

CARMA NEWS BRIEF

Defence Media Roundup

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Notable Stories

BAE Systems Expands Defence Collaboration with Ukraine Amidst Russian Concerns

BAE Systems has recently signed agreements to enhance weapon and equipment provisions to Ukraine, with potential plans to produce light artillery locally. This move follows discussions between BAE Systems' CEO, Charles Woodburn, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Russia has expressed concerns, with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov indicating that any facilities producing weapons targeting Russia would be closely monitored by



Why it matters

Moscow's military. The Telegraph

Media outlets highlight the profound implications of BAE Systems' expansion into Ukraine, emphasizing the intricate geopolitical dynamics that carry extensive ramifications. The strategic importance of BAE's potential manufacturing in Ukraine was spotlighted by The Telegraph, describing the initiative as a significant deepening of NATO ties while bolstering Ukraine's defence capabilities. The BBC sheds light on geopolitical implications, emphasizing the Kremlin's apprehensions and its clear stance against BAE's move, which could escalate tensions. Meanwhile, Reuters provides a broader industry perspective, highlighting the dilemma faced by Western defence companies, enticed by the opportunities in Ukraine but also wary of the inherent security risks in the region.

China Sanctions U.S. Defence Firms Over Taiwan Arms Deals

China has imposed sanctions on U.S. defence companies Northrop Grumman and a Lockheed Martin unit, in response to their arms sales to Taiwan. The Chinese foreign ministry warned of "forceful" retaliation against further U.S. military deals with Taiwan. This move follows the U.S.'s approval of a recent deal to Taiwan, including advanced sensor systems for F-16 fighter jets. South China Morning Post



Why it matters

Media outlet such as **South China Morning Post** and **Reuters** emphasize China's strong opposition to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, portraying Beijing's determination to defend its stance on the "one-China principle". The SCMP highlights the broader geopolitical tensions, noting that Taiwan has become a significant source of strain between China and the U.S. Reuters, on the other hand, points out the ambiguity surrounding the sanctions' effectiveness, given that the targeted U.S. companies don't have significant dealings with China. The media coverage underscores the escalating tensions in the region, with both superpowers taking firm stances on Taiwan's sovereignty and defence.

RTX-Saudi Arms Deal Falls Through Over Alleged Ties to Sanctioned Entities

American defence company RTX was on the brink of a multibillion-dollar agreement with Saudi firm Scopa Defence, however, the deal was halted due to concerns over Scopa's potential business engagements with sanctioned Chinese and Russian companies. This decision reflects the challenges faced by countries attempting to maintain ties with both the U.S. and its global adversaries. Saudi Arabia's increasing connections with Russia and China have raised alarms in Washington, especially given the potential risks of sensitive U.S. military technology falling into the hands of these nations. The Wall Street Journal



Why it matters

The media has positioned the collapse of the RTX-Scopa deal as a reflection of the intricate geopolitical dynamics and ongoing challenges faced by countries and corporations in navigating their relationships amidst global rivalries. The Wall Street Journal emphasizes the balance of geopolitics and business endeavours, spotlighting the potential risks of Saudi Arabia's engagements with China and Russia, especially in the context of U.S. national security. The Cradle further elaborates on the depth of these concerns, pointing out the specific ties and dealings of Scopa's owner, Mohamed Alajlan, with entities in countries sanctioned by the U.S. Both outlets converge on the narrative that such deals could jeopardize U.S. efforts to maintain its influence in the region and protect its technological enhancements. The Cradle also brings to light the ongoing lawsuit against RTX, concerning an arms sale to the Saudi-led coalition waging war in Yemen, suggesting a broader context of scrutiny and accountability for defence giants in the global arena.

Notable Quotes & Commentary

"I am grateful to BAE Systems for the bold decision to stand side by side with us in the fight against Russian aggression and building the future of the Ukrainian defence industry. Together with the company, we will be able to localize the production of advanced weapons." Defense-Aerospace

Oleksandr Kamyshin Ukraine's Minister for Strategic Industry

"I don't think it's going to cause China to invade Taiwan. And matter of fact, the opposite – it probably doesn't have the – the same capacity that it had before."

South China Morning Post

Joe Biden President of the U.S.

"We don't work with any companies that have international sanctions," Alajlan said in an interview. Suggestions to the contrary "are all rumors, inaccurate and illogical and

unrealistic." Live Mint Mohamed Alajlan

Founder of Scopa Industries Corp. LLC

In Case You Missed It

Teledyne FLIR Unveils 'Black Recon' UAV
Tech at DSEI London

At the DSEI conference in London, Teledyne FLIR Defence showcased the 'Black Recon' Vehicle Reconnaissance System, a technology allowing military vehicles to autonomously launch, operate, and recover drones for reconnaissance without crew members leaving the vehicle. Bloomberg

RAFAEL Secures £20M U.K. MOD Contract for "TROPHY APS"

RAFAEL has acquired a £20 million contract from the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) for the TROPHY Active Protection System (APS) to enhance the defence capabilities of the Challenger 3 Main Battle Tanks. The TROPHY APS, known for its operational success, has completed its second integration phase onto the Challenger 3, with live-fire tests confirming its effectiveness.

Defense News

Indonesia Signs MoU with Boeing for F-15EX Fighter Jets Purchase

Indonesia and Boeing have formalized an agreement for the sale of 24 F-15EX fighter jets, marking Indonesia's efforts to modernize its air force. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed at Boeing's St Louis facility, witnessed by Indonesia's Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto. The Straits Times

Saab Invests \$75M in Al Startup Helsing, Valuing it at \$1.5B

Saab has formed a strategic partnership with Berlin-based AI startup Helsing through a \$75 million investment. This partnership values Helsing at \$1.5 billion and will integrate Helsing's AI capabilities into Saab's defence systems, starting with electronic warfare and surveillance for various aircraft and sensors. Financial Times

U.S. Senator Warren Questions Pentagon's Role in L3 Harris-Aerojet Deal

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren has raised concerns about the Pentagon's involvement in the approval of L3 Harris Technologies' acquisition of Aerojet Rocketdyne, especially given the dwindling number of defence contractors. Despite concerns, L3 Harris confirmed the \$4.7 billion deal was not blocked by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. Reuters

Thales NL's Naval Unit Showcases Advanced Defence Systems

The Naval Air Defence (DAN) visited Thales NL's unit in Hengelo to understand the production of its naval systems, which cater to various surface and anti-aircraft warfare missions. Defesa Aerea & Naval

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