

Nuclear, Missile & Space Digest

Volume 15, Number 18

A Fortnightly Newsletter from the Indian Pugwash Society

September 30, 2023

Convenor

Amb. Sujan R. Chinoy

Executive Council

Cdr. (Dr.) Probal K. Ghosh

**Air Marshal S. G. Inamdar
(Retd.)**

Dr. Roshan Khanijo

Amb. R. Rajagopalan

Dr. Rajesh Rajagopalan

**Shri Dinesh Kumar
Yadvendra**

A. India

- LAUNCH OF Y - 12654 (MAHENDRAGIRI)
- "Sunshine moment for India," says Dr Jitendra Singh as PSLV-XL launches India's first Solar Mission
- New 700MW nuclear plant in Gujarat, India, begins running at full capacity
- INDIAN AIR FORCE AND DRONE FEDERATION OF INDIA TO CO-HOST BHARAT DRONE SHAKTI 2023
- Nuclear energy, defence, visa to be discussed in Modi-Biden meet Friday
- India's G20 Presidency coincides with the country's glory in Space, says Dr Jitendra Singh
- We are now lending Space sector services to America and Russia, earning over \$170 million and over 250 million Euros: Dr Jitendra Singh
- G20 Summit: PM Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron pledge to strengthen India-France defence ties
- Invest more in R&D for India to move with world's pace: Raksha Mantri to domestic defence manufacturers at North Tech Symposium in Jammu

B. Russia

- Advanced Sarmat ICBM systems go on combat alert in Russia – Roscosmos head
- Risk grows of open military clash erupting among nuclear powers in Asia-Pacific – diplomat
- Musk says he refused to activate Starlink off Crimea to prevent attack on Russian fleet
- Ukraine's activity towards Energodar is of terrorist nature – Karchaa
- Russia to expand cooperation with DPRK while staying true to UN commitments – Kremlin
- Lavrov warns West against attempt to steamroll anti-North Korean resolution through UNSC
- West sees Russia as constant threat – top Russian security official



Indian Pugwash Society

No.1, Development Enclave,
Rao Tula Ram Marg, Near USI, Delhi-110010
Email: indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com

Tel. No (91-11) 2671-7983

Fax No. (91-11)2615-4192

C. China

- Wenchang Space Launch Site in S. China's Hainan plans to build a new generation of manned lunar rocket launch site
- Fukushima: China's anger at Japan is fuelled by disinformation
- Is US replicating what China's been doing for a decade with drone plan?
- Cambridge University to end partnership with Chinese missiles company
- Developing countries look to China in push for smaller nuclear reactors
- Private company becomes first in China to launch rocket from sea
- China rejected call to join Fukushima water framework
- China says it was not invited to join IAEA system to monitor Fukushima water
- China must address the nuclear threat
- China's most advanced Fujian aircraft carrier on track for 2025 PLA handover, latest Weibo photos suggest
- China's concern about nuclear wastewater may be more about politics than science
- China races ahead in global nuclear power development
- Innovation in China's space industry: overcoming decoupling
- China poised to surpass the U.S. as the world's top nuclear power producer
- China shares over 1.5 terabytes of remote sensing satellite data with BRICS countries: CNSA
- China's military sets up new base for space domain awareness

D. Kazakhstan

- Kazakhstan to hold referendum on first nuclear plant

E. Pakistan

- ISNET-SUPARCO to arrange 'Space based Disaster Monitoring Course' from Sept 5
- Pakistan nuclear weapons, 2023

F. Europe

- Czech PM suggests four new nuclear units needed
- Atomic age is over in Germany, Chancellor Scholz insists
- Germany, Italy highlight growing European nuclear divide
- Can Europe Rely on French Nuclear Power to Help Avoid Another Energy Crisis This Winter?
- UK sets out nuclear research plans after rejecting Euratom membership
- Hungary eyeing to switch its Paks NPP from Russian to French fuel - media
- IAEA Concludes Long Term Operational Safety Review of Spain's Ascó Nuclear Power Plant
- ENEC, OSGE cooperate to advance SMRs in Europe
- Poland no closer to hosting nuclear weapons – president
- EU foreign policy chief to discuss sanctions with other JCPOA members, including Russia
- European powers to retain sanctions aimed at deterring Iran nuclear ambitions
- IAEA Mission Finds Poland's Regulatory Framework in Line with Safety Standards, Stresses Need for Regulatory Independence and Funding
- IAEA Board on naval nuclear propulsion: AUKUS Partners update

G. Ukraine

- Update 181 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine
- Ukrainian intelligence unconcerned with deployment of nuclear arms in Belarus
- Update 182 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine
- Kiev regime ramps up use of Western arms to attack Russian nuclear power, chemical plants
- IAEA warns of nuclear safety threat as combat spikes near Ukraine power plant
- Grossi says no consequences from using depleted uranium ammunition in Ukraine
- Update 183 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

H. United States of America

- US regulator ready for next-generation nuclear, NRC says
- Russia Warns of 'Escalation' If US Stations Nuclear Bombs in UK
- U.S. Air Force conducts test launch of unarmed Minuteman III ICBM from California
- US warned Russia about training Minuteman III ICBM launch in advance – Pentagon
- Musk rejects charges of treason for not allowing Ukraine to activate Starlink near Crimea
- DOD Exercises Option on Second Micro Nuclear Reactor Design
- U.S. Announces New Support for Ghana's Civil Nuclear Energy Program under the FIRST

West Asia

I. Iran

- Installing new IAEA cameras depends on adherence by JCPOA parties: nuclear chief
- AEOI Spokesman: Iran Producing Highest Quality Heavy Water Across Globe
- Iranian Commander: Indigenous Drone Warns Off RQ-4 Global Hawk, US P-8 Poseidon Near Border
- Iran Deploys New Satellite and Russian-Made Trainer Jets
- Iran FM says extensive talks held to revive JCPOA
- DM: All Western Arms Embargos on Iran to Be Lifted within Weeks
- Iranian drones; now in the Western Hemisphere
- Spokesman: Pressures, Propaganda Unable to Hinder Iran's Nuclear Program
- IRGC Deputy Commander: Israel Powerless Against Iran's Hypersonic Missiles
- Grossi urges Iran to seriously cooperate with IAEA
- AEOI Chief Calls on West to Refrain from Raising Excessive Demands Regarding Iran's N. Program
- IRGC Commander: Israel to Further Shorten Its Life by Threatening Iran

J. Israel

- Aeronautics Secures \$40M Contract to Supply Loitering Munition UAS to Int'l Customer
- Report: India Acquires Rampage Missile from Israel, Is Establishing Testing Facility
- IAI to Tap Opportunities in India's Short-Range Air Defence Systems
- Israel Orders Third F-35 Fighter Jets Squadron
- Gallant, defense brass met to examine consequences of Saudi normalization – report SpearUAV Unveils the MCL Viper, Aimed at Revolutionizing Strike Capabilities for Maneuvering Forces

- Elbit Awarded \$200 Million Contracts in Europe
- Report: IAI Trying to Sell Drones to Uzbekistan
- Elbit Awarded \$109 Million Contract to Supply BAE Systems Hägglunds with Iron Fist Active Protection System
- Israel Air Force Welcomes New UAV, Dubbed “Spark”
- Elbit Systems Unveils the Find-and-Strike (FAST) Capsule
- IAI, 2Excel Aviation Develop Future Use of Uncrewed Aerial Systems
- Elbit Debuts Crossbow Next Generation Turreted Mortar System

K. Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia’s Nuclear Ambitions Have Put The U.S. Into A Bind
- Saudi Nuclear Ambitions Worry Israeli Defense Officials, but Netanyahu’s Happy to Look the Other Way
- Saudi nuclear program can be secretly managed - top Israeli sources

L. Turkiye

- Turkish defense firm exports advanced surveillance system to Africa
- Biden admin says does not link Türkiye’s F-16 deal to Sweden’s NATO bid
- Turkish defense giants display innovations at London expo
- Türkiye says nears deal with China for 3rd nuclear power plant

M. East Asia

- North Korea simulates tactical nuclear strike in response to US-South Korean drills
- ASEAN calls on nuclear powers to remain adherent to arms control mechanisms
- IAEA Conducts Its First Seawater Sampling After Japan’s Discharge of ALPS Treated Water, Finds Tritium Level Below Limit
- North Korea floats out new sub carrying tactical nuclear weapons
- New North Korean submarine to terrify enemies even if not nuclear-powered – Kim Jong Un
- DPRK’s new sub to force Japan, South Korea spend more on missile defense – analyst
- Republic of Korea Makes First Visit to IAEA Office at Fukushima Daiichi Under the IAEA - ROK Fukushima Information Mechanism (IKFIM)

N. Australia

- Allies target early AUKUS milestones to keep 20-year plan on track
- Federal government spent \$100 million on now abandoned nuclear waste dump near Kimba

A. India

LAUNCH OF Y - 12654 (MAHENDRAGIRI)

PIB, September 1, 2023

Mahendragiri, the seventh Stealth Frigate of Project 17A being built at MDL, was launched today at the shipyard by Dr (Smt.) Sudesh Dhankhar, wife of Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar. As *Mahendragiri* descended into the waters of Arabian Sea, a wave of euphoria swept across the gathering. Dignitaries, Naval personnel, Shipbuilders, and spectators were united in their heartfelt applause, in admiration of the vessel and the team behind her creation. Hon'ble Vice President of India was the Chief Guest for the event. The Governor of Mumbai, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Chief of the Naval Staff, senior ministers from the State Government, senior dignitaries and senior officers from the Ministry of Defence and Indian Navy, were amongst the several dignitaries who attended the launch ceremony.

[https://pib.gov.in/
PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1954111](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1954111)

"Sunshine moment for India," says Dr Jitendra Singh as PSLV-XL launches India's first Solar Mission

PIB, September 2, 2023

As the ISRO's trusted workhorse, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-XL) launched India's first Solar Mission, - Aditya L1 from Sriharikota Range today, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh termed it as India's "sunshine moment".

"While the whole world watched this with baited breath, it is indeed a sunshine moment for India," he said, addressing ISRO scientists and engineers at the Mission Control Room soon after the PSLV-C57 ejected Aditya L1 around 1 pm IST. "Indian scientists had been working, toiling day and night for years and years together. But now comes the moment of vindication, the moment of redeeming the pledge to the nation," said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge)

Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy.

[https://pib.gov.in/
PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1954317](https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1954317)

New 700MW nuclear plant in Gujarat, India, begins running at full capacity

Power Technology, September 4, 2023

Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCI) has started operations at maximum capacity for the 700MW Kakrapar nuclear power plant Unit-3 in the Indian state of Gujarat, the *Hindustan Times* has reported. Although operations at the third unit had started by June's end, the power plant is said to have been operating at only 90% of its capacity until now. Considered to be the first indigenously developed nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project, it was designed, built, commissioned and will be operated by NPCI, a public sector company under the Department of Atomic Energy.

NPCI is building two 700MW pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWR), including Units 3 and 4 at Kakrapar, where there are two 220MW power plants. Officials say that in July, the fourth unit recorded 97.56% progress.

<https://www.power-technology.com/news/nuke-plant-india-begins-operations/>

INDIAN AIR FORCE AND DRONE FEDERATION OF INDIA TO CO-HOST BHARAT DRONE SHAKTI 2023

PIB, September 6, 2023

Drone technology has revolutionised the civil and defence sectors by increasing efficiency, reducing exposure to risk as also by being a capability enhancer. The usage of drones in India is also seeing an increase - both, in the military, as well as in the civil domain. The IAF uses Remotely Piloted Aircraft extensively for Intelligence Surveillance & Reconnaissance

operations. Its faith in the emerging Drone design and development capabilities in India are borne by its initiatives like the Meher Baba Swarm Drone competition that sought to tap this indigenous potential. Further iterations of this competition are currently underway.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1955079>

Nuclear energy, defence, visa to be discussed in Modi-Biden meet Friday

WION, September 8, 2023

Biden has already departed for India to attend the high-stakes G20 Leaders' Summit. Hours before emplaning the flight to New Delhi, Biden said, "I'm headed to the G20 – the premier forum for international economic cooperation – focused on making progress on Americans' priorities, delivering for developing nations, and showing our commitment to the G20 as a forum that can deliver." "The White House expects to see meaningful progress on GE jet engines and civil nuclear technology in upcoming bilateral talks between US President Joe Biden and India Prime Minister Narendra Modi," national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Thursday.

<https://www.wionews.com/india-news/nuclear-energy-defence-visa-to-be-discussed-in-modi-biden-meet-on-sept-8-evening-633498>

India's G20 Presidency coincides with the country's glory in Space, says Dr Jitendra Singh

PIB, September 8, 2023

India's G20 Presidency coincides with the country's glory in Space, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy.

"G20 Summit is happening in India at a time when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emerged as the tallest leader of the world.

The Summit is taking place at a time when India's flag is flying on the South Pole of Moon, the first time any spacecraft has landed on the farther side of the Moon, and the nation's achievements in Science & Technology, including the pioneering R&D success story in Covid vaccines, are being hailed across the globe," the Minister said.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1955530>

We are now lending Space sector services to America and Russia, earning over \$170 million and over 250 million Euros: Dr Jitendra Singh

PIB, September 9, 2023

World today looks up to India as an equal partner in international collaboration of every nature, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Space and Atomic Energy. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is today the world's senior-most Head of State and is looked up to with reverence by every other Head of State, he added. In an exclusive interview to a leading national periodical, Dr Jitendra Singh said, "We now have a collaboration with most of the countries. The best part of the collaboration with Russia and America is that we are no longer the lesser cousins. We are now equal partners and, in many ways, more than equal. For example, in the Space sector, we are lending our services to America and Russia...we have already earned more than \$170 million and more than 250 million Euros. We now do \$8 billion (Rs 66,000 crore) of Space business. But at the pace we are rising, India could go up to \$40 billion (Rs 3.3 lakh crore) by 2040, while a recent international report, the ADL report, states that we could even go up to \$100 billion," he said.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1955768>

G20 Summit: PM Modi, French President Emmanuel Macron pledge to strengthen India-France defence ties

Mint, September 11, 2023

During their meeting at the G20 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron expressed their commitment to enhancing the defence cooperation between India and France. A joint statement on the Modi-Macron talks said they acknowledged “good progress” in discussions for the Jaitapur nuclear project and welcomed engagement of both sides to expand cooperation to establish a partnership for co-developing SMR (small modular reactors) and AMR (advanced modular reactors) technologies as well as the forthcoming firming up of a “dedicated declaration” of intent.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/world/g20-summit-pm-modi-french-president-emmanuel-macron-pledge-to-strengthen-india-france-defence-ties-11694396569182.html>

Invest more in R&D for India to move with world’s pace: Raksha Mantri to domestic defence manufacturers at North Tech Symposium in Jammu

PIB, September 12, 2023

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has called upon the domestic defence manufacturers to invest more in Research & Development (R&D) for India to keep up pace with the continuously-evolving world. He was addressing the North Tech Symposium, jointly organised by the Northern Command of the Indian Army, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and IIT, Jammu on September 12, 2023. Shri Rajnath Singh was of the view that although R&D is a risky venture as it requires out-of-the-box thinking and sometimes does not give desired results, it still remains one of the basic elements for the development of any country. Hence, capital investment in R&D becomes a necessity, he emphasised.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1956660>

B. Russia

Advanced Sarmat ICBM systems go on combat alert in Russia – Roscosmos head

TASS, September 1, 2023

Advanced Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) systems have assumed combat duty in Russia, Roscosmos Chief Yury Borisov said on Friday.

“The Sarmat strategic system has assumed combat alert posture,” the Roscosmos head said at an open lesson of the educational marathon organized by Russia’s Knowledge Society.

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced on February 23 that top-notch Sarmat systems with new heavy ICBMs would go on combat duty in Russia already this year.

However, Roscosmos’ presentation demonstrated at the event suggests that Sarmat ICBM systems are set to go on combat alert next year.

<https://tass.com/defense/1668567>

Risk grows of open military clash erupting among nuclear powers in Asia-Pacific – diplomat

TASS, September 7, 2023

The built-up potential for conflict between nuclear powers is threatening to erupt into an open military confrontation in the Asia-Pacific region, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said.

“The military and political situation in the world continues to deteriorate. The built-up potential for conflict, including the potential for a conflict between nuclear powers, if not resolved in time, has already led to an extremely acute crisis in the Euro-Atlantic region and is threatening to escalate into an open military confrontation in the Asia-Pacific region,” he told reporters on the sidelines of a regional seminar titled “Strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime.”

<https://tass.com/defense/1671015>

Musk says he refused to activate Starlink off Crimea to prevent attack on Russian fleet

TASS, September 8, 2023

US entrepreneur Elon Musk said he had turned down Ukraine's request to activate his Starlink system near the coast of Crimea, fearing that it may be used in Ukraine's attack on Russian fleet.

"There was an emergency request from government authorities to activate Starlink all the way to Sevastopol," Musk wrote on X, a social network formerly known as Twitter. "If I had agreed to their request, then SpaceX would be explicitly complicit in a major act of war and conflict escalation."

CNN reported on Thursday with reference to Musk's autobiography written by writer and journalist Walter Isaacson that the businessman had disconnected Ukraine from Starlink in 2022 to thwart a covert attack by the Ukrainian armed forces on the Russian fleet based in Crimea.

<https://tass.com/world/1671431>

Ukraine's activity towards Energodar is of terrorist nature – Karchaa

TASS, September 10, 2023

The Ukrainian troops' activity in relation to the town of Energodar, where the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant is located, is terrorist in nature, Renat Karchaa, an adviser to the CEO of the Rosenergoatom concern, has told TASS.

The day before, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported that the agency's specialists at the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant had heard explosions near the facility several times over the past week. The plant itself was not damaged. The agency's statement also noted that the IAEA team of experts had been notified that ZNPP had decided to temporarily minimize personnel at the facility over the next few days due to concerns about the growing risk of military operations.

<https://tass.com/russia/1672105>

Russia to expand cooperation with DPRK while staying true to UN commitments – Kremlin

TASS, September 13, 2023

Russia will continue to fulfill all its UN commitments while developing relations with next door neighbor North Korea, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with the "60 Minutes" program on the Rossiya-1 channel.

He was commenting on the possibility of Moscow lifting sanctions against Pyongyang.

"Russia will continue to remain a responsible member of the United Nations, a permanent member of the [UN] Security Council and also the closest neighbor of the DPRK. And it will develop relations in all areas," he noted.

North Korea is subject to one of the most severe sanctions regimes to date. Resolution 2397 adopted by the UN Security Council provides for restrictions on the supply of oil and its products to the country.

<https://tass.com/politics/1674365>

Lavrov warns West against attempt to steamroll anti-North Korean resolution through UNSC

TASS, September 13, 2023

The West's reluctance to engage in efforts toward reaching a settlement on the Korean Peninsula effectively nullifies its attempts to steamroll the adoption of a resolution against North Korea by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in a comment.

In an interview with reporter Pavel Zarubin, an excerpt of which was posted on the journalist's Telegram channel, Lavrov said: "There has been talk of nuclear weapons somehow being deployed in the southern part of the Korean Peninsula, in South Korea, and in Japan." "Their flat refusal to address any political issues puts an end to any further

attempts to force through a resolution on sanctions [against North Korea] at the [UN] Security Council," he said.

<https://tass.com/politics/1674321>

West sees Russia as constant threat – top Russian security official

TASS, September 15, 2023

Russia is perceived by Western countries as a constant threat, and is using its entire arsenal of resources against it, Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolay Patrushev said in an article for the Razvedchik (Intelligence Officer) magazine.

Patrushev noted that this is due to the fact that "the dismantling of the colonial system began after World War II under the direct influence of the achievements and victories of the Soviet Union," because it was then that Western countries lost control over their "possessions" and "dozens of states around the world gained independence."

<https://tass.com/politics/1675597>

C. China

Wenchang Space Launch Site in S. China's Hainan plans to build a new generation of manned lunar rocket launch site

Global Times, September 1, 2023

The Wenchang Space Launch Site in South China's Hainan Province is the mother port for China's space station construction and one of the most advanced space launch centers in the world. The Wenchang Space Launch Site is planning to build a new generation of manned lunar rocket launch site, from where manned lunar missions will set sail, media reported. Managed by Xichang Satellite Launch Center, Wenchang Space Launch Site has achieved technological breakthroughs such as high-flow filling of cryogenic propellants and parallel testing and launch of large and medium-sized cryogenic liquid rockets since its establishment.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202309/1297399.shtml>

Fukushima: China's anger at Japan is fuelled by disinformation

BBC, September 2, 2023

A report by a UK-based data analysis company called Logically, which aims to fight misinformation, claims that since January, the Chinese government and state media have been running a coordinated disinformation campaign targeting the release of the waste water. As part of this, mainstream news outlets in China have continually questioned the science behind the nuclear waste water discharge. "China always protects the safety and legitimate rights and interests of foreigners in China, in accordance with law," China's foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in response to the demand, insisting that Beijing has considered the "so-called concerns of the Japanese side".

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-66667291>

Is US replicating what China's been doing for a decade with drone plan?

South China Morning Post, September 3, 2023

The United States has pledged to build thousands of uncrewed ships, aircraft and other autonomous systems in the latest move to sharpen its edge against China's military. Jon Grevatt, head of Asia-Pacific news at defence intelligence firm Janes, said large numbers of unmanned systems had been built in China quickly, easily and cheaply by leveraging the power of an integrated military-commercial sector. "I would say that the Replicator initiative is actually kind of replicating some of what China has been doing for the last 10 years," he said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3233146/us-replicating-what-chinas-been-doing-decade-drone-plan>

Cambridge University to end partnership with Chinese missiles company

The Times, September 4, 2023

Cambridge University is to end a partnership with a Chinese state-owned military technology firm whose parent company produces spacecraft, missiles and drones, *The Times* can reveal. A research group within the university, the Centre for Advanced Photonics and Electronics (Cape), works with several Chinese firms, including the tech giant Huawei and a subsidiary of the main contractor on China's space programme.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cambridge-university-to-end-partnership-with-chinese-missiles-company-fwshmm6mc>

Developing countries look to China in push for smaller nuclear reactors

Global Times, September 5, 2023

Addressing the Interregional Workshop on Technology Development and Applications of Small Modular Reactors, which is currently being held in Sanya, South China's Hainan Province, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Liu Hua referred to Small Modular Reactors as "game changers" that can allow regions and countries to deploy nuclear power rapidly and on a large scale for the purpose of mitigating climate change. Archibold Buah-Kwofie, deputy director of the Nuclear Power Institute of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), told the *Global Times* the interest in pursuing SMRs in Africa is high because the power grids in most African countries are small and SMRs offer an opportunity for reduced investment in grid infrastructure, which is ideal for most African countries.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202309/1297624.shtml>

Private company becomes first in China to launch rocket from sea

China Daily, September 5, 2023

Galactic Energy, a rocket maker in Beijing, carried out the first sea-based launch mission by any Chinese private company. The satellites were built by Guodian Gaoke, a satellite operator in Beijing, and will be used to collect data for the internet of things, according to Galactic Energy. With the launch, the CERES 1 became the third Chinese rocket model – and the first made by a private company – capable of making liftoff both on land and at sea. Before it, China had performed five sea-based launches – four by the Long March 11 rocket and one by the Smart Dragon 3, which transported 37 satellites to their orbit. Both types are products of the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, a subsidiary of the State-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202309/05/WS64f6f609a310d2dce4bb40bf.html>

China rejected call to join Fukushima water framework

The Japan Times, September 6, 2023

China has rejected Japan's proposal that it join an international verification framework for assessing the results of radiation level monitoring of treated water being released into the sea from the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant, sources familiar with the bilateral relationship have said. China is staunchly opposed to the ocean discharge and has banned all seafood imports from Japan since it began in late August, calling the water "nuclear-contaminated." Beijing has also ignored Tokyo's repeated proposals for a science-based dialogue involving experts on the matter, Japanese officials said.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/09/06/japan/china-fukushima-radioactive-water/>

China says it was not invited to join IAEA system to monitor Fukushima water

Reuters, September 7, 2023

China was not invited to take part in the International Atomic Energy Agency's system in which countries can analyse the results of sea water monitoring off Fukushima, where treated radioactive water from a wrecked nuclear plant is being discharged, its embassy in Japan said. Media reports that China declined to participate in the monitoring system were fake information, the embassy said in a statement.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-says-it-was-not-invited-join-iaea-system-monitor-fukushima-water-2023-09-07/>

China must address the nuclear threat

Korea JoongAng Daily, September 7, 2023

In the Asean Plus Three Summit and the East Asia Summit (EAS), President Yoon Suk Yeol alerted the leaders of the countries on the deepening security threats in the region from North Korean nuclear missiles and appealed for their cooperation in addressing the danger. Yoon also demanded cooperation from China – a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and former chair country of the Six-Party Talks – in addressing the mounting security threat from North Korea. China cannot gain much from getting excessively close to Russia, which waged war on Ukraine, or from siding with North Korea, which continues playing with its coveted nuclear weapons. As the second largest economy and the third strongest military power, China must act in a way befitting of its stature now. Otherwise, it can never be respected by the rest of the world.

<https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/2023-09-07/opinion/editorials/China-must-address-the-nuclear-threat/1864641>

China's most advanced Fujian aircraft carrier on track for 2025 PLA handover, latest Weibo photos suggest

South China Morning Post, September 7, 2023

China's third and most advanced aircraft carrier is close to undergoing its first sea trials, latest photos posted online by military buffs suggest, taking the giant warship a step closer to becoming an actual combat platform. The pace of progress indicates that the Fujian, a 1,037-foot (316m) supercarrier, is ready to test its aircraft launch systems and will join the Chinese navy in 2025 as scheduled, military experts said. "The sea trials will mainly focus on testing the carrier's propulsion, navigation and communication systems, and then it can enter the second stage to go through [the testing of] other ship-borne equipment," Song said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3233627/chinas-most-advanced-fujian-aircraft-carrier-track-2025-pla-handover-latest-weibo-photos-suggest>

China's concern about nuclear wastewater may be more about politics than science

TIME, September 8, 2023

China isn't the only critic of Japan's discharge, but it is perhaps the loudest. China's foreign ministry called Japan "a saboteur of the ecological system and polluter of the global marine environment." And Chinese customs authorities banned all aquatic products coming from Japan since the wastewater release began on Aug. 24, despite being the biggest market for Japanese seafood exports before then. Reports of harassment of Japanese citizens in China soon followed. In reality, most scientists agree that the health effects of the wastewater on the marine environment and

consumers of seafood from the region are negligible. Some observers have even pointed out that similar discharges have been occurring for years by operators of nuclear power plants across the world—including in China.

<https://time.com/6311984/china-japan-nuclear-wastewater-science-politics/>

China races ahead in global nuclear power development

Oil Price, September 8, 2023

China currently has 55 operational nuclear reactors and 21 more under construction, with aims to diversify and lead in clean energy sources. The U.S. remains the highest generator of nuclear power with 93 operational reactors but has seen a decline in new projects since the mid-1980s. China's success in the nuclear sector stems from government support, state financing, and a commitment to expanding nuclear capacity to 150 GW in the next 15 years.

<https://oilprice.com/Alternative-Energy/Nuclear-Power/China-Races-Ahead-In-Global-Nuclear-Power-Development.html>

Innovation in China's space industry: overcoming decoupling

Asian Security, September 9, 2023

China's space program is a case study in how China has been able to become a world space power despite US export control restrictions. China's progress in space technologies can be attributed to several factors, including high-level leadership attention, long-term planning and funding, and technology transfer, both legal and illegal. Although US export control restrictions appear to have slowed People's Republic of China (PRC) advancements in space technologies, they have not been able to prevent China from achieving its goals.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14799855.2023.2256241?af=R>

China poised to surpass the U.S. as the world's top nuclear power producer

Forbes, September 11, 2023

However, China is the fastest-growing major nuclear energy producer, more than tripling its nuclear power generation over the past decade. At the current growth rate, China will surpass the U.S. as the world's largest nuclear power producer within a decade. As the world's largest consumer of coal, it is encouraging to see China ramping up nuclear power. India, the world's second-largest coal consumer, is also increasing its nuclear generation, albeit much more slowly.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rriapier/2023/09/11/china-poised-to-surpass-the-us-as-the-worlds-top-nuclear-power-producer/?sh=1c26a7c26092>

China shares over 1.5 terabytes of remote sensing satellite data with BRICS countries: CNSA

Global Times, September 13, 2023

China has shared over 1.5 terabytes of remote sensing satellite data with BRICS countries, and will continue to promote the application of remote sensing satellite data to all walks of life in BRICS members' societies, the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said recently. According to CNSA, the establishment of BRICS Global Remote Sensing Satellite Data and Application Cooperation Platform, a cooperation mechanism in joint observation and data sharing of the remote sensing satellites among the five major emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, will achieve rapid collection, efficient sharing and joint application of satellite data among BRICS countries, promote the remote sensing satellite services of BRICS to benefit the world, enable sustainable economic and social development in the region and help meet the common challenges facing the world.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202309/1298152.shtml>

China's military sets up new base for space domain awareness

Space News, September 14, 2023

The People's Liberation Army has established new facilities to improve its space domain awareness capabilities, according to a report. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) Strategic Support Force's (SSF) new Base 37 is charged with boosting missile early warning capabilities and identifying, tracking and analyzing foreign space objects, according to the report published by the China Aerospace Studies Institute. China created the PLASSF in 2015 as the 5th branch of the PLA and charged it with integrating and overseeing areas such as space, cyber, and electronic warfare. While still not fully understood, its overarching goal is assessed to be obtaining information dominance and providing strategic support to the PLA.

<https://spacenews.com/chinas-military-sets-up-new-base-for-space-domain-awareness/>

D. Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan to hold referendum on first nuclear plant

Euractiv, September 1, 2023

Kazakhstan will hold a referendum to decide whether to build its first nuclear power plant, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said on Friday (1 September), adding that the date would be decided later.

The energy-rich Central Asian nation's government has long discussed the idea, citing the need for diversification of the power generation capacity, and even identified a planned location for the facility in the southeastern Almaty region and mentioned Russia's Rosatom as a potential partner.

France's EDF has also been highlighted as a possible partner for Kazakhstan's first nuclear power plant.

But some activists oppose the project because of safety concerns and Kazakhstan's history as home to the Soviet-operated

Semipalatinsk nuclear weapons testing ground.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/central-asia/news/kazakhstan-to-hold-referendum-on-first-nuclear-plant/>

E. Pakistan

ISNET-SUPARCO to arrange 'Space based Disaster Monitoring Course' from Sept 5

Associated Press of Pakistan, September 3, 2023

Inter-Islamic Network on Space Sciences and Technology (ISNET) Secretariat in collaboration with the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) has planned to organize a distance training course on "Space-based disaster monitoring and management" from September 05-07.

According to the ISNET, the course will provide a basic understanding of space-based disaster monitoring and management. The course will start with image interpretation techniques, remote sensing for disaster monitoring as well as rapid and detailed damage assessment.

<https://www.app.com.pk/national/isnet-suparco-to-arrange-space-based-disaster-monitoring-course-from-sept-5-2/>

Pakistan nuclear weapons, 2023

Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, September 11, 2023

Pakistan continues to gradually expand its nuclear arsenal with more warheads, more delivery systems, and a growing fissile material production industry. Analysis of commercial satellite images of construction at Pakistani army garrisons and air force bases shows what appear to be newer launchers and facilities that might be related to Pakistan's nuclear forces.

We estimate that Pakistan now has a nuclear weapons stockpile of approximately 170 warheads (See Table 1). The US Defense Intelligence Agency

projected in 1999 that Pakistan would have 60 to 80 warheads by 2020 (US Defense Intelligence Agency 1999, 38), but several new weapon systems have been fielded and developed since then, which leads us to a higher estimate. Our estimate comes with considerable uncertainty because neither Pakistan nor other countries publish much information about the Pakistani nuclear arsenal.

<https://thebulletin.org/premium/2023-09/pakistan-nuclear-weapons-2023/>

F. Europe

Czech PM suggests four new nuclear units needed

World Nuclear News, September 1, 2023

In a speech to open a conference discussing future strategy for the Czech Republic, Prime Minister Petr Fiala said the country would need as many as four new nuclear power units. He said it had been a problem to not have “broad and long-term society-wide agreement on the main priorities of the direction of our republic”, with strategic investments in things such as nuclear energy featuring among the “pillars” that the country’s future should be built upon.

“Transportation, energy infrastructure, nuclear, lithium, chips and trends in information technology, these are, in my opinion, six specific areas that have a huge potential to change our country. That is why a large part of strategic investments must go there,” he said in his speech.

<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Czech-PM-suggests-four-new-nuclear-units-needed>

Atomic age is over in Germany, Chancellor Scholz insists

Politico, September 2, 2023

Germany will not leave the door open for a possible return to using nuclear power now or in the future, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Saturday.

Responding to a suggestion from members of his own governing coalition that the country should not rule out restarting its

shuttered reactors, Scholz told radio station Deutschlandfunk that “nuclear energy is over” and the issue is “a dead horse” in Germany.

“The fact is that with the end of the use of nuclear power, dismantling has also begun” at the power stations that have been closed down, he said. “Any talk of resuming the use of atomic energy would imply building new power stations,” Scholz argued.

“Anyone who wanted to build new nuclear power plants would need 15 years and would have to spend •15-•20 billion each,” he went on.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/germany-nuclear-energy-climate-change-olaf-scholz-atomic-age-is-over/>

Germany, Italy highlight growing European nuclear divide

Euractiv, September 4, 2023

Germany’s place as the leader of Europe’s anti-nuclear lobby has been further solidified as Chancellor Olaf Scholz doubled down on his view that nuclear has no place in the country’s energy mix, while Italy has vowed to speed up its integration of nuclear energy in a bid to cut costs, save the economy, and power the Green Transition. Nuclear power is controversial as some countries have embraced it, while others have considered it more of a risk than it is worth. Its inclusion by the European Commission as a green energy source in the Taxonomy Regulation further laid bare divisions across Europe as countries bickered over whether it could truly be considered green and sustainable.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/germany-italy-highlight-growing-european-nuclear-divide/>

Can Europe Rely on French Nuclear Power to Help Avoid Another Energy Crisis This Winter?

Bloomberg, September 8, 2023

Europe’s energy crisis was severely worsened last winter as France was forced

to switch off more than a dozen of the nuclear reactors that make the country a vital electricity exporter.

This year, millions of consumers and businesses are relying on Electricite de France SA's assurances that it has overcome the issues that cut its atomic energy output by almost a quarter in 2022.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-09-08/can-europe-s-energy-consumers-rely-on-french-nuclear-power-this-winter#xj4y7vzkg>

UK sets out nuclear research plans after rejecting Euratom membership

Euractiv, September 8, 2023

The UK has set out plans to invest up to £650 million to support domestic nuclear fusion research programmes running until 2027, after confirming earlier this week that it would not join the EU's Euratom nuclear energy research scheme.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government confirmed the plans on Thursday (7 September), adding that further details on the domestic alternative programmes would be set out in the coming weeks. The move comes despite the agreement between the UK and European Commission this week to join the European Union's satellite programme for Earth observation, Copernicus, and Horizon Europe with a rebate of its financial contribution to compensate for the years it has missed, according to a Thursday (7 September) announcement.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/eu-uk-relations/news/uk-sets-out-nuclear-research-plans-after-rejecting-euratom-membership/>

Hungary eyeing to switch its Paks NPP from Russian to French fuel - media

TASS, September 10, 2023

Hungary plans to switch its Paks Nuclear Power plant from Russian to French fuel to reduce its energy dependence on Russia, the Telex internet media outlet said on Sunday citing Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

The Hungarian prime minister spoke at a closed-door Hungarian Civic Forum in Kocse near Balaton Lake. However Telex learned about what was said by the prime minister from its sources. Thus, according to Telex, while listing the government's tasks for the upcoming years, he noted that one of the tasks is to reach "energy self-sufficiency, which will rest on using French fuel instead of Russian at the Paks NPP."

France operates the biggest number of nuclear reactors in Europe and manufactures nuclear fuel for them importing uranium from Australia, Niger, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

<https://tass.com/economy/1672375>

IAEA Concludes Long Term Operational Safety Review of Spain's Ascó Nuclear Power Plant

IAEA, September 11, 2023

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team of experts completed a review of long term operational safety at the Ascó Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in Spain.

The Safety Aspects of Long Term Operation (SALTO) follow-up review mission was requested by the plant's operator, Asociación Nuclear Ascó-Vandellós II (ANAV). The mission reviewed Ascó NPP's response to recommendations and suggestions made during an IAEA SALTO mission in 2021.

The Ascó nuclear power plant is one of Spain's five operational nuclear power plants, where seven reactors produce 20 per cent of the country's electricity. Located in the north-east of Spain, Ascó has two pressurized-water reactor units with an installed power of approximately 1030 megawatts electric (MW(e)) each. Unit 1 went into commercial operation in 1984, and Unit 2 in 1986. The units are currently authorized to operate until 2030 for Unit 1 and 2031 for Unit 2.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-concludes-long-term-operational-safety-review-of-spains-asco-nuclear-power-plant-0>

ENEC, OSGE cooperate to advance SMRs in Europe

World Nuclear News, September 12, 2023

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Polish company Orlen Synthos Green Energy (OSGE) and the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) will see the parties work together to support decarbonisation efforts in Poland and Europe through investments in small modular reactors (SMRs). The framework agreement, signed by ENEC Managing Director and CEO Mohamed Al Hammadi and ORLEN Synthos Green Energy CEO Rafał Kasprów, aims to provide the parties with an enabling framework to develop SMRs based on GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy's BWRX-300 technology in Poland and the UK, as well as within Central and Eastern Europe.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/ENEC,-OSGE-cooperate-to-advance-SMRs>

Poland no closer to hosting nuclear weapons – president

TASS, September 14, 2023

The Polish authorities have not yet made any progress in their wish to have nuclear weapons deployed in the country, as follows from what Polish President Andrzej Duda said at a forum in the city of Krynica-Zdroj.

According to the Polish head of state, the worst threat to his country is posed by a neighbor that has nuclear weapons.

"We don't have nuclear weapons. And I don't know if we ever will. No indications of this for now," he said, emphasizing that in such a situation NATO was the only guarantee.

Earlier, the Polish authorities said that they intended to eventually persuade NATO partners to deploy nuclear weapons in their country as part of the alliance's Nuclear Sharing concept.

<https://tass.com/world/1675009>

EU foreign policy chief to discuss sanctions with other JCPOA members, including Russia

TASS, September 15, 2023

The EU foreign policy chief will consult with all members of the Iranian nuclear deal after top diplomats from the United Kingdom, Germany and France had notified the European Union they were not planning to lift Iranian sanctions on September 18.

"Today I have received a letter by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany and the United Kingdom related to the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)," EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell said in a statement. "The Foreign Ministers state that Iran is in non-compliance since 2019 and consider that this has not been resolved through the JCPOA's Dispute Resolution Mechanism. They express their intention not to take the steps regarding the lifting of further sanctions on JCPOA Transition Day on 18 October 2023."

<https://tass.com/world/1675093>

European powers to retain sanctions aimed at deterring Iran nuclear ambitions

Financial Times, September 15, 2023

Britain, Germany and France said they would retain a range of sanctions on Iran that had been due to expire next month, in response to concerns over Tehran's expansion of its nuclear programme.

The decision of the "E3" nations, which signed up to the deal, was a "legitimate and proportionate" response to Iran's moves to advance its nuclear programme "beyond all credible civilian justification", the UK said on Thursday.

The three countries informed Josep Borrell, the EU's chief diplomat and the coordinator of talks between Iran and

western powers, of their move, on the basis that Tehran was not meeting its obligations under a 2015 deal to reduce the scope of its nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.

<https://www.ft.com/content/a91b53ed-65fb-4ff2-af13-698366ad9245>

IAEA Mission Finds Poland's Regulatory Framework in Line with Safety Standards, Stresses Need for Regulatory Independence and Funding

IAEA, September 15, 2023

An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) mission found Poland's nuclear regulatory framework to be in line with IAEA safety standards and said its regulatory body is competent and prepared for the launch of the country's nuclear power programme. The team also said the government must take robust measures to ensure the regulatory body is independent and properly resourced.

The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) team today concluded a mission to Poland, conducted at the request of the Government of Poland and hosted by the Państwowa Agencja Atomistyki (PAA), the main regulatory body. Using IAEA safety standards and international good practices, IRRS missions are designed to strengthen the effectiveness of the national regulatory infrastructure for nuclear and radiation safety, while recognizing the responsibility of each country.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-mission-finds-polands-regulatory-framework-in-line-with-safety-standards-stresses-need-for-regulatory-independence-and-funding>

IAEA Board on naval nuclear propulsion: AUKUS Partners update

UK Government, September 15, 2023

The United Kingdom, Australia and the United States updated the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors on AUKUS naval nuclear

propulsion. This statement was delivered by Australia on 14 September 2023 under agenda item 12: Thank you, Chair. I have the honour of speaking on behalf of Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Chair, we thank Director General Grossi for his update in his written introductory statement to this Board on Australia's naval nuclear propulsion program. As the Director General noted, bilateral technical consultations between the IAEA and Australia on Australia's naval nuclear propulsion program are ongoing, including in relation to the development of an Article 14 arrangement. We remain fully committed to ensuring our approach meets the highest non-proliferation standard.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/aukus-partners-update-the-iaea-board-on-naval-nuclear-propulsion>

G. Ukraine

Update 181 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, September 1, 2023

Today marks one year since the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General, Rafael Mariano Grossi, visited Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) for the first time and established the IAEA Support and Assistance Mission to Zaporizhzhya (ISAMZ). The permanent presence of IAEA experts at ZNPP has been essential in reducing the likelihood of a nuclear accident.

The IAEA has also provided ongoing assistance and monitoring in Ukraine since the start of the war, including missions, experts at all Ukraine's nuclear power plants (NPPs), facilitating international financial support, and information sharing.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-181-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

Ukrainian intelligence unconcerned with deployment of nuclear arms in Belarus

TASS, September 1, 2023

Ukraine does not see any risks for itself related to the deployment of Russian nuclear weapons in Belarus, Kirill Budanov, head of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's Main Intelligence Directorate (GUR), said.

"For Ukraine, there is a zero risk of nuclear arms being used from Belarusian soil. I think so, because the nuclear weapons there are not weapons but the way of strategic nuclear containment," he told the 1+1 TV channel.

On March 25, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared that Russia, at Minsk's request, would deploy its tactical nuclear weapons on Belarusian soil, precisely the way the US has deployed elements of its own nuclear arsenal on the territory of its allies.

<https://tass.com/world/1668665>

Update 182 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, September 8, 2023

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts based at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) have reported hearing numerous explosions over the past week, in a possible sign of increased military activity in the region that could also pose a potential threat to nuclear safety and security at the site, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today.

Just over a year after the IAEA established a permanent presence at Europe's largest nuclear power plant (NPP) to help prevent an accident there during the conflict in Ukraine, the overall situation at the facility remains highly precarious, Director General Grossi said.

Starting last Saturday, the IAEA team heard around two dozen explosions over three days, followed by several more in the last few days.

There was no damage to the plant itself.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-182-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

Kiev regime ramps up use of Western arms to attack Russian nuclear power, chemical plants

TASS, September 8, 2023

Ukraine's armed forces are increasingly using advanced weapons supplied by Western countries to attack Russian chemical manufacturing plants, nuclear power plants, and energy and water supply facilities, Russian Emergencies Minister Alexander Kurenkov said.

"Socially significant and potentially hazardous facilities, such as chemical plants, nuclear power stations, and energy and water supply facilities within our country are being targeted more frequently by advanced weapons supplied by the West to Ukraine," he said at a meeting of the BRICS working group on emergency prevention and elimination, taking place in Durban, South Africa.

<https://tass.com/politics/1671647>

IAEA warns of nuclear safety threat as combat spikes near Ukraine power plant

PBS, September 9, 2023

The United Nations atomic watchdog warned of a potential threat to nuclear safety from a spike in fighting near Europe's largest nuclear power plant in Ukraine, whose forces continued pressing their counteroffensive on Saturday. The International Atomic Energy Agency said its experts deployed at the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant reported hearing numerous explosions over the past week, in a possible indication of increased military activity in the region. There was no damage to the plant.

"I remain deeply concerned about the possible dangers facing the plant at this time of heightened military tension in the region," IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi warned in a statement issued late Friday.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/iaea-warns-of-nuclear-safety-threat-as-combat-spikes-near-ukraine-power-plant>

Grossi says no consequences from using depleted uranium ammunition in Ukraine

TASS, September 11, 2023

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) continues to monitor the situation in Ukraine, the agency's Director General Rafael Grossi said at a press conference.

The IAEA head pointed out that there are no significant radiological consequences from the use of depleted uranium ammunition in the Ukrainian conflict.

"Today, the practical application of the IAEA's safety standards and nuclear security guidance is severely tested by the war in Ukraine, and we are taking stock of what we have learned so far, conducting an internal review and initiating a technical document," Grossi pointed out. He also noted that "more than 20 deliveries of nuclear safety and security-related equipment have been made to different organizations in Ukraine since the start of the armed conflict," urging allies to supply more.

<https://tass.com/world/1672943>

Update 183 - IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine

IAEA, September 15, 2023

Ukraine's Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) has been drilling more wells at the site as part of efforts to find new sources of cooling water after the destruction of the downstream Kakhovka dam more than three months ago, Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today.

Since last week, the ZNPP has built another two groundwater wells to supply the sprinkler ponds that cool the six reactors and spent fuel, bringing the total of new wells to nine.

Together they pump around 200 cubic metres of water per hour into the sprinkler ponds, representing almost all the cooling needs of the six shutdown reactors. The remainder of the water comes from the drainage system and clean water that is

periodically discharged from the plant's chemical water treatment facility. The IAEA has been informed that the water supply situation will be assessed after a tenth well has been constructed to see if more will be needed.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/update-183-iaea-director-general-statement-on-situation-in-ukraine>

H. United States of America

US regulator ready for next-generation nuclear, NRC says

Reuters, September 1, 2023

The NRC is under pressure to show it can move fast on a new generation of nuclear technology, including small modular reactors (SMRs) and other previously untested designs, as many in the industry call for deep reforms at the regulator.

The regulator must be willing to remove operational and organizational barriers that are in the way of rapid and efficient licensing and understand that time is of the essence to reduce emissions and solve energy security issues, critics say. "I have the sense that most government employees have a sense of mission and purpose to serve the public interest. But the question is, can they bring a sense of urgency as well?" asks Judi Greenwald, executive director of the Nuclear Innovation Alliance (NIA) and lead author of the report, 'The Urgency of NRC Reform'.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-regulator-ready-next-generation-nuclear-nrc-2023-09-01/>

Russia Warns of 'Escalation' If US Stations Nuclear Bombs in UK

Bloomberg, September 5, 2023

Russia warned Tuesday it will treat any US move to station nuclear weapons in the UK for the first time in 15 years as an "escalation" after media reports indicated plans to deploy the bombs on British soil.

"If this happens, it will be treated by us as an escalation, which will lead to the exact

opposite of achieving the pressing task of removing all US nuclear weapons from Europe,” Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Tuesday, according to state news service Tass.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-09-05/russia-warns-of-escalation-if-us-stations-nuclear-bombs-in-uk#xj4y7vzkg>

U.S. Air Force conducts test launch of unarmed Minuteman III ICBM from California

CBS News, September 6, 2023

The U.S. Air Force tested an unarmed intercontinental ballistic missile with nuclear capabilities early Wednesday morning, as the Minuteman III launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California at around 1:30 a.m. PT.

The long-range missile carried three test reentry vehicles and traveled roughly 4,200 miles from its launch site to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, the Air Force Global Strike Command said in a news release. Wednesday’s launch was one of at least 300 nuclear tests that occurred previously, according to the agency, which noted that the latest one it came as part of a wider program meant to “demonstrate that the United States’ nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, reliable and effective to deter twenty-first century threats and reassure our allies.”

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-air-force-conducts-test-launch-unarmed-minuteman-iii-icbm-california/>

US warned Russia about training Minuteman III ICBM launch in advance – Pentagon

TASS, September 6, 2023

The US Administration warned Russia about its intent to carry out a training launch of the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) on September 6 in advance, Pentagon Spokesman Patrick Ryder told reporters.

He underscored that the US Air Force Global Strike Command will carry out a training

ICBM launch without a nuclear payload from the Vandenberg Air Force base on September 6. According to Ryder, the US sent a notification about the launch and informed the Russian government in advance in accordance with the existing bilateral obligations, adding that the training launch will test and confirm the efficiency, readiness and precision of this weapon system.

<https://tass.com/world/1670309>

Musk rejects charges of treason for not allowing Ukraine to activate Starlink near Crimea

TASS, September 12, 2023

American entrepreneur Elon Musk has rejected the idea that he is a traitor for refusing to allow Ukraine to activate Starlink on its way to Crimea and said he will “fight for America.”

“I am a citizen of the United States and have only that passport. No matter what happens, I will fight for and die in America. The United States Congress has not declared war on Russia. If anyone is treasonous, it is those who call me such,” Musk said in reply to a post on the social network X (formerly Twitter) claiming that his refusal to activate Starlink was “a form of treason.”

Earlier, the entrepreneur said that he rejected Ukraine’s request to activate Starlink because he wanted to help people. Musk believes that Starlink cannot be used to attack the Kiev authorities in Crimea, as this would violate the company’s user agreement.

<https://tass.com/world/1673087>

DOD Exercises Option on Second Micro Nuclear Reactor Design

U.S. Department of Defense, September 13, 2023

As part of the Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO) initiative Project Pele, the Department of Defense (DOD) has awarded a contract option to X-energy, LLC of Rockville, Maryland in order to

develop an enhanced engineering design for a transportable micro nuclear reactor.

In 2022, SCO selected BWX Technologies, Inc. of Lynchburg, Virginia to build a prototype micro reactor. This work is underway and long lead hardware fabrication has begun. By executing this contract option with X-energy, SCO seeks to develop a complementary micro reactor design that builds upon X-energy's developments completed under Project Pele in 2022. This option continues funding for X-energy to develop its design to meet the technical requirements of Project Pele, targeting a reactor design which is ready for licensing by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for both commercial ventures and military resiliency.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3524458/dod-exercises-option-on-second-micro-nuclear-reactor-design/>

U.S. Announces New Support for Ghana's Civil Nuclear Energy Program under the FIRST Capacity Building Program

U.S. Embassy Ghana, September 13, 2023

U.S. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Nonproliferation Ann Ganzer joined Ghanaian counterparts today to announce further U.S. support for establishing Ghana as a Small Modular Nuclear Reactor (SMR) Regional Training Hub and center of excellence for the sub-Saharan African region. The \$1.75 million in funding will support Ghana's nuclear workforce development, including the provision of an SMR control room simulator, university partnerships, and academic exchanges to position Ghana to serve as a regional training hub for nuclear power technicians and operators. Through this partnership, Ghana will be positioned to develop a skilled nuclear workforce for the region consistent with the highest international standards of nuclear safety, security, and nonproliferation.

<https://gh.usembassy.gov/u-s-announces-new-support-for-ghanas-civil-nuclear-energy-program-under-the-first-capacity-building-program/>

West Asia

I. Iran

Installing new IAEA cameras depends on adherence by JCPOA parties: nuclear chief

Tehran Times, September 1, 2023

Mohammad Eslami, head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, has stated that the installation of more monitoring cameras in Iran's nuclear sites would be contingent on the other parties' adherence to the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially called the JCPOA.

In an interview with Al-Jazeera, he noted, "The commitment of the parties and America to the nuclear agreement will be met with an Iranian commitment."

He added that reversing the reduction in compliance with the nuclear agreement necessitates the lifting of all sanctions.

Eslami further emphasized the continuous communication with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), stating that "our dialogue with the agency continues, and the file of highly enriched uranium atoms was recently closed."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/488596/Installing-new-IAEA-cameras-depends-on-adherence-by-JCPOA-parties>

AEOI Spokesman: Iran Producing Highest Quality Heavy Water Across Globe

Fars News Agency, September 2, 2023

Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi praised the high quality of the heavy water produced in his country, and said that several European states are seeking to buy this indigenous nuclear material from Tehran.

The spokesperson told Mizan news agency "Iran's heavy water ranks first in the world in terms of quality", and Europeans are interested in its procurement from Tehran.

Iran has in recent years turned into an exporter of heavy water to foreign states. Iranian nuclear officials have stated that Tehran is producing enough heavy water inside the country, and is even exporting surplus to several states.

Kamalvandi also stressed the AEOI's accomplishments in using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020611000610/AEOI-Spkeman-Iran-Prdcing-Highes-Qaliy-Heavy-Waer-Acrss-Glbe>

Iranian Commander: Indigenous Drone Warns Off RQ-4 Global Hawk, US P-8 Poseidon Near Border

Fars News Agency, September 3, 2023

Deputy Commander of the Iranian Army Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Elhami praised the country's defense industry for manufacturing various type of military hardware, and further said that a domestically-developed drone, dubbed "Karrar", has on separate occasions forced an American RQ-4 reconnaissance drone and a US Navy's P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol and surveillance aircraft to change their courses and stay away from the Iranian airspace.

Brig. Gen. Elhami stated on Sunday the homemade drone, which has been furnished with a sophisticated radar system, has several times forced foreign manned and unmanned aircraft to change their course over the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman at high altitudes.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020612000665/Iranian-Cmmmander-Indigens-Drne-Warns-Off-RQ-4-Glbal-Hawk-US-P->

Iran Deploys New Satellite and Russian-Made Trainer Jets

Israel Defense, September 3, 2023

It's been a busy weekend for Iran's defense capabilities, which are now bolstered with a new homemade satellite as well as several Russian Yak-130 combat trainer jets. The Tolu-3 remote-sensing satellite (meaning

"sunrise"), manufactured by Iran Electronics Industries, was reportedly delivered to the Iranian Space Organization on Saturday after passing final tests.

According to the Tasnim news agency, which is affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards, the satellite weighs over 100 kg and will be sent into Low Earth Orbit to transmit images for applications "in various fields such as agriculture, water resources, and disaster management." Iranian press did not discuss any military applications for this satellite.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59461>

Iran FM says extensive talks held to revive JCPOA

Tehran Times, September 3, 2023

The Iranian foreign minister has said that talks between Iran and the remaining signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the JCPOA, have been largely documented in what's known as the "September Document".

In an interview with the Etella'at newspaper published on Sunday, Hossein Amir Abdollahian said lots of discussions have taken place between Iran and the other parties regardless of the fact that some occurrences delayed any new agreements.

Amir Abdollahian was commenting on the 2022 fall riots in Iran that according to some officials resulted in the death of tens of security personnel and civilians.

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/488692/Iran-FM-says-extensive-talks-held-to-revive-JCPOA>

DM: All Western Arms Embargos on Iran to Be Lifted within Weeks

Fars News Agency, September 5, 2023

Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said that all the weapon sanctions on Tehran will be lifted in October, adding that his

country is ready to establish and expand military relations with all independent and allied states.

Brig. Gen. Ashtiani, in an article published in the Arabic-language Al-Vefagh on Tuesday, stressed that all Western weapons sanctions on Tehran will be expired in the coming weeks.

He announced Iran's readiness to enhance its defense and strategic ties with all independent countries, especially with Muslim and regional nations.

"The defense industries of Iran have reached a level of maturity and prosperity that can be a point of convergence and connection for defense, technical and technological ties with independent and neighboring states," the minister wrote.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020614000584/DM-All-Wesern-Arms-Embargs-n-Iran-Be-Lifed-wihin-Weeks>

Iranian drones; now in the Western Hemisphere

Tehran Times, September 9, 2023

Iran's military development, especially with the mass production of drones in recent years, has placed it among the most advanced countries. The Ukraine war added weight to the importance of Iranian drones. Parallel to the importance of Iranian drones, Western media outlets have also increased their rhetoric about Iran's defense program. A similar approach was followed in recent years regarding Iranian missiles. In this regard, the Heritage Foundation discussed the export of Iranian military equipment, especially drones.

Referring to the recent Iran-Bolivia agreement and sale of the Iranian missiles to Venezuela, the report concluded that Iran is exploiting its military capacity in the Western Hemisphere. According to Joseph Humire, the writer of the article in the think tank "Iran's goal is to bring war to America. Bolivia is the most successful project of Iran's foreign policy in Latin America."

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/488862/Iranian-drones-now-in-the-Western-Hemisphere>

Spokesman: Pressures, Propaganda Unable to Hinder Iran's Nuclear Program

Fars News Agency, September 9, 2023

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kana'ani stressed that his country's peaceful nuclear program will move forward and political interventions and pressures have all failed to hamper its progress.

The top diplomat responded to a statement issued at the end of the 157th session of the Persian Gulf Security Council foreign ministers on Thursday, stressing the country's nuclear program won't succumb to the pressures exerted by some countries.

The spokesperson reiterated Tehran's firm determination to advance its peaceful nuclear program and to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regardless of foreign pressure and propaganda.

The development of Iran's nuclear program and its collaboration with the UN nuclear watchdog would be based on the rights and obligations per the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in a constructive manner, he underlined.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020618000157/Spkesman-Pressres-Prpaganda-Unable-Hinder-Iran's-Nclear-Prgram>

IRGC Deputy Commander: Israel Powerless Against Iran's Hypersonic Missiles

Fars News Agency, September 10, 2023

Deputy Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) for Operations Brigadier General Abbas Nilforoushan said that his country is manufacturing a new generation of hypersonic missiles, adding that Israel has to give up its current air defense shields as the advanced projectiles are capable of overcoming all defense systems.

Brig. Gen. Nilforooshan told Tasnim news agency that Tehran plans to product new indigenous hypersonic missiles.

Pointing to the domestically-developed hypersonic ballistic missile, dubbed "Fattah", the military official stated that the projectile that can maneuver at a speed of Mach 14 to 15 has been designed to defeat the Israeli regime's anti-missile systems.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020619000389/IRGC-Depy-Cmmander-Israel-Pwerless-Agains-Iran's-Hypersnic-Missiles>

Grossi urges Iran to seriously cooperate with IAEA

Tehran Times, September 11, 2023

The IAEA director general, speaking at a news conference before the IAEA's Board of Governors in Vienna on Monday, urged Iran to seriously work with the Agency in line with the joint statement made in Tehran on March 4.

Rafael Grossi also claimed that he only is worried about the nuclear issue with Iran, adding there is no connection between the Iran-IAEA cooperation and the current indirect discussions between Iran and the United States as well as the prisoner swap between them.

He used the most recent IAEA report on Iran's nuclear program to argue that ties between Tehran and the IAEA had not made "much progress" on the unresolved issues.

The joint statement between Iran and the IAEA was intended to be "a gradual process of confidence-building," Grossi said, adding that it was also intended to expand the Agency's tangible and electronic presence in Iran (CCTV cameras).

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/488955/Grossi-urges-Iran-to-seriously-cooperate-with-IAEA>

AEOI Chief Calls on West to Refrain from Raising Excessive

Demands Regarding Iran's N. Program

Fars News Agency, September 13, 2023

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami underlined that his country is standing against excessive demands by the European troika regarding its peaceful nuclear program, and further said that Tehran will continue its nuclear measures as long as US sanctions remain in place.

"European countries cannot expect us to fully implement the nuclear deal while they do not fulfill any of their obligations," Eslami told reporters on Wednesday.

"As long as the other parties [to the 2015 agreement] fail to live up to their commitments and sanctions are not fully lifted, it is natural that we will continue the current trend," he underscored.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020622000537/AEOI-Chief-Calls-n-Wes-Refrain-frm-Raising-Excessive-Demands>

IRGC Commander: Israel to Further Shorten Its Life by Threatening Iran

Fars News Agency, September 14, 2023

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami warned Israel that any threat against the Islamic Republic will only shorten the Tel Aviv regime's diminishing life.

Major General Salami made the remarks three days after David Barnea, director of Israel's Mossad spy agency, threatened to hit Iran's "highest echelon ... in the heart of Tehran".

"The Zionists are grappling with many problems, and signs of their decline are evident. Thus, they have resorted to empty rhetoric and threats to assassinate our commanders," the IRGC commander said.

<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/14020623000217/IRGC-Cmmander-Israel-Frher-Shren-Is-Life-by-Threaening-Iran>

J. Israel

Aeronautics Secures \$40M Contract to Supply Loitering Munition UAS to Int'l Customer

Israel Defense, September 3, 2023

Aeronautics Ltd., a designer, developer, and manufacturer of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for the global defense and HLS markets, announced a significant contract to supply its cutting-edge Orbiter 1K loitering munition UAS to a major international customer. This contract, valued at \$40 million, reinforces Aeronautics' position as a premier provider of advanced UAS solutions worldwide.

The Orbiter 1K is a Class 1 loitering munition UAS that demonstrates high performance for real-time Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions and operations. It is part of the Orbiter family of UAVs that covers the complete tactical class mission requirements set and are all operated via an advanced and common ground segment & operating system, enabling maximum flexibility and ease of use.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59447>

Report: India Acquires Rampage Missile from Israel, Is Establishing Testing Facility

Israel Defense, September 3, 2023

A delegation of three UAE Navy officers, led by Colonel Dr. Ali Saif Ali Al Marzai, visited INSHansa in India on August 30th in order to familiarize themselves with the meteorological and oceanographic facilities of the Indian Navy, as a step towards establishing cooperation in these areas. This, according to a tweet by IN_GNA.

The tweet included a photo showing Indian officers presenting Israeli Rampage missiles that India purchased from Elbit for its Su-30MK aircraft. According to AdithyaKM_, India is establishing a testing facility for the missile in Goa.

The purchase of the Rampage missile was already reported in December 2022 on India

Today. According to the report, the missile is intended for ground targets with a range of up to 250 km.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59448>

IAI to Tap Opportunities in India's Short-Range Air Defence Systems

Israel Defense, September 4, 2023

Israel Aerospace Industries and India's Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) have inked an MoU for cooperation in addressing India's requirements in the domain of Short Range Air Defence Systems.

The partnership marks yet another significant step towards cementing the synergy between the two companies which have a long history of association. BEL and IAI are engaged in several joint development/production/product support programs for the Indian Defence forces.

The MoU aims at leveraging IAI and BEL's capabilities and is in sync with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' policies of the Government of India.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59470>

Israel Orders Third F-35 Fighter Jets Squadron

Israel Defense, September 4, 2023

Following the approval of the Minister of Defense, Yoav Galant, and the Director-General of the Ministry of Defense, Major General (Ret.) Eyal Zamir, the procurement delegation of the Ministry of Defense in the United States has submitted a formal Letter of Request (LOR) to the American F-35 Program Office (JPO) with the goal of finalizing and signing the contract in the coming months.

The Ministry of Defense will acquire 25 F-35 aircraft from the American government, manufactured by Lockheed Martin, in a deal that includes support and maintenance. With the completion of the contract, the Israeli Air Force will

operate a total of 75 advanced stealth fighter aircraft in the world. The supply of the aircraft to the IDF will begin in 2027 at a rate of three aircraft per year.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59471>

Gallant, defense brass met to examine consequences of Saudi normalization – report

Times of Israel, September 4, 2023

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant convened defense officials last month to discuss the security consequences of a potential normalization deal with Saudi Arabia, according to a report Monday.

National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi, Mossad spy agency director David Barnea and IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi attended the meeting, which focused on security questions relating to Riyadh's demand for a US-backed civilian nuclear program on Saudi soil, the Kan public broadcaster reported, citing unnamed officials with knowledge of the talks.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has held similar deliberations, the report added.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/gallant-defense-brass-met-to-examine-consequences-of-saudi-normalization-report/>

SpearUAV Unveils the MCL Viper, Aimed at Revolutionizing Strike Capabilities for Maneuvering Forces

Israel Defense, September 5, 2023

SpearUAV Ltd., an Israeli developer of autonomous, AI-based technology for encapsulated Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), unveiled the MCL Viper (Multi Canister Launcher), which enables the immediate launch of VIPER 300 System while in motion, from any military manned or unmanned platform.

The MCL Viper system features a customizable configuration with four or more canisters, adaptable to a wide array of military platforms and vehicles. This

game-changing launcher enhances the maneuverability and operational pace of forces while minimizing operator exposure and safeguarding crew members within the vehicle.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59483>

Senior Defense Administrator Says Israel Must Prepare for War Against Precision Munitions

Israel Defense, September 5, 2023

An article recently published on the “Ma’arachot” defense establishment website examines the aspect of air defense in the Russia-Ukraine war and provides several insights relevant to Israel. The article was written by Lieutenant Colonel Yair, from the the Israel Missile Defense Organization (IMDO, “Homa” in Hebrew), which is part of the Ministry of Defense.

“One area in warfare where it seems the Ukrainian air defense system is struggling to cope is dealing with precise munitions,” writes Yair.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59496>

Elbit Awarded \$200 Million Contracts in Europe

Israel Defense, September 6, 2023

Elbit Systems announced it was awarded two contracts by a European country, worth an aggregate amount of approximately \$200 million, to supply a C4I (Command, Control, Communication, Computers, Intelligence) solution to artillery battalions and a Hostile Fire Counter Attack (HFCA) solution. The contracts will be executed until 2026, with options for further extensions.

The C4I solution will provide advanced C4I capabilities to four battalions of 155mm howitzers guns, including Elbit Systems' SDR radios – the E-Lynx and TORCH-X Fire applications.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59500>

Report: IAI Trying to Sell Drones to Uzbekistan

Israel Defense, September 11, 2023

A meeting between representatives of Uzbekcosmos Agency and officials from the Israel Aerospace Industry (IAI) took place last week, as reported by the UZ Daily website.

“During the meeting, representatives of the Israeli company made presentations on satellites for remote sensing of the earth, telecommunications satellites, as well as a constellation of small satellites,” said the article.

Special attention was given to products such as the small communication satellite MCS, remote sensing drones for Earth observation OptSat3000 and OptSat500. Discussions were also held on personnel training, technology transfer, and cooperation in formulating proposals for the continued development of Uzbekistan’s space and ground infrastructure.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59553>

Elbit Awarded \$109 Million Contract to Supply BAE Systems Hägglunds with Iron Fist Active Protection System

Israel Defense, September 11, 2023

Elbit Systems Ltd. was awarded a contract worth \$109 million to supply BAE Systems Hägglunds (Sweden) with the Iron Fist Active Protection System (APS) for its CV90 platform, for a European customer. The contract will be carried out over three years.

The Iron Fist APS is characterized by low volume, weight, and power requirements. The system provides armored platforms with 360-degree protection from a wide variety of anti-armor threats, such as rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and up to KE tank rounds in both open terrain and urban environments.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59559>

Israel Air Force Welcomes New UAV, Dubbed “Spark”

Israel Defense, September 12, 2023

The Israeli Air Force (IAF) received this week the new unmanned aircraft, dubbed “Spark”, developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Aeronautics as part of the “Storm Cloud” project.

A welcome ceremony for the Spark was held at the 144th Squadron, known as the Phoenix Squadron, at the Hatzor Air Force Base. The Spark UAV is designed for various missions, including intelligence, ground forces support, targeting, and more. Some of its specifications and capabilities are classified.

The 144th Squadron, which will operate the Spark, was originally established in 1972 as a combat squadron and was converted to a UAV squadron in 2022, reopening at the Hatzor Air Force Base.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59567>

Elbit Systems Unveils the Find-and-Strike (FAST) Capsule

Israel Defense, September 13, 2023

Elbit Systems has unveiled its latest development in the world of unmanned aerial systems: The Find-and-Strike (FAST) Capsule, combining the Skylark III and SkyStriker Loitering Munition (LM).

The Skylark III is a leading Small-Tactical Intelligence UAS, equipped with the most advanced intelligence-gathering sensors and with extensive endurance of up to 18 hours, it is designed to support ISTAR missions in GPS-denied environments. The Skylark III is capable of integrating a range of payloads including high-resolution Electro-Optical gimbaled payload, SIGINT sensors, laser designators, and more.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59588>

IAI, 2Excel Aviation Develop Future Use of Uncrewed Aerial Systems

Israel Defense, September 14, 2023

Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and 2Excel Aviation have signed an agreement to forge ahead in developing the future use of uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) in UK airspace. Initial efforts will focus on growing and enhancing 2Excel's regulatory approvals in the uncrewed sphere using the maritime version of IAI's Heron, the world's most prolific UAS.

The highly-capable Heron has notched up 500,000 hours of safe operations around the globe. It carries a suite of advanced sensors, cameras, and communications equipment that provide persistence reconnaissance for a range of missions, including search and rescue, border protection, fisheries patrol, and safety at sea.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59602>

Elbit Debuts Crossbow Next Generation Turreted Mortar System

Israel Defense, September 14, 2023

Elbit Systems' Crossbow Next Generation Turreted Mortar System will be making its first appearance at the Company's booth during the upcoming DSEI exhibition in London, England.

The automatic mortar system was developed by Elbit Systems' Land under an Israel Defense Force contract and is MIL-STD-810G compliant.

The Crossbow system has the capability of shooting the first round in less than 30 seconds, a maximum rate of ten rounds per minute, and a sustained rate of fire of six rounds per minute, with a short sensor-to-shooter circle. It can fire a variety of munitions including the Iron Sting guided mortar munition providing an effective range of up to 10 kilometers.

<https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/node/59606>

K. Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's Nuclear Ambitions Have Put The U.S. Into A Bind

Huffington Post, September 7, 2023

Saudi Arabia's bid to build its first nuclear energy station is setting up a tough choice for the United States: relax a Cold War-era policy designed to prevent the proliferation of atomic weapons, or risk pushing one of the world's most powerful energy exporters further into China's orbit.

It's a question that could dictate how quickly the global economy breaks its addiction to planet-heating fossil fuels and alter the balance of power in a region that has long defined Washington's foreign policy. But this pivot point also raises questions about whether the U.S. — which has struggled to keep atomic energy going at home, much less construct new reactors — should still command such sway over other nations' nuclear energy ambitions.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/saudi-nuclear_n_64f229b7e4b0cf2755340114

Saudi Nuclear Ambitions Worry Israeli Defense Officials, but Netanyahu's Happy to Look the Other Way

Haaretz, September 12, 2023

Last week, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant spoke at a Friends of the IDF fundraising event in Chicago. The defense minister wanted to take advantage of his U.S. trip to meet with his American counterpart, Lloyd Austin, and senior officials from the National Security Council and the White House.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-09-12/ty-article/.premium/saudi-nuclear-ambitions-worry-defense-officials-but-netanyahu-looks-the-other-way/0000018a-83bc-d37d-a19a-e3bca34b0000>

Saudi nuclear program can be secretly managed - top Israeli sources

The Jerusalem Post, September 14, 2023

Top Israeli sources have told *the Jerusalem Post* that there are secret technological ways to ensure that the Saudis do not misuse civilian nuclear items, which the US may give them as part of a three-way normalization deal, for military purposes.

Although there are no guarantees, because the issue is highly technical and there are issues to address regarding the Palestinians and highly complex politics, these technological fixes could be key to locking in a normalization deal between Riyadh and Jerusalem, under Washington's auspices.

There are at least two aspects to the Saudis request that Washington provide it with a civilian nuclear program as one major incentive for Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's (MBS) willingness to normalize relations with the Jewish state.

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-759141>

L. Türkiye

Turkish defense firm exports advanced surveillance system to Africa

Daily Sabah, September 3, 2023

A Turkish defense firm, STM has agreed to export its unmanned surveillance and reconnaissance system to an African country for the second time, the company's general manager told Anadolu Agency (AA).

STM has sold its multi-rotor unmanned aerial system (UAS) for tactical surveillance and reconnaissance, named Togan, to Nigeria previously, and now agreed to export to another African country, Özgür Güleriyüz, the general manager of the company said in his interview with AA.

The projects carried out in the sector under the leadership of the Presidency of Defense

Industries (SSB), have matured, Güleriyüz said, adding: "We have gained confidence in ourselves, from now on, we are all motivated in exports."

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-firm-exports-advanced-surveillance-system-to-africa>

Biden admin says does not link Türkiye's F-16 deal to Sweden's NATO bid

Daily Sabah, September 12, 2023

The sale of F-16 fighter jets to Türkiye is not intertwined with Sweden's membership in NATO, but some Congress members draw a connection between the two issues, the U.S. State Department said Monday.

"We do not believe that they are linked or should be linked," said State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller at a press briefing, in response to a question about the current status of the potential sale. Days earlier, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said the U.S. was linking the warplane deal with Turkish ratification of Sweden's NATO membership bid, and this "seriously upsets" Ankara.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/diplomacy/biden-admin-says-does-not-link-turkiyes-f-16-deal-to-swedens-nato-bid>

Turkish defense giants display innovations at London expo

Daily Sabah, September 12, 2023

Turkish defense companies are showcasing their latest products and innovations at the Defense and Security Equipment International (DSEI) exhibition, which started in London on Tuesday.

Running for four days, this year's event hosts over 2,800 defense and security suppliers, with over 230 new exhibitors showcasing their latest products and capabilities. One standout participant is Turkish armored vehicle manufacturer

Nurol Makina, which has recently expanded its footprint in Europe with the establishment of Nurol Makina U.K.

The new venture aims to support the British Army and provide services to third countries from the U.K. Their primary focus will be the design, development, and production of 4X4 armored vehicles, creating local employment opportunities.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/defense/turkish-defense-giants-display-innovations-at-london-expo>

Türkiye says nears deal with China for 3rd nuclear power plant

Daily Sabah, September 15, 2023

Türkiye hopes to finalize discussions with China and strike a deal on the construction of the country's third nuclear power plant "within the next few months," a top energy official said on Thursday.

The move is part of Türkiye's ambitious plan to triple its renewable energy capacity by 2053 as it strives to become a carbon-neutral economy.

The discussions, aimed at boosting the nation's energy production, are now reaching their conclusive stages, with Energy and Natural Resources Minister Alparslan Bayraktar emphasizing the importance of sealing the deal amid interest from other parties.

Bayraktar said negotiations with China to build the plant in Kırklareli province in the Thrace region had been ongoing for an extended period.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/business/energy/turkiye-says-nears-deal-with-china-for-3rd-nuclear-power-plant>

M. East Asia

North Korea simulates tactical nuclear strike in response to US-South Korean drills

TASS, September 3, 2023

North Korea has conducted a missile launch exercise with a simulated tactical nuclear

strike in response to a joint US-South Korean exercise, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

According to the agency, at dawn on September 2, two long-range strategic cruise missiles "with warheads imitating nuclear ones" were launched.

Pyongyang emphasizes that the level of "recklessness and dangerous confrontational frenzy displayed recently by the United States and bandits from the Republic of Korea has reached an unprecedented level."

The KCNA points out that the DPRK's nuclear forces will continue to comprehensively strengthen "combat readiness for countermeasures designed to deter war," as well as maintain peace and stability in the region.

<https://tass.com/world/1669005>

ASEAN calls on nuclear powers to remain adherent to arms control mechanisms

TASS, September 6, 2023

ASEAN member states called on nuclear powers to remain adherent to arms control and non-proliferation mechanisms in their joint statement, adopted after the ASEAN summit in Jakarta.

"We expressed concern over the declining commitment and cooperation in global non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament mechanisms, and called on countries, especially Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), to maintain and fully implement their commitments under these mechanisms, including in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)," the statement reads.

ASEAN states called on nuclear powers to recognize the need for complete elimination of nuclear weapons and to make sure that these weapons are not used again under any circumstances.

<https://tass.com/world/1670643>

IAEA Conducts Its First Seawater Sampling After Japan's Discharge of ALPS Treated Water, Finds Tritium Level Below Limit

IAEA, September 8, 2023

The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) first independent sampling and analysis of seawater near the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS) since discharges of ALPS treated water started on 24 August confirms that the tritium levels are below Japan's operational limit.

Agency staff present at the IAEA's Office at the site sampled seawater from several locations within three kilometres from the site, at sea and from the coast.

The Agency's independent sampling and measurement of the seawater from the coast shows consistency with the values reported by Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) - operator of the FDNPS - as well as the Ministry of Environment of Japan. TEPCO reports daily public results on its website showing that the tritium activity concentration in the sea falls below its operational limit, that is, the limit set for operation of the ALPS discharge process that must not be exceeded. The Agency is continuing its analysis of all the seawater samples.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/iaea-conducts-its-first-seawater-sampling-after-japans-discharge-of-alps-treated-water-finds-tritium-level-below-limit>

North Korea floats out new sub carrying tactical nuclear weapons

TASS, September 8, 2023

A ceremony to float out an advanced submarine fitted with tactical nuclear weapons was held in North Korea, the Voice of Korea radio station reported on Friday.

The ceremony was attended by the country's leader Kim Jong-un.

According to the report, it was the country's first submarine carrying tactical nuclear weapons.

The submarine is now being readied for sea trials.

In his speech on the occasion, Kim Jong-un called nuclear weapons an important component of the country's naval forces.

"We are full of determination to continue to further demonstrate how advanced our submarines and surface ships are, and we will continue [the process of] rearming our fleet with nuclear weapons," the Voice of Korea quoted him as saying.

<https://tass.com/world/1671401>

New North Korean submarine to terrify enemies even if not nuclear-powered – Kim Jong Un

TASS, September 8, 2023

The recently launched North Korean submarine, which is capable of carrying tactical nuclear weapons, will be no less formidable for the country's adversaries than a nuclear-powered one, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said.

"Today's launching ceremony will shoulder no less burden for our enemies than building a nuclear-powered submarine," the Korean Central News Agency quoted the DPRK leader as saying about the event that was held on September 6.

"The fact that the nuclear attack submarine, considered a symbol of invasion against our republic for decades, now symbolizes our power that terrifies the shameless enemies and that it is a new attack submarine of our own style unseen by the world, is truly something welcomed by all our people," Kim Jong Un said.

<https://tass.com/defense/1671531>

DPRK's new sub to force Japan, South Korea spend more on missile defense – analyst

TASS, September 8, 2023

The DPRK's fleet of upgraded diesel-electric submarines is an easy way to force South Korea and Japan to spend more on

a costly missile defense, Andrey Lankov, a professor at South Korea's Kookmin University and expert of the Valdai Discussion Club, told TASS in an interview.

He explained that the new type of submarines armed with tactical nuclear weapons could pose a threat to both South Korea and Japan, for in the event of a conflict they would enable Pyongyang to strike from "directions unprotected by missile defense systems".

<https://tass.com/world/1671745>

Republic of Korea Makes First Visit to IAEA Office at Fukushima Daiichi Under the IAEA - ROK Fukushima Information Mechanism (IKFIM)

IAEA, September 11, 2023

Korean experts visited the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Office at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (FDNPS) for the first time under an agreement between the IAEA and the Republic of Korea (ROK) providing for the IAEA to share information on its monitoring of the discharge of ALPS treated water.

The Korean team, comprised of experts from the Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS), visited the IAEA's office where the IAEA has a continuous presence on the site. Agency staff also held several technical meetings with the Korean experts off-site over the past two weeks as part of the IKFIM. The IAEA-ROK Fukushima Information Mechanism (IKFIM) established a framework for the IAEA to share technical information and data on the treated water discharge and its monitoring activities at the FDNPS with ROK. This agreement underscores the IAEA's commitment to enhancing communication with the public on the safety of the discharge of ALPS treated water, including in the region.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/republic-of-korea-makes-first-visit-to-iaea-office-at-fukushima-daiichi-under-the-iaea-rok-fukushima-information-mechanism-ikfim>

N. Australia

Allies target early AUKUS milestones to keep 20-year plan on track

Defense News, September 7, 2023

It will take two decades for Australia to operate the nuclear-powered submarines designed and built under a new arrangement with the United States and the United Kingdom, unveiled six months ago.

Even so, a flurry of activity meant to get the undertaking off the ground has already begun, and experts say it's critical to the program's long-term timeline that the three countries meet these initial goals.

Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. — or AUKUS — have begun overhauling a submarine-industrial base in Western Australia; designing Australia's future attack submarine SSN-AUKUS, that will incorporate American and Australian technology into a British attack sub design; and eyeing investments in all three countries' submarine-industrial bases meant to make them more resilient and tightly interwoven.

<https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2023/09/07/allies-target-early-aucus-milestones-to-keep-20-year-plan-on-track/>

Federal government spent \$100 million on now abandoned nuclear waste dump near Kimba

ABC News, September 11, 2023

The federal resources minister has revealed that the Australian government spent more than \$100 million on the now abandoned plan to build a nuclear waste dump near Kimba in regional South Australia. In response to a question from Liberal Senator Gerard Rennick in August, Resources Minister Madeleine King said the Commonwealth had spent approximately \$108.6 million towards establishing the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF)

between July 2014 and August 2023. The federal government formally abandoned plans to build the facility after the Federal Court ruled in favour of the area's traditional owners – the Barngarla people – who argued they were not properly consulted by the former Coalition government about the decision to choose the site.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-09-11/commonwealth-kimba-napandee-nuclear-waste-dump-100-million/102840994>

Contribute Articles

Indian Pugwash Society welcomes research articles from students, researchers and faculties on Space, Missile, nuclear technology, WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, export controls and other related issues. Articles should be crisply written and should address contemporary debates in the policy arena. Manuscripts submitted for the consideration of the Indian Pugwash Society should be original contributions and should not have been submitted for consideration anywhere else. For further assistance, please contact us at : indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com

The Indian Pugwash Society aims to promote the study, discussion, and knowledge of and to stimulate general interest in, and to diffuse knowledge in regards to problems relating on WMD proliferation, arms control, disarmament, space security, export controls, nuclear technology and other related issues. This newsletter is part of the project "Emerging Nuclear Order in Asia: Implications for India" sanctioned to us by Department of Atomic Energy-Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (DAE-BRNS).

Disclaimer:

Data included in this newsletter is only for educational purpose and wider dissemination. All liabilities and rights belong to respective writers & authors.

Prepared by :

Mr. Kushal Agrawal

Mr. Niranjana Oak

Mr. Aasi Ansari

Indian Pugwash Society

No.1, Development Enclave,
Rao Tula Ram Marg, Near USI, Delhi-110010
Tel. No (91-11) 2671-7983
Fax No. (91-11)2615-4192
Email: indianpugwashsociety@gmail.com