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The Netherlands to Increase Defence Budget



On Tuesday the Netherlands boosted its defence spending by 220 million euros for 2016, as stated by Dutch King Willem-Alexander in a speech ahead of the government's 2015 budget presentation. This amount of money will be used in part to further improve the armed forces' operational deployability. In addition, extra funding will be made available on a structural basis for Dutch

participation in military missions. Defence spending is expected to rise to € 345 million in subsequent years.

In his speech, Dutch King Willem-Alexander stated that the terrorist threat is mainly a direct consequence of the rise of jihadist groups in Syria, Iraq and other countries in the Middle East and North Africa. He also added that Russia's annexation of Crimea and the conflict in eastern Ukraine has further destabilized Europe and that several other conflict hotspots, such as in Mali, Yemen and Afghanistan also pose a threat to the international legal order.

King Willem-Alexander also referred to his speech to the growing flow of refugees from Turkey to Europe that demands an active response. According to his estimations the solution to the problem should include international conflict management, refugees' reception in the region, combating people smuggling, a strict but fair asylum procedure in every country, effective policy of return, and giving to those unable to return opportunities to integrate in societies.

Regarding the country's foreign policy, King Willem-Alexander stated that the government firmly believes in opting for international cooperation and a comprehensive approach, also at the EU, NATO and UN level.

Kyriazis Vasileios,

Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Dutch Defence Industry: The “Triple Helix” and Exports



Ministry of Defence

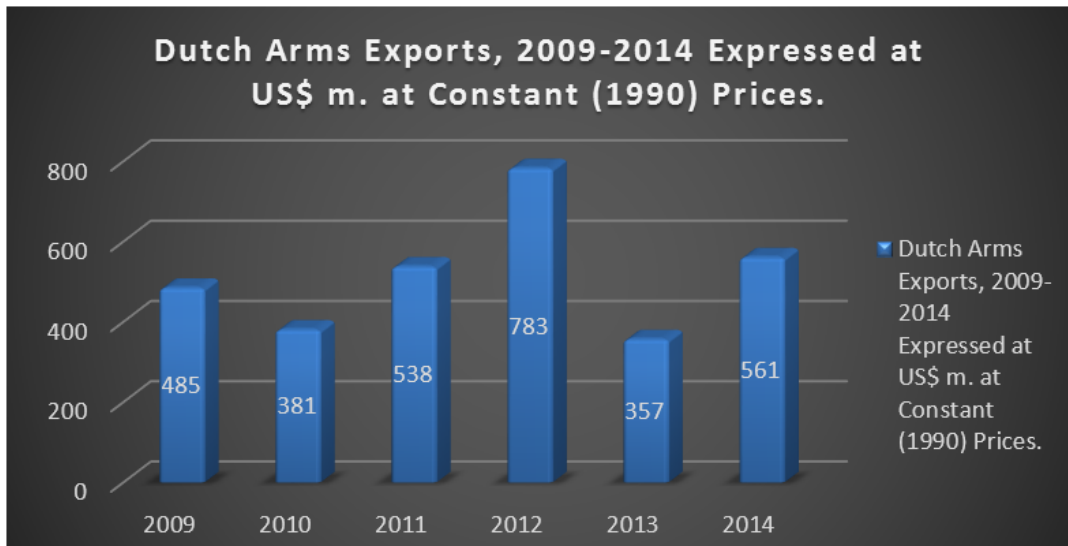
In order to further enhance their defence industry, the authorities of the Netherlands are structuring a cooperative pattern including the government, Netherlands’ Defence and Security Related Industry (NL DTIB) and knowledge institutions. This “Triple Helix”, as it is called, has as a purpose to reinforce the innovative capability and independent position

of the entire defence and security sector. In this context, government refers to the Ministries of Defence and Economic Affairs, the NL DTIB consists of small, medium-sized and large companies that are active in the defence market and the knowledge institutions are universities, semi-public institutions and knowledge institutes.

The NL DTIB comprises of a few manufacturers of complete weapon systems, but also includes numerous small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) as suppliers of sub-systems and components. Many companies are niche-oriented and are active in both the civil and military domain.

Dutch exports have been dramatically increased throughout the years. The result is that the Netherlands is currently the 12th country in arms exports, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) a Swedish think tank, for the period 2011-2014.

Exports (expressed in US\$ m. at constant 1990 prices)



Source: SIPRI Publications, Arms Transfers Database

Dutch arms exports are rather diversified in their geographical structure and range of exported items. More than (30) countries have imported defence equipment from the Netherlands, whereas, the four (4) first countries, based on the amount of funds allocated are: Morocco, Jordan, Portugal and Turkey.

The Netherlands is among the world's highest military exporters. A wide variety of defence equipment is exported to several different countries throughout the world. This diversity is definitely the most important fact that safely leads us to the ascertainment that this trend will continue.

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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Ballistic protected container field kitchen for peace keeping operations and catering services near the front line



A modern company with a long history in manufacturing high quality products for demanding customers in the fields of thermal technology and advanced use of stainless steel (e.g. modern field catering systems and equipment for rapid deployment troops, from refrigerated trailers to field kitchens) is proposing the sourcing of a ballistic protected container field kitchen for peace keeping operations and catering services near the front line. The proposed field kitchen will

be installed on a NATO standard container and it will be equipped with catering equipment presenting the best possible ergonomic and working conditions for the personnel.

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

Mail at: g-menexis@epicos.com

Design and Development of a UAV Nuclear Reconnaissance System



A large company with significant experience in the development and production of chemical defense instruments and nuclear reconnaissance systems, is proposing collaboration with a company specializing in the design and production of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in order to develop a UAV nuclear reconnaissance system. Fields of application could be: reconnaissance of widely

contaminated areas, localization of single radiation sources, nuclear accidents or atomic explosions.

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News from our A&D Business Network

Raytheon receives \$87 million SM-3 Block IIA contract



The Missile Defense Agency awarded Raytheon Company \$87 million to purchase long-lead materials needed to produce up to 17 Standard Missile-3 Block IIAs that will be used for testing and initial deployment. A follow-on contract for the additional materials, parts and components is expected by early 2016. "Our Japanese partners have been tremendous allies in this development program, and together we've taken ballistic missile defense to the next level," said Dr. Taylor W. Lawrence, Raytheon Missile Systems president. "When the SM-3 Block IIA deploys in 2018, we will have a greater degree of protection than ever before."

The SM-3 Block IIA has larger rocket motors and a bigger, more capable kill vehicle that allows it to take out threats sooner in flight and protect larger regions of land. "The SM-3 Block IIA can be used at sea or on land with no modification to the missile," said Amy Cohen, Standard Missile-3 program director. "The SM-3 is the only ballistic missile defense interceptor that can be deployed both ways, and that flexibility is a tremendous asset." The program is on track for both land and sea deployment in 2018 in line with Phase 3 of the U.S.'s Phased Adaptive Approach for missile defense of U.S. deployed forces and allies in NATO Europe.

About the Standard Missile-3

SM-3s destroy incoming ballistic missile threats in space using nothing more than sheer impact, which is equivalent to a 10-ton truck traveling at 600 mph.

- More than 230 SM-3s have been delivered to date.
- SM-3 Block IB will be deployed at sea and ashore in 2015 in Romania.
- SM-3 Block IIA is on track for deployment at sea and ashore in 2018 in Poland and/or Romania.

About Raytheon

Raytheon Company, with 2014 sales of \$23 billion and 61,000 employees worldwide, is a technology and innovation leader specializing in defense, civil government and cybersecurity markets throughout the world. With a history of innovation spanning 93 years, Raytheon provides state-of-the-art electronics, mission systems integration and other capabilities in the areas of sensing; effects; and command, control, communications and intelligence systems, as well as cybersecurity and a broad range of mission support services. Raytheon is headquartered in Waltham, Mass. For more about Raytheon, visit www.raytheon.com and follow on Twitter @Raytheon.

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SkyWest, Inc. orders 18 additional E175s to fly as United Express



Embraer announced today that it has signed a firm order with SkyWest, Inc. for 18 E175 jets. The order, which will be included in Embraer's 2015 third-quarter backlog, has an estimated value of USD 800 million, based on the current list price. The aircraft will be operated by SkyWest Airlines, under an amendment to an existing Capacity Purchase Agreement (CPA) with United Airlines. With this new 18 aircraft purchase, the total number of SkyWest E175 firm orders reached 73 units of this model.

Delivery of the first aircraft is expected in 2016. The E175s are configured in a dual class 76-seat layout, equipped with 12 First Class seats, 16 Economy Plus seats, and 48 Economy seats, and will operate under the United Express brand.

The E175s feature a new wingtip that, among other technical enhancements, improves aerodynamic performance. Fuel consumption on a typical flight is 6.4% lower than first-generation E175s. In North America, the E175 is the preferred aircraft of carriers operating 76-seat jets. In the last two years, the E175 has captured over 80% of orders among aircraft in its class from airlines in the United States.

Embraer is the only manufacturer to develop a modern family of four airplanes specifically targeted for the 70- to 130-seat segment. Since the formal launch of the program in 1999, the E-Jets have redefined the traditional concept of regional aircraft by operating across a range of business applications. The first E-Jet entered revenue service in 2004.

About SkyWest, Inc.

SkyWest, Inc. was named one of "America's Best Employers" by Forbes in 2015 and was Air Transport World's Regional Airline of the Year in 2014. SkyWest, Inc. is the holding company for two scheduled passenger airline operations and an aircraft leasing company and is headquartered in St. George, Utah. SkyWest's airline companies provide commercial air service in cities across the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean with more than 3,500 flights and a fleet of 678 aircraft. SkyWest Airlines operates through partnerships with United Airlines, Delta Air Lines, US Airways, American Airlines and Alaska Airlines. ExpressJet Airlines operates through partnerships with United Airlines, Delta Air Lines and American Airlines. SkyWest is headquartered in St. George, Utah, and continues to set the standard for excellence in the regional industry with unmatched value for customers, shareholders and its nearly 20,000 employees.

About Embraer Commercial Aviation

Embraer is the world's leading manufacturer of commercial jets that seat up to 130 passengers. Nearly 900 aircraft from the 37, 44 and 50-seat ERJ 145 family of regional jets have been delivered to airlines since their introduction in 1996. The E-Jet family includes four larger aircraft that have between 70 and 130 seats. The E170, E175, E190 and E195 set

the standard in their category with their advanced engineering, high degree of efficiency, spacious, ergonomic cabins with two-by-two seating, and attractive operating economics. Since the E-Jets entered revenue service in 2004, Embraer has received more than 1,500 firm orders for this aircraft family. More than 1,100 have been delivered.

In 2013, Embraer launched the E-Jets E2, the second generation of its E-Jets family of commercial aircraft comprised of three new aircraft – E175-E2, E190-E2, E195-E2 – seating from 70 to 130 passengers. The E190-E2 is expected to enter service in the first half of 2018. The E195-E2 is slated to enter service in 2019 and the E175-E2 in 2020.

Follow on Twitter: @Embraer

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Japanese protest as security bills close to becoming law

Crowds took to Japan's streets Wednesday to protest legislation expected to be passed this week that could see troops fight overseas for the first time in 70 years, despite mass public opposition.

Hundreds of people holding placards saying "No war" and "Don't ram through the legislation" faced a line of police outside a hotel in Yokohama, a city south of Tokyo, where lawmakers gathered for a public hearing on the bills.

Demonstrators later began blocking the roads, chanting anti-war slogans and trying to stop lawmakers from driving away after the debate.

The protests are the latest show of public anger at Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's plans to expand the role of Japan's military on the world stage.

Tens of thousands of people are also expected to gather outside parliament later Wednesday as a special committee debates the bills -- the last step before they go to the upper house plenary session, where they are expected to be pushed through by the ruling coalition's majority.

Opposition parties are planning actions to try block the legislation, including censure motions to try to embarrass the government into submission, but these are not expected to stop the bill being passed.

Under the proposed new laws Japan's army, known as the Self-Defence Forces, would be able to go into battle to protect allies even if there was no direct threat to the country or its people.

Although the current post-war constitution -- which barred troops from taking part in combat except in pure self-defence -- was imposed by US occupiers, many Japanese feel strongly any change would alter the country's pacifist character.

Many legal scholars have said the changes are unconstitutional, and critics worry they would drag Japan into American wars in far-flung parts of the globe.

Abe and his supporters say the bills are necessary to deal with a changing security environment marked by an increasingly assertive China and unpredictable North Korea.

Source: 2015 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

French air strikes on Islamic State in Syria 'in coming weeks': defence minister

France will carry out its first air strikes on the Islamic State jihadist group in Syria "in the coming weeks," Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Wednesday.

The French air force has been carrying out reconnaissance missions over Syria since September 8, and strikes will follow "in the coming weeks, as soon as we have clearly identified targets," Le Drian told France Inter radio.

France has been part of a US-led coalition bombing IS positions in Iraq for the past year.

But President Francois Hollande last week changed strategy to expand action to Syria amid mounting political pressure over jihadist threats faced by France.

France has so far confirmed it has carried out two surveillance flights over Syrian territory.

The United States, Canada, Turkey and Gulf states have already been involved in strikes on IS militants in Syria, and were joined on Wednesday by Australia, according to an announcement by the Australian government.

On Tuesday, Le Drian told parliament the Islamic State had made "very significant progress" in Syria, especially in the northern region of Aleppo.

"There is an extremely strong offensive taking place on the small town of Marea, which if it succeeded would wipe out what we still call the Free Syrian Army or the national Syrian coalition, or what is left of it," he said.

Source: 2015 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Beijing may build 3rd S. China Sea runway: US think-tank

Beijing may be building its third airstrip on artificial islands in the South China Sea, a US think-tank said, in a move likely to raise tensions with Washington ahead of a state visit by China's president.

China claims almost the whole of the sea and over the past year has asserted its stance with rapid conversion of tiny reefs into islands for facilities with military uses.

Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei all have rival claims to the waters, which incorporate strategically crucial shipping lanes and could harbour oil and gas deposits. The Pentagon has warned that Beijing's activities are changing the regional status quo, and has weighed sending warships and surveillance aircraft within 12 nautical miles -- the normal territorial zone around natural land -- of the new artificial islands.

Work began last year on a 3,000-metre (9,842 feet) runway on Fiery Cross reef in the Spratly islands, around 1,000 kilometres from China's island province of Hainan.

It is now "well advanced" and has reached the painting stage, said the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on Tuesday.

Satellite photos of another reef, Subi, where nearly four million square metres (988 acres) of land have been reclaimed, show grading work and possible runway construction is being carried out, it said.

And satellite photos taken last week show that a retaining wall has been built on Mischief Reef, creating a 3,000-metre rectangular area, and a cement plant set up, CSIS said, "suggesting another runway could be in the works".

The images appear to contradict a claim by China in August that its reclamation activities had stopped.

Mischief Reef is only 21 nautical miles from Second Thomas Shoal, where the Philippines -- whose defence budget is a fraction of China's -- deliberately grounded a landing ship in 1999 to serve as a makeshift base for a contingent of marines.

"A third airstrip on Mischief Reef... would complete the triangle, significantly boosting China's air patrol and interdiction capabilities over the contested waters and features of the Spratlys," wrote Gregory Poling of CSIS' Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI).

It would heighten tensions and present "greater operational headaches for all the claimants as well as outside players like the United States", he added.

- 'Already stopped' -

Airstrip building in the Spratlys goes back nearly 40 years and four other claimants already have such facilities, although China's are much longer and could be used by any of the People's Liberation Army's aircraft, analysts say.

China says its reclamations and facilities are intended for civilian and well as military purposes.

The latest satellite pictures -- showing continuing dredging and channel widening -- were taken after Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said at an ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur last month that land reclamation works were over.

"China has already stopped. You look, who is building? Take a plane and look for yourself," Wang told reporters on the sidelines of the meeting.

Bonnie Glaser of AMTI said the works "underscore Beijing's unwillingness to exercise self-restraint and look for diplomatic paths to reduce tensions with its neighbours, the United States, and other nations".

Chinese President Xi Jinping will make his first state visit to the US next week and she added: "Beijing appears to be sending a message to President Barack Obama that China is determined to advance its interests in the South China Sea even if doing so results in heightened tensions with the United States."

Source: 2015 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Saab Receives US Order for AT4CS RS Systems

Defence and security company Saab has received an order from the US Army for the shoulder-launched AT4CS RS (reduced sensitivity) anti-armour weapon system. Deliveries will take place during 2016.

The AT4CS RS is a disposable, preloaded weapon with a specially developed, unique shaped-charge warhead that delivers outstanding behind-armour-effects inside the target. Thanks to this new warhead the AT4CS RS also has improved insensitive munition (IM) characteristics. "This is another great milestone for Saab and the AT4 system. This new order demonstrates the continued belief by the customer in the capabilities and versatility of our product, as well as its future potential. Together with the major December 2014 order from the French armed forces, this order emphasises that Saab is the leading supplier in the shoulder-launched product segment," says Görgen Johansson, head of Saab Business Area Dynamics.

The AT4 is one of the most successful anti-armour weapons ever developed. Great flexibility means it is not limited to combating tanks and heavy combat vehicles; it is equally effective against threats in buildings and fortifications. It can also be employed to protect fixed installations, supply points and other vital assets. The product range includes AT4 HEAT (high explosive anti-tank), confined space (CS) and anti-structure tandem (CS AST) variants.

In 2014 new versions of the weapon were introduced to the market. These new variants are part of the proven AT4CS family and build upon Saab's modular 84-mm product range including the Carl-Gustaf multi-purpose reloadable weapon system and the AT4 family of disposable weapons. The new AT4 variants – the AT4CS ER (extended range) and AT4CS HE (high explosive) -- provide multi-purpose, direct fire support with confined space capabilities.

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Saab serves the global market with world-leading products, services and solutions within military defence and civil security. Saab has operations and employees on all continents around the world. Through innovative, collaborative and pragmatic thinking, Saab develops, adopts and improves new technology to meet customers' changing needs.

Source: Epicos, Saab

Royal Thai Army places additional order for STARStreak Air Defence Missile Systems

Thales announced today at DSEI that it has signed a multi-million pound contract with DataGate in Thailand to supply the Royal Thai Army with the STARStreak air defence missile system.

This contract follows on from Thailand's initial purchase of STARStreak in 2012.

The system comprises STARStreak missiles, the world's fastest very short range air defence (VSHORAD) missile and Lightweight Multiple Launcher (LML). The LML tripod-based system allows swift deployment of STARStreak missile to deal with attacks from low-level fighter aircraft, Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) and attack helicopters. The system plays a key part in the air defence forces continued commitment to protecting the Kingdom of Thailand.

Victor Chavez, CEO of Thales in the UK, said: "STARStreak is the leading VSHORAD system in the world today, enabling nations to protect key assets against both emerging and established threats. We are honored to continue to serve the Royal Thai Army as a key supplier for Thailand's advanced air defence capability."

STARStreak can be seen on display at DSEI on the Thales stand (S6-110).

KEY POINTS

A multi-million pound contract with Royal Thai Army.

Thales to supply STARStreak missiles and Lightweight Multiple Launchers.

Notes to editors

The STARStreak missile operates at a speed in excess of Mach 3 to defeat fast-moving threats and those with short unmasking times. The three-dart 'hittile' configuration maximises lethality and the highly-accurate laser beam riding guidance enables engagement of low-signature targets and is immune to all known countermeasures.

About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Aerospace, Transport, Defence and Security markets. With 61,000 employees in 56 countries, Thales reported sales of €13 billion in 2014. With over 20,000 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design and deploy equipment, systems and services to meet the most complex security requirements. Its unique international footprint allows it to work closely with its customers all over the world.

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