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Romania to Raise Defence Budget



Currently, Romania faces a rather serious geopolitical threat as tensions continue to rise in Ukraine. In order to tackle this new problem the country is projected to raise the 2016 defence budget adding some 1.3 billion Romanian New Lei (RON)

(approximately 322 million US dollars). In 2016, defence budget will reach 1.7% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). More on that, Romanian government has decided to raise defence budget to 2% by 2017, in accordance with NATO's guidelines.

Additionally, it is worth mentioning that Romania will allocate 28% of the defence budget in the procurement of new equipment. This will allow for the financing of major ongoing programs such as the Multirole Aircraft Program and will also allow for the initiation of several new procurement programs such as the following:

- Purchase of fixed and deployable communications and information systems for the Multinational Division Command South-East;
- Modernization of frigates T-22 R and other Navy equipment;
- Procurement/modernization of armoured combat vehicles;
- Procurement of multifunctional transport platforms;
- Repair of aircraft capabilities.

Additionally, the budget for 2016 will allow the materialisation of co-financing investment projects conducted through NATO Security Investment Program.

Romania's strategic interest is to create a stable, democratic and prosper environment capable to maintain peace and understanding between the neighbouring countries, and to create pluralist regional communities. The aspiration of Romanian government is to play a major role under this framework by being a dynamic vector of democratic security, stability and economic prosperity in the region.

This is fostered by the participation of the country in the Euro-Atlantic political and defence structures and Romania managed to create a new philosophy that encourages the development of a collective strategy. This strategy facilitates the establishment of a set of principles, norms and unitary conduct rules based on the provisions of international law; and encompass obligations regarding the bilateral and multilateral relations of the regions countries.

Kyriazis Vasileios,

Epicos Newsletter Head Editor

Romanian Defence Industry: Turnover and Exports



According to a press release published by the Romanian Ministry of Economy, local defence industry's turnover increased by 13% in the first half of 2015 compared to the first half of 2014 reaching some 309.1 million Romanian New Lei (RON) (approximately 76.8 million US dollars). Additionally, it is worth mentioning that Romanian defence industry exported defence equipment valued at 284 million RON (approximately 70.6 million US dollars), increased by 31.7% compared to the same period of the previous year. The companies that achieved the largest increase in exports were Avioane Craiova (86.5%), ROMARM (39.31%), IOR S.A (28.27%), and IAR S.A (17.45%).

Also it is worth mentioning that Romanian defence companies are largely benefited by international synergies with foreign companies. One such synergy is the establishment of a branch in Romania named Airbus Helicopters Romania by Airbus Helicopters. Airbus Helicopters Romania is a specialized maintenance and repair centre for a wide range of helicopters, civil and military, operating in Romania and elsewhere in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Airbus Helicopters Romania was established in 2002.

In November 2015, Airbus further reinforced its position in the country by setting down the foundation stone of their new Romanian factory in Brasov, established to assemble the latest helicopter to join the H Family of aircraft – the H215.

According to a press release published by Airbus Helicopters, the 10,000m factory will work under the control of Airbus Helicopters Industries, and will facilitate the H215 production from procurement to after-sales, including design office activities. The factory will provide jobs to more than 300 employees in the long term. The assembly line will be capable of producing up to 15 aircraft per year, starting from 2017.

The presence of Airbus Helicopters in Romania has some tangible socioeconomic benefits for the local society, such as the formation of a cooperative scheme that brings to the country sophisticated technology and tacit knowledge, the creation of new jobs and the enhancement of the technological level of the indigenous industry, which is mainly achieved through the establishment of an advanced network of industrial capabilities in the country.

In 2013 another synergy between a Romanian and a foreign company resulted to The Netherlands delivery of two offshore patrol vessels that were designed in Netherlands and produced in Romania at the Damen shipyards in Galati. This export exemplifies the synergies created through the establishment of strategic partnerships between A&D companies.

In 1994, Damen started cooperating with Galati shipyards by subcontracting hulls of cargo vessels. This cooperation worked out very well and in 1999 the shipyard officially joined Damen Shipyards. An ambitious investment plan followed which mainly focused on the

improvement of efficiency and on the working conditions. The cooperation matured in such an extent that resulted in the production of a vessel that was exported.

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...

[For Further Information Press Here](#)

Development of Semi Rigid RF Coaxial Cables assembly line for Aerospace & Defence applications



A company specialised in the production and commerce of hoses, control cables and rigid tubes for aircraft is willing to expand its activities/capabilities in the area of Semi Rigid RF Coaxial Cables by establishing a respective assembly line to be used on various systems/projects for Aerospace & Defense applications.

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

Mail at: a-kintis@epicos.com

Production of machined parts and components for the defense and civil automotive industry



A company specialized in supplying parts and services for the machining sector and with extensive experience in the aerospace industry is willing to collaborate with a Prime Contractor or a third party company and to expand its activities for the provision of machined parts to the automotive industry for vehicles used both for military and civilian applications.

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

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News from our A&D Business Network

Cubic Awarded \$76.4 Million IDIQ Contract from Defense Logistics Agency for Personnel Locator Systems



Cubic Global Defense (CGD), a business unit of Cubic Corporation (NYSE: CUB), today announced it received a \$76.4 million contract from the Defense

Logistics Agency (DLA) Land and Maritime to supply key components for the AN/ARS-6 (V-12) Personnel Locator Systems (PLS). The contract is a five-year base indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract with a performance completion date of December 2020.

Cubic's PLS is part of the standard Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) system used by U.S. and NATO forces to covertly locate downed or missing personnel from the air, while concealing the warfighters' location from the enemy. The AN/ARS-6 PLS is an airborne guidance system that provides secure, encrypted communication between rescue forces and isolated personnel during civil and combat rescue missions. It is installed in close-air-support aircraft, such as helicopters and fixed-wing attack aircraft, and interfaces with all U.S. deployed combat survival radios and standard civil emergency distress beacons.

"Nothing is more important than rescuing civilians or military personnel at risk. These systems are critical in the search and rescue of our warfighters," said Bill Toti, president of Cubic Global Defense. "We take this responsibility very seriously, and are very proud of our role in designing and delivering the best PLS systems in the world to bring our warfighters home."

About Cubic Corporation

Cubic Corporation designs, integrates and operates systems, products and services focused in the transportation, defense training and secure communications markets. As the parent company of two major business units, Cubic's mission is to increase situational awareness and understanding for customers worldwide. Cubic Transportation Systems is a leading integrator of payment and information technology and services to create intelligent travel solutions for transportation authorities and operators. Cubic Global Defense is a leading provider of realistic combat training systems, secure communications and networking and highly specialized support services for military and security forces of the U.S. and allied nations. For more information about Cubic, please visit the company's website at www.cubic.com or on Twitter @CubicCorp.

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Orbital ATK Secures U.S. Air Force Contract to Conduct Advanced ICBM Propulsion Research



Orbital ATK, Inc, a global leader in aerospace and defense technologies, announced today that its Defense Systems Group has signed a contract with the U.S. Air Force (USAF) to research design and development options for its intercontinental ballistic missile system (ICBM). Part of a multi-year USAF Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent program (GBSD), the award will be used to explore enhanced propulsion capability through improvements and/or alternatives to current post-boost propulsion systems.

Orbital ATK's effort will focus on trade studies and hardware demonstrations aimed at improving post-boost propulsion system effectiveness, reducing life-cycle costs, and increasing safety and reliability for future ground-based strategic missile systems.

"Orbital ATK's post boost technology offers the GBSD community with years of experience supporting numerous systems, including the US Navy Trident II," said Pat Nolan, Vice President and General Manager of Orbital ATK's Missile Products division of the Defense Systems Group.

In service since the 1960s, the current Minuteman III represents the land-based component of the U.S. nuclear triad which, along with its sea- and air-based counterparts, supports the nation's strategic defense. Once development is completed for the new GBSD system, it will begin replacing the Minuteman III starting in the late 2020s.

Orbital ATK Defense Systems Group is an industry leader in providing innovative and affordable ammunition, precision and strike weapons, electronic warfare systems, and missile components across air-, sea-, and land-based systems.

About Orbital ATK

Orbital ATK is a global leader in aerospace and defense technologies. The company designs, builds and delivers space, defense and aviation systems for customers around the world, both as a prime contractor and merchant supplier. Its main products include launch vehicles and related propulsion systems; missile products, subsystems and defense electronics; precision weapons, armament systems and ammunition; satellites and associated space components and services; and advanced aerospace structures. Headquartered in Dulles, Virginia, Orbital ATK employs approximately 12,000 people in 18 states across the United States and in several international locations. For more information, visit www.orbitalatk.com.



NHI signs agreement with Dutch MEA on NH90 workshare

During the State visit by the Royal couple of the Netherlands, his Royal Highness King Willem-Alexander and her Royal Highness Queen Maxima on March 11th 2016, the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs (MEA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with NHIndustries (NHI) for the participation of the Dutch Industry in the sustainment phase of the NH90 helicopter.

Under this agreement the involvement of Airborne and NHI consortium partner Fokker Technologies a division of GKN Aerospace, in Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul activities for the NH90 helicopters of the Royal Netherlands Air Force is confirmed according to an agreed roadmap.

Fokker performed its first official standard part delivery for the NH90 helicopter in 2013, the transfer of the entire standard parts package has now officially been finalized.

Airborne is authorized by Airbus Helicopters for ML1 and ML2 rotor blade repair activities for operators of the NH90 helicopter. The company will continue to work to get the ML3 maintenance qualification level to offer this capacity as a subcontractor of Airbus Helicopters to operators in The Netherlands, Belgium and potentially other countries.

During the event in Paris, the President of NHIndustries, Mr. Vincent Dubrule, commented on the cooperation: "NHI is actively partnering with international suppliers in order to improve the availability of platforms and reducing cost of maintenance for the operators of the NH90."

Pieter Taal of the Dutch MEA added "We are happy to see that after a thorough preparation the cooperation between NHI and Dutch industries will now lead to a substantial role for these capable companies in maintaining the state-of-the art NH90 helicopter."

About the NH90 program

The NH90 helicopter is the optimal choice for modern operations thanks to its large full composite airframe, its excellent power to weight ratio, and its wide range of rôle equipment. It features a redundant Fly-by-Wire flight control system for reduced Pilot's workload and enhanced flight characteristics.

The NH90 is proposed in two main variants, one dedicated to naval operations, the NH90NFH (Nato Frigate Helicopter) and a Tactical Transport Variant for land based operations. As of today, 271 helicopters have been delivered in Naval and Tactical transport variants. They are in service in Germany, France, Spain, Italy, The Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Greece, Oman, Belgium, Australia and New Zealand.

About NHIndustries

The twin-engine, medium-size NH90 helicopter program is managed by the consortium NHIndustries, the Company owned by Finmeccanica Helicopter Division (32%), Airbus Helicopters (62.5%), and Fokker (5.5%)

About Fokker Technologies

Fokker Technologies is a division of GKN Aerospace and a leading global aerospace specialist that develops and manufactures highly engineered advanced aircraft systems and components for aircraft manufacturers and provides integrated maintenance services and products for aircraft owners and operators. The company was founded in 1919. Headquartered in Papendrecht, the Netherlands, Fokker Technologies operates facilities in the Netherlands, Romania, Turkey, Canada, Mexico, USA, China, India and Singapore, and employs approximately 4,900 people. For the year ended 31 December 2014, reported revenue was €758 million.

About Airborne

Airborne is a company specialised in the design, manufacturing and maintenance of composite aero-structures. The group employs around 250 people and has facilities in The Netherlands, UK and Spain. The business unit Airborne Services, located at the Main Support Base of the RNLAf, is active in maintenance and repair of composite structures, with a focus on rotor blades of military helicopters. Airborne repair specialists have extensive experience working on NH90, Cougar, Chinook and Apache helicopter platforms.

For Further Information [Click Here](#)

Source: Epicos

Saab Selected to Provide Airport Collaborative Decision Making Solution for Hong Kong International Airport

Defence and security company Saab announces that it has been selected by Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) to provide a turnkey Aerobahn Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) solution.

Saab will deploy its Aerobahn CDM Platform, including its A-CDM Milestone Manager and Pre-departure Sequencer, and supply support and maintenance services to ensure program success. The CDM platform will optimize the efficiency in the airport and it also allows for customizations to suit HKIA's local needs. The solution conforms to EUROCONTROL A-CDM implementation guidelines.

The Aerobahn A-CDM Milestone Manager is a foundational component for implementing Airport Collaborative Decision Making. It provides information sharing and milestone tracking capabilities in line with the governance organisations EUROCONTROL, ETSI, EUROCAE, and ICAO ASBU recommendations. The Aerobahn A-CDM Milestone Manager links arrival and departure flight information together, and incorporates real-time progress updates in accordance with the business standard 16 A-CDM milestones. The Aerobahn A-CDM Milestone Manager is unique in that the set of milestones and the way they are evaluated and defined are customizable so that they can be adapted to local needs.

“Saab's Aerobahn CDM Suite enables customers to incrementally implement A-CDM all the way through to advanced levels and we are looking forward to a partnership with all relevant stakeholders at the airport. This award is further confirmation of Aerobahn's power and flexibility since Saab has been chosen in a fiercely competitive market,” says Anders Carp, Head of Saab Traffic Management.

Saab's Aerobahn CDM Suite consists of a modular set of applications built on a common software platform. It is the most mature and widely deployed CDM platform in the world, has been in production for over 12 years, and is currently deployed at 27 of the world's busiest airports.

For further information, please contact:

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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

AAR Awarded \$49 Million Contract for U.S. Army Next Generation Automatic Test System Shelters

AAR has been awarded a contract for United States Army Next Generation Automatic Test System (NGATS) Shelters with a total contract ceiling valued at \$49 million over five years. AAR has received a first delivery order valued at \$2.5 million to include first article units for two shelter variants, as well as production units. The shelters will be designed by AAR Mobility Systems in Cadillac, Michigan; and produced at their Goldsboro, North Carolina facility.

The award calls for the design, test, and production of two types of 20-foot ISO shelters that will support the NGATS, including an Automatic Test Equipment (ATE) shelter, which is a maintenance shelter that houses the actual test system, and the NGATS storage shelter that stores the system-specific hardware required to test the systems components.

"We are very proud to expand the products we supply to the U.S. Army and we appreciate their confidence in our products and services," said AAR CEO David P. Storch. "This contract demonstrates Mobility's longstanding ability to design and engineer new and creative solutions to meet our customers evolving needs."

"Our innovative rugged design offers similarities between the shelters, simplifying the Integrated Logistics Support, and is significantly lighter than the threshold requirement," stated Lee Krantz, Senior Vice President, AAR Mobility Systems. "This weight savings translates to increased payload to accommodate more test equipment and supplies for longer missions, or allows the U.S. Army to take advantage of reduced fuel consumption for transport."

AAR Mobility Systems is a leading global supplier of rapid deployment equipment including mobile tactical shelters, pallets and expeditionary containers that enhance military commanders' ability to mobilize, deploy, maneuver and sustain forces. The business unit manufactures large lightweight structural assemblies and platforms that support mission essential functions and support their products through a network of service centers, field service teams and strategic partners.

About AAR

AAR is a global aftermarket solutions company that employs more than 4,500 people in over 20 countries. Based in Wood Dale, Illinois, AAR supports commercial aviation and

government customers through two operating segments: Aviation Services and Expeditionary Services. AAR's Aviation Services include inventory management; parts supply; OEM parts distribution; aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul; and component repair. AAR's Expeditionary Services include airlift operations; mobility systems; and command and control centers in support of military and humanitarian missions. More information can be found at www.aarcorp.com.

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Source: Epicos, AAR

Moscow begins withdrawal of military equipment from Syria: defence ministry

Russia has begun to withdraw military equipment from Syria, the defence ministry said Tuesday, after Moscow announced it will pull the bulk of its forces from the war-torn country. "Technicians at the (Hmeimim) airbase have begun preparing aircraft for long-range flights to airbases in the Russian Federation," the defence ministry said in a statement, adding that military equipment was being loaded onto the planes.

President Vladimir Putin announced Monday night that Moscow was set to withdraw the "most part" of its troops in Syria, ending its controversial bombing campaign. The move, which came as peace talks to end the five-year conflict were underway in Geneva, is expected to put more pressure on President Bashar al-Assad, Russia's long-standing ally, to negotiate a solution to end the war. Putin said he hoped the withdrawal would provide a "good signal" for all the warring sides in the conflict. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that Moscow's Hmeimim air base in Syria and its Tartus naval facility would remain functioning and that some military contingents would stay behind.

He did not however give any details on how many soldiers would stay in Syria, nor whether Russia's S-400 air defence systems and combat planes would remain in the country. Russia began its airstrikes in support of Assad's forces in September, a move that helped shore up the regime's crumbling forces and allow them to go on the offensive. The West had accused Russia -- which insisted its strikes were aimed against "terrorist" groups including Islamic State jihadists -- of targeting more moderate rebels fighting Assad.

A ceasefire between Assad's forces and opponents in the country introduced on February 27 has largely held, but it does not cover the IS and Al-Nusra Front jihadist groups.

Source: 2016 AFP, Agence France-Presse (AFP)

Japan Coast Guard orders an additional H225

Tokyo, Airbus Helicopters has signed a contract with Japan Coast Guard (JCG) for the purchase of an additional H225. JCG, which already operates five H225s, has ordered this additional aircraft as part of its fleet renewal plans. The helicopter is scheduled for delivery by the end of 2018.

This H225 will be equipped with the most advanced search and rescue mission systems and operated in security enforcement, territorial sea guard duties as well as disaster relief missions.

“We feel honoured to have signed this contract with Japan Coast Guard for their sixth H225 and are grateful for our customer’s renewed trust in the aircraft”, said Stéphane Ginoux, President of Airbus Helicopters in Japan. “We are proud to see that the H225’s outstanding performance in challenging search and rescue missions, as well as our comprehensive support and services offer are being recognised and valued. To ensure our customer’s complete satisfaction, we remain committed to high availability rates for JCG’s H225 fleet, thanks to our domestic footprint and our broad range of services”.

The H225, member of Airbus Helicopters’ Super Puma family, is an 11-ton-category twin-turbine rotorcraft which accommodates up to 19 passengers. Equipped with state-of-the-art electronic instruments and autopilot, the H225 offers outstanding endurance and fast cruise speed and can be fitted with various equipment to suit any role and purpose. Currently, more than 180 H225s are operating in 22 countries and have logged nearly 500,000 hours of flight time.

A total of 24 helicopters from the Super Puma family are operated in Japan by civil and parapublic users for search and rescue, offshore operations and passenger transport missions.

About Airbus Helicopters

Airbus Helicopters, a division of Airbus Group, provides the most efficient civil and military helicopter solutions worldwide. Its in-service fleet includes nearly 12,000 helicopters operated by more than 3,000 customers in 154 countries. Airbus Helicopters employs more than 22,000 people worldwide and in 2015 generated revenues of 6.8 billion Euros. For further information visit www.airbushelicopters.com

Source: Epicos, Airbus Helicopters