

Part I: Poland

1. Polish Defence Procurements
2. Polish Defence: International Cooperation
3. Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects”
4. Installation of special protection equipment against virulent diseases to ambulance car used in several homeland security applications
5. Development of a field-deployable, compact weather station system
6. News from our A&D Business Network

Part II: Epicos Newsroom

1. Japan wants its own early-warning planes: report
2. Air France suspends low-cost plan in bid to end strike
3. IAG finalises deal for 8 Airbus A330s worth \$1.5bn
4. Iran unveils new missile-equipped drone
5. Polish president swears in new government

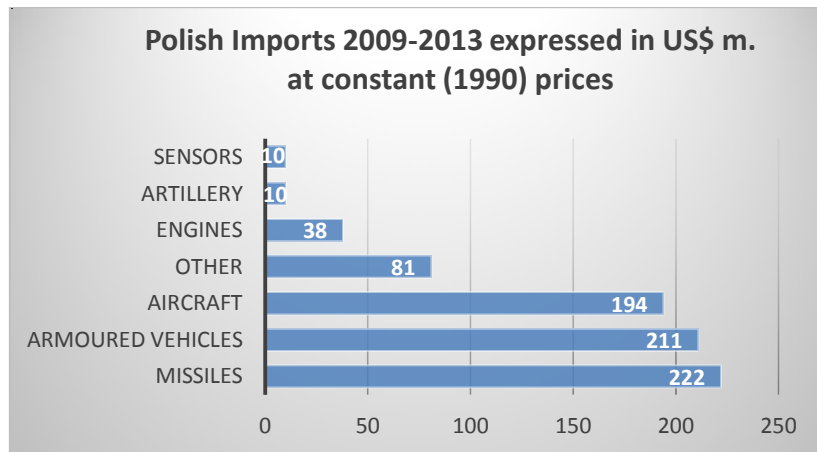
Polish Defence Procurements



Managing challenges and threats requires the armed forces to be able to perform missions in every environment. The ability to carry out any mission or assignment, to act immediately and to strike effectively and precisely is actually an indicator of success. For this purpose, they should be properly equipped. In order to fulfill its abilities, Poland has allocated 31.4 billion zlotys (approximately \$9.7 billion dollars) to

defence expenditures. The 2013 defence expenditures ceiling has been established as defined in the act dated 25 May 2001 on restructuring, technical modernization and financing of the Polish Armed Forces (not less than 1.95% of the Gross Domestic Product of the previous year). It is important to notice that the internal structure of the defense budget has been improved so as to increase capital investment expenses. In 2013 defence budget was 26.2%.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Finland has a leading role in the Polish armament imports. Apart from the European country, other important countries that export arms to Poland, for the period 2009-2013, were: USA, Italy, Sweden and Spain. The Polish armament imports are rather limited in their geographical preference as four out of the five first countries that export arms to Spain, based on the amount of funds allocated, are from Europe. Missiles were the predominant area of imports for the period 2009-2013 with a total amount of 222 US\$ m. at constant (1990) prices. The 2nd most important sector was that of armored vehicles with 211 US\$ m. at constant (1990) prices whereas other areas such as aircraft, engines, artillery and sensors follow.



Through the aforementioned procurements Poland aims to properly equip the Polish soldier so as to be able to undertake a complete spectrum of actions in a short period of time within the scope of a national or allied military operation.

Kyriazis Vasileios,

Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Polish Defence: International Cooperation

Ministry of National Defence Republic of Poland

One of the strategic objectives of Poland is to actively participate in forming a stable and secure environment and in developing cooperation between allies, partners, neighbors and other subjects of international relations. Therefore, the European state is deliberately enhancing its collaboration with NATO, EU and is forming strategic alliances with other states. Under this notion, in Warsaw on September 19th 2014, an agreement was signed between the governments of the Republic of Poland, government of Lithuanian Republic and Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The scope of the agreement was the creation of a joint military unit (LITPOLURKBRIG) with Headquarters (HG) in Lublin. The agreement was signed by the Defence Ministers of Lithuania Mr. Jouzas Olekas, Ukraine Lt. Gen Valeriy Heletey and Poland Mr. Tomasz Siemoniak.

Before the signing of the agreement the Defence Minister of Ukraine Lt. Gen Veleriy Heletey expressed his approval of the agreement, stating that: *“on behalf of myself and the nation of Ukraine I would like to thank Poland for supporting us in that difficult moment”*.

Additionally, during a visit in Japan, conducted on the 15th thru the 17th of September, Under-Secretary of State in MOD Mr. Robert Kupiecki discussed the prospects of defence cooperation between Poland and Japan, among other things in area of missile defence as well as matters concerning international security.

In the last decade, the Polish security policy evolved systematically and extended its concept, objective and scope. Therefore, Poland is trying to create an international system of strategic alliances a fact highlighted by the aforementioned developments.

Kyriazis Vasileios,

Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects”



Epicos “Industrial Cooperation and Offset Projects” 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...

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Installation of special protection equipment against virulent diseases to ambulance car used in several homeland security applications



A leading company in the design, manufacture and distribution of medical emergency products for Civil and Military use proposes a project which aims to the installation of virulent protection equipment into special made ambulance car. The proposed equipment will support ensure safe transfer of the patient and the assisting personnel to the hospital eliminating transferring of the virulent disease to any other person.

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

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Development of a field-deployable, compact weather station system



A manufacturing company with significant experience in designing and developing environmental Meteorological Stations, and sensors for meteorological, hydrological and agro-meteorological applications is willing to expand its capabilities in the field of automated weather stations that can be rapidly deployed and used in diverse field operations.

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

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News from our A&D Business Network**Bolidt Wins Supplier of the Year Award during Seatrade Med**

Judged by an independent panel of experienced cruise industry specialists, the Seatrade Insider Cruise Awards are one of the highest accolades in the cruise industry. The winners of the 8th Insider Cruise Awards were announced during Seatrade Med Cruise Convention 2014 in Barcelona. At the Seatrade Med Party in Barcelona's opera house, the Gran Teatre del Liceu, Bolidt was announced as Supplier of the Year.

The Supplier of the Year award is given to a firm that has provided an exceptional quality service, product or innovation to the cruise sector over the past 12 months. "We are honoured that the jury, who all are experienced cruise industry specialists, has chosen to recognize Bolidt as an innovative leader in the cruise industry and we will continue to lead the market in delivering innovative solutions", says Jacco van Overbeek, Bolidt Director Maritime Division.

Bolidt wins this award in the year it is celebrating their 50th anniversary. Since start-up Bolidt has been unlocking the potential for traditional materials to be replaced with synthetic solutions in a range of harsh environments. Recently Bolidt launched new colours for Bolideck® Future Teak, the environmentally friendly decking system. It is Bolidt's job to ensure that the materials are available to allow interior designers' imaginations full scope. Bolidt is working on the Quantum of the Seas and Anthem of the Seas, due for delivery in November 2014 and March 2015 respectively. Bolidt recently secured the contract as exclusive partner to Viking Ocean Cruises for the supply of decking and flooring. The contract covers Viking Star, the first vessel due for delivery in 2015 and its sister ship, Viking Sky, scheduled for delivery in 2016, as well as options on a further two vessels.

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AAR's Lake Charles MRO Facility Lands Substantial New Contracts



AAR (NYSE: AIR) announces that it has secured multiple contracts for work to be done at its newest maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility in Lake Charles. These contracts represent a major milestone for the repair station, including agreements with two major U.S. carriers, since AAR began operations at this location a year ago.

With these commitments, AAR's Lake Charles MRO has begun supporting a customer mix of major U.S. carriers, leasing institutions and VIP operators covering a broad range of wide-body aircraft to include the Airbus 330 and 340, and Boeing 767 and 777 platforms. Program work scopes include heavy maintenance checks, interior modifications, and IFE system upgrades and modifications.

The recent uptick in program awards for Lake Charles MRO is well timed as AAR just opened a sixth hangar at Chennault International Airport. At 118,000 square feet, the new hangar expands AAR's capacity to accept wide-body work. AAR provides a full range of services, from scheduled maintenance and structural repairs to re-engineering aircraft interiors. The two large wide-body spots inside the new hangar are already committed through the first half of 2015.

"To welcome our first major customers while gearing up for this expansion makes it an exciting time for Lake Charles and AAR's 1MRO Network as we increase our wide-body capabilities to accommodate the increasing demand in North America," said Dany Kleiman, Vice President, Operations, AAR Aircraft Services. "Commercial and private carriers appreciate the breadth of services that AAR can provide at our newest MRO facility, and the timing of our new hangar has turned out to be ideal."

AAR now occupies a total of six hangars at Chennault for a total of 638,000 square feet. The new hangar will be large enough to accommodate not only the largest airplanes in service undergoing heavy checks today but also the new generation of aircraft, including the Airbus A380 and Boeing 747-8.

The Lake Charles repair center is the newest addition to AAR's nationwide 1MRO Network, which also includes facilities in Indianapolis, Miami, Oklahoma City, Duluth, Minn., and Hot Springs, Ark. AAR's 1MRO approach provides customers with access to integrated repair, engineering, IT, parts services and increased flexibility from multiple locations throughout the country. Aviation customers have voted AAR ATE&M's Best Airframe MRO Provider in the Americas and, by size, AAR is the No. 1 provider of MRO services in North America and one of the top three in the world, according to industry rankings.

About AAR

AAR is a global aerospace and defense contractor that employs more than 6,000 people in 17 countries. Based in Wood Dale, Illinois, AAR supports commercial, government and defense customers through two operating segments: Aviation Services and Technology Products. AAR's services include inventory management and parts distribution; aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul; and expeditionary airlift. AAR's products include cargo systems and containers; mobility systems and shelters; advanced aerostructures; and command and control systems. More information can be found at www.aarcorp.com.

For further information [click here](#)



Japan wants its own early-warning planes: report

Japan's defence ministry wants to develop its own early-warning aircraft, replacing US-made planes as the Chinese and Russian air forces grow more assertive, a report said Sunday.

The ministry has asked for an initial 80 million yen (\$642,000) from the finance ministry for the next fiscal year starting April to produce a mock aircraft, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

It said that military planners want to complete the development programme for planes featuring advanced surveillance radar by the mid-2020s, to replace Japan's US-made E-2C Hawkeye planes, which are based on a 1960s design.

Japan says it scrambled fighter jets more than 800 times in the last fiscal year to shadow intruding aircraft, mostly from China and Russia. That was the highest number of deployments since the final year of the Cold War in 1989.

Fears of a military clash have heightened since China last November declared an "air defence identification zone" over the East China Sea, which overlaps a similar Japanese zone and covers territory disputed by the two countries.

Sunday's report comes after Japan lifted a self-imposed ban on weapons exports, as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe looks to expand the country's diplomatic and military reach after a long period of economic stagnation.

Defence ministry officials could not be reached to comment on the report.

Source: 2014 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Air France suspends low-cost plan in bid to end strike

French flag carrier Air France on Monday offered to freeze the expansion of its low-cost operation in a bid to end the longest strike at the airline since 1998.

As the strike entered its second week, management said it would halt the development of its leisure subsidiary Transavia until December, unions said, raising hopes of an end to the crisis.

Air France chief executive Alexandre de Juniac said it was "the last offer" and was expected to sketch out a "global plan to exit the crisis" at around 1200 GMT.

He offered "to suspend the plan to create Transavia subsidiaries in Europe until the end of the year" in order to have "a deeper dialogue" with pilots, but insisted the overall project could not be called into question.

Union sources said there was a "softening" of tensions but complained that "the company still has a strong ambition to develop Transavia."

Air France pilots are on strike in protest at the airline's plans to develop Transavia France, which serves holiday destinations, primarily in the Mediterranean.

They fear the airline will attempt to replace expensive Air France pilots, who can earn up to 250,000 euros (\$321,000) in annual salary, with Transavia pilots, who are paid considerably less.

As on previous days, the strike forced the airline to scrap more than half its flights on Monday.

Air France said the strike was costing them "up to 20 million euros (\$26 million) per day" and said it would update its profit forecasts when the strike was over.

"The pilots' strike has lasted for seven days now with disastrous consequences for customers, employees and the company's finances," the airline said in a statement.

The airline operated around 40 percent of its flights on Monday, with nearly seven in 10 pilots walking off the job.

Air France has made concessions before -- notably an offer to limit the Transavia fleet to 30 planes compared with 37 originally planned -- but to no avail so far.

"This strike is becoming interminable," said Jean-Claude Delarue, president of a travellers' federation.

"You have to ask yourself whether Air France will end up losing market share because travellers will end up going elsewhere," said Delarue.

- Air France fate 'at stake' -

The government has called several times for an end to the strike, with Prime Minister Manuel Valls warning that the image of the eurozone's second largest economy was at risk.

Transport Minister Alain Vidalies warned over the weekend that "the fate of the company could be at stake."

"The low cost (arena) is not a choice, it's an obligatory move, that's reality. I think pilots are fully aware of this," he told French radio at the weekend.

The main pilots' union, SNPL, has called for the strike to be continued until Friday and threatened a further extension if its demands are not met.

Management has sent an email to its pilots to try to put an end to what it said were attempts of "intimidation" against pilots who were continuing to work.

"Air France management will not tolerate any misdemeanour and will initiate steps necessary to punish those who engage in such acts," read the email, obtained by AFP.

The company also wrote to its passengers to express its "frustration" and "unhappiness". It asked customers who have already booked a ticket before September 26 to delay their trip or change their flight free of charge.

In an apologetic message to its frequent flyers, the wider Air France-KLM group has said its aim was to offer "competitive" fares and Transavia was meant to complement Air France's operations without creating any "adverse impact on Air France staff".

Throughout the strike, the atmosphere at airports has been remarkably quiet, as the company has been warning travellers in advance that their flights are cancelled.

Source: 2014 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

IAG finalises deal for 8 Airbus A330s worth \$1.5bn

International Airlines Group said Monday it has finalised a deal to buy eight long-haul Airbus A330-200 aircraft worth \$1.48 billion (1.15 billion euros) at list prices for Spanish unit Iberia.

The company, which is based in London and also owns British Airways, revealed in a statement that it had decided to convert eight options that were previously announced in 2011.

IAG said it had negotiated a "substantial discount" from list prices for the aircraft, which will be delivered between late 2015 and 2018. Airlines tend to receive large reductions on the cost of planes. Airbus meanwhile added in a separate statement that the eight jets will be equipped with General Electric CF6 engines.

Iberia's fleet, which is comprised of only Airbus aircraft, already includes eight A330-300s.

"We are just delighted that Iberia has reconfirmed its confidence in the A330," said John Leahy, Airbus chief operating officer, customers.

He added that Airbus was "extremely pleased to welcome them as a new operator of the A330-200 benefiting from the enhanced performance that the new 242 tonne version brings, while continuing to deliver the family synergies of an all Airbus fleet."

In early August, IAG announced an order for eight A350s and said that it also planned to take eight A330-200s -- either from a leasing company or by converting options signed with Airbus in 2011.

In total, the 16 Airbus planes will replace 16 A340 family aircraft in Iberia's long-haul fleet.

IAG had announced last month that net profit more than doubled to 280 million euros in the second quarter compared with a year earlier, boosted by cost-cutting at Iberia.

Source: 2014 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Iran unveils new missile-equipped drone

Iran on Tuesday unveiled a new missile-equipped drone to boost its military arsenal, as part of events marking the end of its 1980-1988 war against Iraq.

Iranian engineers working for the armed forces have "built the drones to carry air defence missiles", deputy defence minister General Amir Hatami said, quoted by Fars news agency.

"The research, experimentation and testing phases have been completed," he said.

"These new drones are capable of destroying different types of aircraft, including fighters, drones and helicopters," he added, without giving technical specifications.

State television broadcast footage of what it said was the new drone being uncovered at a ceremony held at a secret location.

Apart from a fast-moving ballistic weapons programme, Iran has since 2010 been producing drones which the defence ministry says are capable of firing missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometres (more than 600 miles).

Tehran says its weapons programmes are purely for defensive purposes, but the United States whose Fifth Fleet is based in Bahrain across the Gulf has often voiced concerns.

Source: 2014 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Polish president swears in new government

Poland's president on Monday swore in the government of incoming Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz and called on her to prepare the nation for a debate on adopting the euro.

Kopacz took over this month as head of government from Donald Tusk, who resigned after he was tapped to become the next European Council chief in December. President Bronislaw Komorowski said one of the tasks facing the new government would be "to prepare Poland for the inevitable debate on strengthening our place in an integrating Europe.

"What I mean is a discussion, and then a possible decision, on eurozone membership," he said at the swearing-in ceremony.

Poland is obliged to join the single currency bloc as part of its 2004 European Union entry deal but has dragged its feet on the move, which would require it to amend its constitution.

Referring to Poland's victory in the men's volleyball world championship final over Brazil on Sunday, Komorowski said: "I thought it was a good sign. ... And I wish the same success, through teamwork, to the Kopacz government and to us all."

The reshuffled cabinet of 16 ministers includes six women, the largest number since the fall of communism in 1989, and five new ministers.

Radoslaw Sikorski was replaced as foreign minister after seven years on the job, during which he made international headlines for his vocal stance on the crisis in neighbouring Ukraine. His successor, Grzegorz Schetyna from Kopacz's centre-right Civic Platform (PO), was Tusk's main rival within PO.

Analysts believe Kopacz gave him the new job to placate a strong personality that could stoke divisions within the party if he were left out of government -- a crucial move in the run-up to next year's general elections.

Schetyna said Monday he wanted to revamp relations with Moscow and Kiev, which have been unsettled by the crisis in Ukraine.

He signalled a possible shift from Sikorski's position of strong support for Kiev and sharp criticism of Moscow for its role in the Ukraine crisis.

"I will do everything to return to normal and stable relations between Poland, Russia and Ukraine," he told the broadsheet Polska daily.

"Poles must believe that our Eastern policy guarantees their security. This is what people expect from the government and the foreign minister."

Kopacz herself has come under fire from both the opposition and local media for saying that Poland "shouldn't be an active participant in this armed conflict" in Ukraine.

"Poland should behave like a reasonable Polish woman" who puts home and family first, she said last week. "Our safety, our country, our home, our children are what's most important."

Kopacz added, however, that Poland should still contribute if the EU "decides to help Ukraine". However, Defence Minister Tomasz Siemoniak said on Monday that Poland could sell weapons to Ukraine. "For years our (arms) industry was interested by this region and we have several products that could interest the Ukrainian side.

"There are no restrictions and since July, there is no embargo on arms sales to Ukraine. Like many other countries, we are prepared to do it (sell)," Siemoniak told Radio Zet.

The parliament will hold a vote of confidence in the new government on October 1.

Source: 2014 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)