/2PMWyYn>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 10 October 2018. "Israel Military Industries' (IMI) Iron Fist Light Configuration (IF-LC) active protection system (APS) is taking part in tests for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) ground vehicles, including the Eitan wheeled armoured personnel carrier (APC), bulldozers, and trucks, *Jane's* has learned. (...) Iron Fist uses both radar and infrared sensors to detect the launch and / or flight of incoming threats to a vehicle. It then launches a small interceptor from a rotating turret to achieve a 'hard kill' of the threat at a safe distance from the vehicle. IMI said it can intercept short-range rocket-propelled grenades, anti-tank missiles, and shells from non-recoilless guns" (<https://bit.ly/2P7tTjm>).

Jane's Defence Weekly, 8 October 2018. "Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has revealed a new autonomous improvised explosive device detection system based on its SAHAR family of unmanned ground vehicles. The system is 'a robotic engineering scout that integrates a combination of multiple sensors' for detecting IEDs, the company said" (<https://bit.ly/2EvBLar>).

Saudi Arabia

Arab News, 20 October 2018. At the 38th GITECH Technology Week in Dubai the King Abdul Aziz city for Science and Technology (KACST) has unveiled the Black Shark remotely operated boat developed in cooperation with Taqnia for Robotics and Smart Systems. The boat can be used for coastal surveillance and may carry weapons (<https://bit.ly/2S4oXKS>).

Arab News, 4 October 2018. According to Andreas Schwer, CEO of Saudi Arabian Military Industries (SAMI), Saudi Arabia is considering taking an equity stake in South Africa's Denel. In addition, there are talks with Paramount and other South African companies. "We are in discussions with the South African government in order to identify opportunities to set up strategic partnerships," Schwer said (<https://bit.ly/2Nm4mic>).

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, 4 October 2018. KAUST and Lockheed Martin have signed a Master Research Agreement and announced collaboration in the field of flexible electronics. This will "include the integration of KAUST developed flexible solar cells on fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles" (<https://bit.ly/2yNlGae>).

Al Defaiya, 2nd October 2018. BG (ret) Joseph Rank, who is replacing Alan Chinoda, has been appointed as CEO of Lockheed Martin Saudi Arabia. Rank served 31 years in the U.S. Army, most recently as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Middle East Policy in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (<https://bit.ly/2AsVhjQ>).

Syria

C4 Defence, 14 October 2018. Syrian Engineer Hamzah Salam living in southern Syria seems to have built an automated sniper system. "The automated system monitors the situation, and if necessary, opens fire. (The system) can be controlled remotely or operated in an autonomous operation mode," he told *Sputnik* (<https://bit.ly/2J3tR6U>).

Turkey

Jane's Navy International, 25 October 2018. "Sefine Shipyard will soon begin construction of a new fleet replenishment tanker for the Turkish Navy." Final design changes will be made in the coming weeks in cooperation with the Turkish Navy, "after which first steel was planned to be cut in mid-November. Under current planning, the ship will be delivered in late 2023" (<https://bit.ly/2z5q7gz>).

Mönch Publishing Group, 24 October 2018. German defense electronics company Hensoldt and Turkish partners STM and Bahcesehir University will

jointly develop an “optical communication system, which provides a link between submarines and divers, integrated with an optical surveillance system by Hensoldt.” The agreement was signed at this year’s Euronaval exhibition in Paris (<https://bit.ly/2SkgiUF>).

C4 Defence, 23 October 2018. Turkey’s planned new fighter jet TF-X will seemingly be powered by GE engines. According to C4 Defence the prototype and an uncertain number of aircraft will be powered with the F110 engine. Turkish TRMotor will develop an indigenous engine for the fighter (<https://bit.ly/2O8H9jk>).

Anadolu Agency, 21 October 2018. Turkey’s defense exports could be worth up to US\$2bn in 2018, Ismail Demir, Undersecretary for the Defense Industry, told Anadolu Agency. Until October 2018, defense exports had already reached US\$1.5bn, up 14% compared to last year (<https://bit.ly/2S8upN1>).

Daily Sabah, 15 October 2018. The Pakistan Navy has received its new Navy Fleet Tanker. Turkey’s STM was the main contractor for the vessel, which had been designed in Turkey and built in the Karachi Shipyard (<https://bit.ly/2CPs5G9>).

Defence Blog, 16 October 2018. FNSS has successfully tested the new anti-tank missile systems for the new PARS 4x4 Kaplan anti-tank vehicles (<https://bit.ly/2CnrQkl>).

C4 Defence, 9 October 2018. Turkey’s Aselsan and SpetsTechno Export, Ukraine, have signed a cooperation agreement to jointly produce communication equipment in Ukraine. Aselsan will also transfer technology to Ukraine (<https://bit.ly/2NIKoOk>).

Aselsan, 1 October 2018; *Jane’s Defence Weekly*, 2 October 2018. Aselsan and SSTEK Defence Inc, a company established by the Turkish Undersecretariat for the Defense Industry, have signed an agreement that provides Aselsan with a 51% stake in ULAC Communication, if okayed by Turkish authorities. ULAC develops broadband systems and provides mobile communication solutions (<https://bit.ly/2PLiCCM>; <https://bit.ly/2QWB37u>).

Defense Exports

Israel

Jane’s Defence Weekly, 24 October 2018. Bharat Electronics Limited has contracted Israel Aerospace Industries to supply air- and missile defense systems worth \$777M. Seven vessels of the Indian Navy will be equipped with the Barak-8 long-range surface-to-air missile (<https://bit.ly/2ONjdHE>).

Defense Modernization and Support

Kuwait

Al Defaiya, 24 October 2018. "Chief of the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lt.-General Mohammad Al-Khodhr met in Paris on Monday with his French counterpart General François Lecointre to discuss defense cooperation (...). The meeting explored ways to draw on the French experience while developing the military simulation center of the Kuwaiti Army, according to a statement by the Department of Moral Guidance and Public Relations of the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry" (<https://bit.ly/2z1tkxM>).

Defense Procurement

Bahrain

Defense Security Cooperation Agency, 28 September 2018. Bahrain is to receive Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System Unitary Rocket Pods and Army Tactical Missiles System (ATACMS) Unitary missiles worth around US\$300M (<https://bit.ly/2R8qPBU>).

Iraq

Defense Security Cooperation Agency, 4 October 2018. Iraq is to get five armed Bell 407GX helicopters with machine guns worth around US\$82.5M (<https://bit.ly/2DY7r8g>).

Qatar

Jane's Defence Weekly, 18 October 2018. "Qatar has decided not to proceed with the procurement of three Boeing E-737 Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft that was first announced in 2014, *Jane's* was told on 18 October. The US manufacturer said that the Gulf state has chosen not to complete the transaction, which at the time it was announced during the DIM-DEX 2014 exhibition in Doha was valued at QAR6.6 billion (USD1.8 billion in 2014 dollars). Boeing did not say why Qatar has not fulfilled its procurement" (<https://bit.ly/2J5YqZD>).

Turkey

Jane's Defence Weekly, 17 October 2018. "Turkey's military and security forces will receive 22 more Anka unmanned aerial vehicles and special purpose tactical wheeled armoured vehicles, local media reported a few days after the meeting of the Defense Industry Executive Committee of the Turkish Defense Industries Directorate on 10 October" (<https://bit.ly/2POhGx9>).

Military Cooperation and Training

Bahrain

BNA, 24 October 2018. Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have kicked off a naval exercise on 22 October 2018. The exercise is meant to advance combat performance and improve leadership competencies (<https://bit.ly/2D5ceDk>).

Egypt

TASS, 23 October 2018. 50 Russian paratroopers have arrived in Cairo for the “Defenders of Friendship 2018” exercise. The tactical exercise involved around 400 servicemen from both nations (<https://bit.ly/2qbGzrm>).

Al Defaiya, 12 October 2018. “The Egyptian and Saudi armed forces are conducting military drills dubbed ‘Tabuk 4’ in southern Egypt, according to Egypt’s military spokesperson, Tamer Al-Refaie (...) The Tabuk 4 drills aim to bolster military cooperation and ties between the two forces, in order to counter challenges and threats facing them,” a statement indicated (<https://bit.ly/2O4F343>).

Kuwait

KUNA, 12 October 2018. Army representatives of Kuwait and Turkey have signed a defense cooperation plan for 2019. Without going into details, press releases indicated the plan “aimed at strengthening bilateral relations” (<https://bit.ly/2EMXzyt>).

Oman

ONA, 19 October 2018; Muscat Daily, 6 October 2018. The Omani-British exercise Swift Sword 3 was launched on 17 October 2018. The exercise involves almost 5,500 troops of both nations. According to BG Hassan bin Ali al Mujaini, “disaster management and crisis management are two of the key areas that (the exercise) is looking at.” The exercise also involves “civil government bodies such as the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Health, municipalities and other ministries” (<https://bit.ly/2PWNFLF>; <https://bit.ly/2C26xon>).

Saudi Arabia

Al Defaiya, 23 October 2018. The Saudi and Emirate Air Forces launched the “Center of Air War Missile 2018” exercise on 21 October 2018, which also involves Air Force units from United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, France, and Egypt (<https://bit.ly/2ArhmiH>).

Arab News, 21 October 2018. Saudi ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki met Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, Pakistan’s Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral, on 19 October 2018 in Islamabad to discuss bilateral affairs. Earlier the same week Pakistan’s naval vessel PNS Saif paid a visit to Jeddah Islamic Port (<https://bit.ly/2yo8SHK>).

SPA, 11 October 2018. The Air Forces of Saudi Arabia and Tunisia concluded the first joint exercise on 10 October 2018. The exercise was launched in Tunisia on 1st October 2018 and focused on “training in aviation safety procedures, technical support, logistics and aircraft maintenance, training on speeding up air operations, standardization of military tactics used in flights and training on intercepting unauthorized aircraft” (<https://bit.ly/2Si9SWi>).

United Arab Emirates

WAM, 23 October 2018. Iron Magic 19, the UAE-US military exercise, was launched on 21 October 2018. The 2-week exercises shall contribute to “maximizing the combat capabilities and increase coordination between Emirati and US armed forces” (<https://bit.ly/2ArhmiH>).

WAM, 18 October 2018. “Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, UAE Minister of State for Defense Affairs, on Tuesday morning met with Nirmala Sitharaman, Indian Minister of Defense, in New Delhi and discussed defense cooperation between the UAE and India. The meeting comes as part of UAE defense delegation visit to India, where the two sides explored prospects of boosting coordination (and) discussed a number of regional and international issues of common concern” (<https://bit.ly/2Jke9EE>).

WAM, 17 October 2018. “Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, UAE Minister of State for Defense Affairs, received General Francois Lecointre, Chief of the Defense Staff of the French Army, who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting, Al Bowardi and Lecointre explored ways of boosting relations between the UAE and France, especially in the military and defense fields” (<https://bit.ly/2O7MYOd>).

Cybersecurity and Space

Saudi Arabia

SpaceWatch Middle East, 15 October 2018. “The Virgin Group, the parent company of Virgin Galactic and Virgin Orbit, has withdrawn from all discussions over a US1bn billion investment in its space activities with Saudi Arabia’s Public Investment Fund (PIF) following the alleged torture and murder of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, on 2 October 2018” (<https://bit.ly/2Ot1Ona>).

SpaceWatch Middle East, 9 October 2018. “Saudi Arabia’s King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) has developed and manufactured SaudiSat-5A and SaudiSat-5B, two high-resolution Earth observation satellites to be launched later this year from China” (<https://bit.ly/2RUXF9K>).

Arab News, 3 October 2018. Paola Severino, former Italian Minister of Justice, has led an Italian delegation to Saudi Arabia to explore opportunities for cooperation on cyber security with Saudi universities. Enzo Benigni, President and CEO of Elettronica, and Domitilla Benigni, COO of Elettronica, were among the delegation members (<https://bit.ly/2OyvPCp>).

United Arab Emirates

SpaceWatch Middle East, 9 October 2018. "The UAE's Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) signed a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) with the European Space Agency (ESA) to define frameworks for potential cooperation in space science and technology and capacity building for human spaceflight activities" (<https://bit.ly/2Ot2by4>).

WAM, 7 October 2018. "The French Embassy in the UAE (...) opened a representative office of the French space agency in Abu Dhabi (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiale, CNES) to be the first foreign space agency opening a representative office in the UAE" (<https://bit.ly/2C2hu9t>).

SpaceWatch Middle East, 4 October 2018. NASA and the UAE have signed a new Implementing Agreement on 2 October 2018, which "enables the discussion of training arrangements for UAE astronauts and provides further opportunities for the UAE to utilise the International Space Station (ISS), and for the UAE Space Agency to contribute to lunar exploration" (<https://bit.ly/2PFG2lp>).

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:

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