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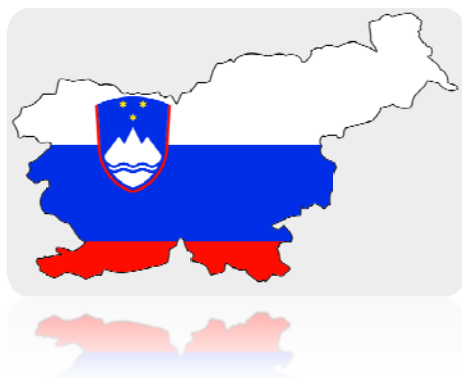
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Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) in a Process of Modernisation



During the last two decades the Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF), have undergone a major reorganization program. The goal was the transformation of SAF from a conscription-based defence force with limited capabilities to a professional, deployable, and combat-capable military able to operate within NATO and international missions. Nowadays, SAF have been significantly modernized and operates at strategic, operational and tactical levels as unitary armed

forces. The General Staff operates at the strategic level, the Force Command and the Doctrine, Development, Education and Training Command at the operational level and brigades and battalions at the tactical level. Additionally, SAF are manned with active and reserve component members. As of 2011, Slovenia's professional force included 7570 soldiers and 1623 reservists.

Composition of Slovenian Armed Forces

Composition of the Slovenian Armed Forces (March 2011)	Number	Percentage
Active component	7570	82 %
Contracted reserve	1623	18 %
Total	9193	100 %

Source: Slovenian Ministry of Defence (<http://www.slovenskavojska.si/en/about-the-slovenian-armed-forces/>)

SAF military structure consists of one fully professional motorized infantry brigade and two cadre/reserve force mechanized brigades. The professional brigade represents Slovenia's deployable reaction force and is manned by professional Slovenian Armed Forces members. The Slovenian Armed Forces also include a small air force, equipped with helicopters and turbo-prop fixed wing aircrafts, and a naval attachment, including a coastal patrol boat.

After gaining independence, Slovenia tried to become a member of NATO, as part of its overall strategy of integration into international economic and security organizations. Slovenia's efforts were accomplished on March 29, 2004, when it officially became a member of the alliance. Until then SAF have been participating in international missions reaffirming the country's commitment in becoming a provider of security in the region.

The first time Slovenian armed forces participated at international mission was on 14 May 1997, when a Medical Unit and four liaison officers were deployed to the humanitarian operation Alba in Albania was a Medical Unit. In February 2007, SAF deployed an entire battalion-level unit for the first time in its history and until then the number of Slovenian troops in multinational operations and the complexity of the missions that they carry out have been increased.

Currently SAF participates in several multinational operations and missions in Afghanistan (International Security Assistance Force - ISAF International Security Assistance Force - ISAF)
[Number of SAF Participants in International Missions](#)

International operations and missions - number of SAF participants	May 11, 2011
Afghanistan - ISAF, NATO	89
Bosnia and Herzegovina - JOINT ENTERPRISE, NATO	5
Kosovo - KFOR, NATO	318
FYROM - JOINT ENTERPRISE, NATO	1
Serbia - JOINT ENTERPRISE, NATO	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina - ALTHEA, EU	13
Somalia - ATALANTA, EU	2
Lebanon-UNIFIL, ZN	14
Syria - UNTSO, ZN	3
Total	447

Source: Slovenian Ministry of Defence (<http://www.slovenskavojska.si/en/international-cooperation/international-operations-and-missions/>)

and Kosovo (Kosovo Force - KFOR), while Slovenian troops are also present in Bosnia in Herzegovina, Lebanon, Syria, Serbia and FYROM. On May 2011 there were 447 Slovenian troops participating. More precisely there are 89 Slovenian personnel with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan, 14 troops in Lebanon (UNIFIL), 3 in Syria (UNTSO), 2 in Serbia and 1 in FYROM as part of NATO's Joint Enterprise missions, and 2 as part of EU's anti-piracy mission in Somalia. In addition, SAF contributes part of its forces to the EU Battle Group and the NATO Response Force.

After gaining its independence, the Slovenian government has deliberately tried to reorganise, and modernise SAF, additionally tried to cultivate closer links with international defence partners such as NATO. Both goals have been fulfilled as SAF is currently a professional, deployable, and combat-capable military capable on participating on NATO's missions.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
 Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Slovenian Defence Procurements under the New Defence Dogma



With over 18 years of existence the Slovenian Armed Forces (SAF) have been successfully accomplishing their mission and tasks. The aspiration of the Slovenian authorities is to further develop SAF in accordance with

ambitions, needs and available resources and with the obligations and privileges derived from the country's NATO and EU membership. SAF should be further transformed to a military force capable of adapting to new security circumstances and dynamics of change in contemporary military operations. Additionally, should be able to take part in international missions and to be fully interoperable with alliances. In order to fulfill these goals the total sum of military spending rose to 442 million Euros in 2009 from 375 in 2006.

When Slovenia entered NATO in 2004 government planned to augment defence expenditure up to 2 % of GDP, although defence spending eventually reached an average of 1.47%, and never exceeded the annual level of 1.6% of GDP. For the period 2004-2009, 61% of defence expenditure was earmarked for SAF personnel, 20% for operational cost, and 19% for procurement and construction, including research and development funds.

Slovenian Defence Imports (expressed in US\$ m. at constant 1990 prices)

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Russia	-	-	-	-	55	55
France	-	-	-	-	13	13
Finland	-	-	-	5	4	9
Austria	2	2	-	-	-	4

Source: SIPRI Publications, Arms Transfers Database

Russia is currently the main exporter of arms in Slovenia. Apart from Russia, important countries that export arms to Slovenia are France, Finland and Austria. Imports are rather limited in their geographical structure as (3) of the (4) first countries that export arms to Slovenia, based on the amount of funds allocated are European. This can be easily explained by the intense socioeconomic relations that the country has developed with European Union member states after 2004, when Slovenia entered EU.

Military expenditure of Slovenia

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
In Euro m.	322	375	375	429	442
percentage of gross domestic product	1.44%	1.57%	1.47%	1.52%	1.59%

Source: Ministry of Defence, Slovenia

In 2008 Slovenia procured a Svetlyak/Type-10412 Patrol craft from Russia. The total amount of the procurement was 28.4 million Euros. The deliveries were completed during 2010. With this procurement Russia is currently the main exporter of arms in Slovenia. Additionally, the country procured (2) C-295 Ground Master-400 Air search radars from France. Finally in 2003 Slovenia procured (36) Pandur APC's. Deliveries finished in 2007. The hull was produced in Slovenia and the vehicle was assembled in the country too.

The Slovenian government is deliberately trying to enhance defence capabilities of the country. This development will have to ensure the provision of the Republic of Slovenia's defence capability within the framework of collective security and, under certain conditions, also autonomous national defence, and active integration and participation in multinational operations. This will allow the SAF to contribute to security of the Republic of Slovenia in the international community, and to strengthen its international reputation and position.

Kyriazis Vasileios,
Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Epicos "Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects"



Epicos "Project Opportunities" provides a unique set of online tools enabling the structure, identification and implementation of comprehensive Offsets programs, through a searchable database. By introducing different offset projects and ideas proposed by local A&D industry it ensures the optimum cost for Prime Contractors and reassures that the priorities of local industry are fully met...

[For Further Information Press Here](#)

Development of an automatic detection system for Improvised Explosives Devices (IED) components in X – Ray images



A company with long standing experience in the professional training of operators, testing and evaluating of Explosives Detection Systems is proposing, in the frame of an offset program, the collaboration with companies active in the security sector for the development of an automatic detection system for Improvised Explosives Devices (IED) components in X – Ray images based on innovative data analysis.

[For Further Information Contact our ICO Department](#)

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Development of a generic hand held portable data recording unit (for aircraft maintenance applications)



A world leader in avionics communication board and system level products, is proposing, in the frame of an offset program, the collaboration with prime companies or military and civilian aircraft users for the adaptation of a generic hand held portable data recording unit it produces, in order to support specific modern military and civilian aircraft data busses monitoring for maintenance and analysis purposes. The hand held device can be adapted to the users' particular needs and requirements in order to monitor and record the data communicated and exchanged (via data busses MIL-STD-1553 and ARINC-429) by the systems of interest, on board the dedicated airborne platform designated by the user.

[For Further Information Contact our ICO Department](#)

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NATO at 60: The Post-Cold War Enlargement and the Alliances Future (Nato Science for Peace and Security Series E: Human and Societal Dynamics), by A. Bebler



At the age of 60, NATO has never been easier. The alliance has remained a key instrument for addressing pressing security challenges. But it also remains a unique transatlantic family of like-minded democracies. Though, a lot have been changed since 1949. NATO successfully transformed itself from a North American-Western European Alliance focused exclusively on territorial defence into a pan-European institution with new members stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea. NATO's missions have changed and its structures have been reformed accordingly. This book addresses

these problems and must be regarded as a must read for those interested in international relations, global security and defence issues.

OECD Economic Surveys: Slovenia 2011



OECD is an international organization in which democratic countries work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalization. OECD is also at the forefront of efforts to help governments respond to the new development and concerns, such as corporate governance, the information economy and the challenges of an ageing population. This is the organization's survey of Slovenia's economy. It includes a variety of subjects such as the aftermath of the global financial crisis, the outcomes of educational improvements, foreign investment,

governance and economic performance.



Boeing, Aeroflot Announce Order for Eight 777s

LE BOURGET, France, June 21, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Boeing (NYSE: BA) and Aeroflot Russian Airlines today announced an order at the Paris Air Show for eight Boeing 777-300ERs (extended range) jetliners.

"The Boeing 777 will strengthen our long-haul capabilities," said Vitaly Saveliev, director general of Aeroflot Russian Airlines. "These airplanes will play a critical role in our network expansion strategy, particularly the international growth opportunities we expect from our joint businesses with SkyTeam partners when servicing the Sochi 2014 Olympic Games and the 2018 Football World Cup."

"Aeroflot is expanding the strategic capabilities of its long-haul fleet," said Jim Albaugh, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "We're very grateful for the confidence Aeroflot has placed in Boeing -- and in the 777." The Boeing 777 is the world's most successful twin-engine, long-haul airplane, distinguished by its fuel-efficiency, spacious cabin interior, range capability, commonality with the 767 and the 787, and its reliability. Featuring wider seats, wider aisles, more headroom and more seating, the Boeing 777 Signature Interior is preferred by passengers. For the fourth straight year, American Express Executive Travel Magazine readers voted the 777 as their favorite airplane.

Russia is an important supplier for the Boeing 777 family. VSMPO, a subsidiary of Rostekhnologii State Corporation, manufactures large titanium forgings for landing gears, wings and pylon of the 777 jetliner. Russian engineers at the Moscow Boeing Design Center and IT experts from Russian software companies actively participated in designing the 777-300ER.

Aeroflot is the largest airline and the national carrier in Russia. Its overall flight network comprises 898 locations in 169 countries. In 2010, 11.3 million passengers used Aeroflot's services and about 14 million used the services offered by the Aeroflot group. Consisting of 107 airplanes, Aeroflot is a member of SkyTeam, the global airline alliance. To date, nine of 13 SkyTeam members have ordered a total of 171 777s.

The order was previously attributed to an unidentified customer on Boeing's Orders and Deliveries website.

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Source: Epicos, Boeing

France transfers sensitive warship technology to Russia

LE BOURGET (France), June 20 (RIA Novosti) - France has transferred to Russia all the technology it asked for under a \$1.7-billion deal for two French-built Mistral class amphibious assault ships for the Russian Navy, a Russian arms exporter said on Monday. Under the deal signed on Friday, the first warship will be delivered in 2014 and the second in 2015. "The French side has transferred all technologies, including the Zenit-9 [command and control] system, as well as two other systems," said Anatoly Isaikin, head of the Rosoboronexport state-controlled arms exporter. A formal contract for the construction of the two Mistral class ships will be signed separately at a later date, he said, adding it could take up to three months to compile. The warships will be equipped with Russian-built Ka-52 Alligator multirole helicopters, Isaikin said. Navy chief Adm. Vladimir Vysotsky said on Friday, the warships will be provided with Russian weapon systems, including amphibious landing assets and carrier aviation. The use of Mistral class ships will significantly increase the effectiveness of humanitarian operations, he said, adding that they could be used both in peacetime and in wartime for a variety of missions. The program has alarmed Russia's neighbors, especially Georgia. Russia and France in January signed an intergovernmental agreement to build two Mistral class helicopter carriers at the STX shipyard in Saint-Nazaire, France. Another two are planned to be constructed later in Russia. Contract talks stumbled over Russia's demand for the transfer of sensitive electronic systems. A Mistral-class ship is capable of carrying 16 helicopters, four landing vessels, 70 armored vehicles, and 450 personnel. France has two Mistral class amphibious assault ships in service and is building a third.

Source: 2009 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Ukraine wants to conclude free-trade deal with EU by yearend

STRASBOURG, June 21 (RIA Novosti) - Ukraine wants to finish talks on a free-trade agreement with the European Union by the end of the year, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said on Tuesday. "I would like the Ukrainian authorities to complete the agreement on cooperation and free trade by the end of this year," Yanukovich said at a session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Ukraine has been engaged in negotiations with the EU on a free trade agreement since 2008, when the then President Viktor Yushchenko was pushing a determinedly pro-Western line. Last fall, however Yanukovich rejected the deal, saying it would be too costly for his country's economy. But on October 14, 2010, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said after visiting Brussels that he was "confident that we will, in the end, reach agreement on all points" of the free-trade deal. If the sides agree on the deal, most Ukrainian goods may be exported to the EU without duties.

Source: 2009 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Rolls-Royce wins \$2.2 bn Brazil engine order

Britain's Rolls-Royce said on Monday it had won an order worth \$2.2 billion (1.5 billion euros) to supply its Trent XWB jet engines to power the Airbus A350 long-haul planes bought by Brazil's TAM airlines.

The contract includes engine maintenance work over a period of 12 years on the 27 A350s ordered by TAM.

The Trent XWB is a new specially designed engine, offering 25 percent better fuel efficiency compared with its predecessors, Rolls-Royce said in a statement at the Paris International Air Show.

The latest deal brought the number ordered to more than 1,100 with 36 clients, providing work through to 2020, it added.

Source: 2009 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Boeing, Norwegian Air Shuttle Announce Order for 15 Next-Generation 737-800s

LE BOURGET, France, June 21, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- Boeing [NYSE: BA] and Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA, commercially branded 'Norwegian,' today announced an order for 15 Next-Generation 737-800 airplanes at the international 2011 Paris Air Show. The order, valued at \$1.2 billion at list prices, brings the total number of 737-800s Norwegian has ordered direct from Boeing to 78.

The carrier also has finalized its contract to purchase three Boeing 787 Dreamliners, an agreement the Oslo based operator announced in May, which brings the total number of Boeing 787s it will operate to five including two to be leased from ILFC.

The order announcement was made at the Paris Air Show by Boeing Commercial Airplanes Vice President of Sales & Marketing Marlin Dailey and Norwegian Air Shuttle CEO Bjorn Kjos.

"Norwegian continues to be a leader in the industry by providing its passengers with both the new Boeing Sky Interior and Wi-Fi on its new Boeing 737-800's – this is a terrific combination for passengers on the most fuel efficient single-aisle airline operating in today's market," Dailey said. "Norwegian has achieved great success and we take pride in the 737's contribution to its achievements."

"At Norwegian, we are committed to being progressive and thinking long term. This order gives us an opportunity to secure and invest in the company's future. These new Boeing 737-800s aircraft will give us a tremendous competitive advantage, enabling us to reduce our overall costs even more," said Norwegian's CEO Bjorn Kjos. "Brand new, fuel-efficient aircraft are necessary for us to continue to grow. In the long run, owning is more advantageous than leasing and as we begin to phase out our older aircraft, it is crucial we are able to purchase new airplanes. From an environmental perspective, we know that Boeing is continuously working on measures to reduce emissions, making new aircraft a win-win for both the environment, our passengers and for us as a company," he added.

The digitally designed Next-Generation 737 is the most technologically advanced airplane family in the single-aisle market. The 737-800, which can seat up to 189 passengers is 1,700 pounds (771 kg) lighter and can fly 315 nautical miles (583 km) farther while carrying 12 more passengers than the competing model.

Today's operators fly 737s that are 5 percent more fuel efficient than the first Next-Generation 737s and additional improvements are on the way. Boeing's performance improvement package will boost fuel efficiency by approximately 2 percent through aerodynamic and engine changes. The improvements to the airframe and engine are expected to be in service between mid-2011 and early 2012 and will be incorporated into the 15 aircraft ordered by Norwegian.

Norwegian is the third largest low-cost airline in Europe. It operates 238 routes to 97 destinations across Europe into North Africa and the Middle East. More than 13 million passengers flew with the airline in 2010.

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Photo and caption are available here: <http://boeing.mediaroom.com>

Source: Epicos, Boeing