



It is hard to put it in words, but there is a different and distinct feel to SAHA 2026. If previous editions of the biennial event were about the Turkish defence industry wanting to prove to the world that it had come of age, and being successful at it, this one is about an industry on a steep ascent choosing to flex its considerable muscle, knowing that the world is watching.

...CONT'D TO PG 3



INTERVIEW SEE P/16

**İlhami Keleş,**  
General Manager, MKE



INTERVIEW SEE P/18

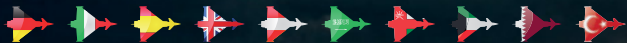
**Özgür Güler,**  
General Manager, STM



**ASELSAN Showcases  
Integrated Defense Vision**

SEE P/10

# 1 MILLION FLYING HOURS



[eurofighter.com](http://eurofighter.com)

 **Eurofighter  
Typhoon**

*nothing comes close*

Over the next five days, more than 1,700 companies from over 120 countries will showcase products and capabilities, but the spotlight is expected to remain on homegrown companies, many of whom have hogged the headlines recently with major international orders and technological breakthroughs. This year's edition assumes special significance, coming as it does weeks after NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte had words of praise for Türkiye's indigenous defence industry during his visit that included a trip to the ASELSAN Technology Base.

As geopolitical tensions rise and regional conflicts drag on, defence spending across the world is on the rise. For Türkiye, there is no bigger or more visible stage than SAHA 2026 to showcase the dynamism of its defense sector and the futuristic vision that drives it forward. Turkish companies, as well as their international counterparts attending the show, realize the next few days will be as good a time as any not only to strike some major deals but also to gain visibility on a truly international stage. The size, stature and format of the event have been tailored to amplify the potential for business deals and knowledge-sharing.

Across a 110,000 m<sup>2</sup> exhibition space at the Istanbul Expo Centre, exhibitors are showcasing the latest systems and solutions from the land, naval, air, and space domains, with a particular focus on unmanned systems and other disruptive technologies. SAHA 2026, which has "Rule the Technology, Shape the Future," as its central theme, features business-to-business (B2B), government-to-business (G2B), and government-to-government (G2G) meetings,



signing ceremonies, product launches, as well as discussions featuring domestic and international experts on topics such as digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and dual-use technologies. Among the other highlights of this year's edition is the FPV Drone Zone, the SAHA UGV Challenge and the SAHA Rover Challenge. More than 150 signing ceremonies are expected this year.

The revenue generated from the event will be put to good use. According to Haluk Bayraktar, Chairman of the Board of Directors for SAHA Istanbul, Europe's largest industrial cluster with over 1,300 members, drone production and training centers will be established in all 81 provinces of Türkiye, with the largest one in Istanbul. "We'll use the revenues from the SAHA expo to establish these centers, which will help us instantly achieve the production capacity of millions of drones nationwide at any given moment," says Bayraktar, who is also the CEO of defense firm Baykar.

Bayraktar has high hopes for the event. "SAHA oversaw export deals worth US\$6.2 billion in total in 2024. This year, we aim for US\$8 billion," he says. "When we launched SAHA Istanbul, there were only 17 firms in Turkish defense in the

early 2000s, but now the number of defense firms affiliated with SAHA Istanbul has reached over 1,300. The total number of firms related to the defense industry, on the other hand, is over 3,000.

"SAHA 2026 is more than a trade exhibition—it is a strategic platform showcasing Türkiye's impressive advancements in defence and aerospace, highlighting its expanding global role," adds Bayraktar. "We are entering a new era in defence and aerospace—shaped by vision, collaboration, and trusted partnerships."

The inaugural edition of SAHA in 2018 was attended by 170 defence firms; the current size and stature of the event reflect the growing reputation of Türkiye's domestic defense industry that is now riding a wave of momentum, one generated by a heady mix of soaring international sales, launch of groundbreaking products, and increased investment in R&D. The country's military expenditure touched US\$30 billion in 2025, an increase of 7.2 per cent from 2024 and of 94 per cent from 2016. Allocations to the special fund to support the Turkish arms industry rose by 25 per cent year on-year and accounted for 22 per cent of Türkiye's total military expenditure.



OFFICIAL SHOW DAILY

PUBLISHED BY



**Editorial Director**

Vittorio Rossi Prudente  
vittorio.prudente@gbp.com.sg

**Editorial Team**

Jay Menon  
jay.menon@gbp.com.sg

Arun Sivasankaran  
arun.sivasankaran@gbp.com.sg

Yulian Ardiansyah  
yulian.ardiansyah@gbp.com.sg

Jeoffrey Maitem  
jeoffrey.maitem@gbp.com.sg

Mohd Hanif Bin Ismail  
hanif.ismail@gbp.com.sg

**Art Director**

Sudheesh Kularmunda  
sudheesh.kularmunda@gbp.com.sg

**Sales Director**

Akshay Satyamurthy  
akshay.satyamurthy@gbp.com.sg

FOR EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE AND ENQUIRIES PLEASE VISIT US AT  
GLOBAL BUSINESS PRESS PTE LTD (GBP) :: HALL: 3 | STAND: 3X-28



# UAVs Reshaping Modern Warfare Draw Focus

**Some** of the unmanned aerial systems that have come to define modern conflict are on display at SAHA 2026, offering visitors a close look at platforms that are increasingly central to air power and battlefield operations.

The exhibition brings together combat drones, long-endurance surveillance systems and emerging unmanned fighter concepts, reflecting how rapidly autonomous air capabilities are evolving.

Turkish Aerospace is also presenting the **ANKA III** unmanned aircraft, focused on low-observable characteristics and deep strike roles, alongside the **AKSUNGUR** medium-altitude long-endurance platform. AKSUNGUR, derived from the ANKA family, has a wingspan of 24 metres and a maximum take-off weight of 3,300 kg, including more than 750 kg of payload. Powered by twin TEI-PD170 engines, it has demonstrated operations at 40,000 feet and endurance of up to 50 hours in ferry configuration. The platform combines line-of-sight datalinks with satellite communications for long-range missions and is equipped for ISR and precision strike roles.

Recent testing has also demonstrated AKSUNGUR's ability to deploy the Super Şimşek high-subsonic UAV, indicating a shift towards modular unmanned operations where larger platforms can act as carriers for smaller systems.

Drawing attention is the **Bayraktar KIZILELMA**, Türkiye's unmanned combat aircraft designed for air-to-air and strike missions. Developed by Baykar, the platform combines a low radar cross-section with high manoeuvrability

and a payload capacity of 1.5 tonnes. It has a combat radius of around 500 nautical miles, operates at speeds approaching Mach 0.9 and at altitudes of about 25,000 feet. It is also being developed for operations from short-runway aircraft carriers.

Recent testing has included autonomous close-formation flight between two unmanned aircraft, carried out using smart fleet algorithms without direct pilot input, pointing to future concepts of coordinated unmanned operations.

Also on display is the **Bayraktar TB3**, designed for naval aviation roles. The aircraft has a wingspan of 14 metres, a maximum take-off weight of 1,600 kg and a payload capacity of 280 kg, with endurance exceeding 24 hours. It is capable of fully autonomous take-off and landing, including from short-deck aircraft carriers, and supports both line-of-sight and beyond-line-of-sight communications for extended operations.

The **Bayraktar AKINCI** represents a heavier class of unmanned system. The twin-engine platform is designed for long-endurance missions, operating

at altitudes above 40,000 feet with a payload capacity of up to 1,500 kg. It is equipped for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance as well as precision strike missions, including both air-to-ground and air-to-air engagements, and incorporates satellite communications and autonomous flight systems.

Together, the platforms on display at SAHA highlight how unmanned systems are moving beyond supporting roles to become central to air operations, combining endurance, strike capability and increasing levels of autonomy.

Turkish Aerospace and Baykar are among the five Turkish firms that are on the 2024 SIPRI Top 100 defence companies in the world. Turkish Aerospace is 65th on the list, having climbed ten spots from the 2023 list. In 2023, Indonesia and Malaysia signed contracts for the Anka-S UAV to enhance maritime security and defense capabilities. Indonesia purchased 12 units and received the first one in September last year. The three units that Malaysia ordered are already in operation.

Baykar, which is 73rd on the list, is the world's largest UAV exporter. The company has exported its drones to as many as 37 countries and has so far delivered more than 800 military drones. The combat-proven TB2, which was extensively used by Ukraine to defend against Russian aggression in the early days of the ongoing conflict, has solidified its position as the world's most exported Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV). Baykar has reportedly sold the Bayraktar TB2 UCAV to 36 countries and Bayraktar AKINCI to 16.





# MULTI BARREL

## ROCKET AND MISSILE SYSTEMS

**TAYFUN**  
280+ KM

**KHAN**  
280 KM

**TRG-300**  
120 KM

**TRLG-230**  
70 KM

SAHA 2026

**SALON 6, STANT G-07**

# Debut for MKE's New Air Defence, Artillery and Naval Systems

**Makine** ve Kimya Endüstrisi A.Ş. (MKE), a Turkish National Defence Ministry subsidiary, will present a range of new-generation systems for the first time at SAHA 2026, as the state-owned manufacturer expands its portfolio beyond its traditional focus on ammunition.

According to Rear Admiral Zeki Aktürk, Press and Public Relations Advisor and Ministry spokesperson, the Turkish Ministry of National Defence will highlight multiple systems spanning air defence, land firepower, mobility and naval munitions.

Among the systems on display is the TOLGA short-range air defence system, which is evolving into a layered configuration combining the ENFAL-17 missile, a laser weapon and an acoustic detection system. The system is designed to counter threats including mini and micro UAVs, tactical drones, smart munitions

and cruise missiles.

The TOLGA system integrates radar, electro-optical sensors, electronic warfare and command-and-control functions. Its engagement envelope includes coverage of up to 10 km through radar-based detection and tracking, while layered weapon systems provide interception at ranges of 3,000 metres with a 35 mm system, 1,000 metres with a 20 mm system and 300 metres with a 12.7 mm system.

In the land systems segment, MKE will present several vehicle-mounted firepower platforms. These include the URAN 105 mm gun system and the BOZKIR 120 mm platform, both designed for mobile direct and indirect fire support. The company will also debut the ATTİLA 155 mm truck-mounted howitzer, marking its entry into high-calibre mobile artillery.

Mobility systems are also part of the display, including the ALPAY-2 vehicle-mounted minefield breaching system, designed to enable armoured units to move through mined terrain under operational conditions.

In the naval domain, MKE will present the MALAMAN intelligent bottom mine. The system uses acoustic, magnetic and pressure sensors to detect and classify targets, with the ability to distinguish between real targets and decoys. It can be deployed from surface ships, submarines or aircraft and operates at depths between 5 and 100 metres.

The company will also display the MKE-300 Blackout rifle as part of its small arms offering.

MKE said it will present more than 50 products at SAHA 2026. The range of systems on display reflects a broader expansion into integrated platforms across multiple domains, alongside its established production of ammunition.



## KAAN Deliveries to Start in 2032 for Türkiye, Indonesia

**Turkish** Aerospace Industries (TAI) expects its KAAN fifth-generation fighter to begin entering service from 2032, when deliveries are planned to start for both the Turkish Air Force and Indonesia.

According TAI chief executive Mehmet Demiroglu the programme is progressing toward that timeline, with the aircraft set to transition to a domestically powered configuration as it enters serial

production. The 2032 milestone is tied to the planned integration of an indigenous turbofan engine, which is intended to replace the interim propulsion solution currently used in development.

Indonesia is among the first confirmed export customers, having signed a contract in 2025 for 48 aircraft. The agreement positions Jakarta as a key international partner in the early

production phase, alongside Türkiye's own requirements to recapitalise its combat air fleet.

According to Demiroglu, development activity continues across testing and integration phases. Prototype flight testing is ongoing, with multiple phases already completed and further evaluation scheduled as the programme advances toward full operational capability.

The transition to the domestically developed TF35000 engine remains a central objective, reflecting Ankara's broader push to expand sovereign defence industrial capacity. Achieving full engine integration by around 2032 is expected to support sustained production and reduce reliance on foreign-supplied systems.

TAI is also pursuing additional export opportunities for KAAN, with discussions reported with several prospective customers. The company has indicated that international demand could be significant over the long term, potentially exceeding 300 aircraft.



# STEELDOME

## SECURING BEYOND THE HORIZON

Steel Dome is ASELSAN's multi-layered, interoperable air defense concept, delivering full-spectrum protection and superior operational effectiveness.

# After a Momentous 2025, Turkish Defence Industry Set for Greater Heights in 2026

The exponential growth of the Turkish defence industry in recent years is one of the most remarkable storylines in the global arms market. 2025 was a record-breaking year and judging by the number and magnitude of contracts that the industry ended the year with, 2026 is shaping up to be an even better year.

Türkiye ended 2025 with a new contract record of US\$17.8 billion, a big spike from and US\$10 billion the previous year. Last year, revenue from the country's defence and aerospace industry exports touched double figures for the first time, reaching US\$10.56 billion in products and services exported, an increase of 49 percent from US\$7.1 billion in 2024. The growing global demand for Turkish defence products is reflected in the fact that weapons and ammunition accounted for US\$4.7 billion of total exports.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) data from the 2021–2025 period has the country 11th on the list of the world's largest arms exporters. Exports surged by 122% in 2021–2025 compared to the previous five-year period. Defence exports, which stood at US\$248 million in 2002, jumped nearly forty-fold to reach US\$9.87 billion in 2025. Last year alone, Türkiye's ASFAT signed a contract with Romania for a Hisar-class corvette while Spain selected the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) Hürjet as its new advanced jet trainer to replace its aging F-5M fleet. Indonesia signed a contract in July 2025 to purchase 48 KAAAN fifth-generation fighter jets from TAI. In December 2024, STM was selected to build two logistics and support ships for Portugal.

## Comprehensive Portfolio

With the country's defence industry, reputed for its combat-proven military UAVs such as the Bayraktar TB2 and ANKA, evolving into one capable of producing other high-tech systems such as the KAAAN jet, air defence systems, electronic warfare (EW) technologies, armoured vehicles, naval platforms,



and attack helicopters, global demand for Turkish defence products are at an all-time high. With ongoing conflicts and geopolitical tensions spurring a marked increase in global military expenditure, revenue from export of weapons in 2026 is likely to surpass 2025 figures.

Ongoing conflicts in different parts of the world has accentuated the need for effective air defence systems. ASELSAN secured a three-year NATO contract to supply advanced IFF systems for air defence platforms. As many as 47 major components of the Steel Dome project, which is one of the country's most significant and largest defence initiatives, have already been delivered. ASELSAN and ROKETSAN jointly received US6.5 billion in contracts to facilitate what will be a multi-layered and comprehensive air defence system. Full operational capability is expected by 2028. International interest in Steel Dome is high, as Gulf states,

Eastern European countries, and other NATO allies are looking for effective air defence solutions. The global trend away from manned weapons toward unmanned assets also plays right into Türkiye's strengths; Baykar, known for the TB2, TB3 and Akinci military UAVs, is unveiling the K2 kamikaze drone and two loitering munitions – Sivrisinek and Mizrak – at SAHA 2026.

Demand for Turkish defence products and services are not limited to the Middle East or Asia Pacific. About 56 percent of Türkiye's defence and aerospace exports in 2025 were delivered to the European Union, NATO countries and the U.S. The increasing international demand is reflected in the fact that there are as many as five Turkish companies – ASELSAN at 47, TUSAŞ at 65, Baykar at 73, Roketsan at 87 and MKE at 93 - in the list of the world's top 100 defence firms.



# Full Spectrum Training



## AW119<sup>T</sup>

Leonardo delivers unique, integrated, and cost-effective training products worldwide. The AW119T is a fast, versatile and proven training helicopter, well positioned on government markets. It provides superior operational performance, excellent flight handling qualities and controllability, along with best-in-class levels of safety thanks also to the NVG compatible single pilot VFR/IFR glass cockpit and avionics. We are proud to work hand in hand with academies worldwide to best support the training of their pilots.

Visit us at SAHA Expo, Stand 1B-22

# ASELSAN Showcases Integrated Defense Vision

At SAHA 2026, ASELSAN introduces a broad set of systems that reflect a clear direction: capabilities designed to operate together, not in isolation. The portfolio spans air, land, sea, and the electromagnetic spectrum, with each system reinforcing a broader operational picture shaped by integrated and layered defense, operational flexibility, and mission adaptability.

As a company gaining increasing international attention for its multi-domain portfolio, ASELSAN has recently reinforced this position by hosting the NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, further demonstrating its ambition and credibility on the global stage in integrated defense and advanced technology domains. From undersea to Space, the company has a presence across every domain.

## Autonomy at Sea and Maritime Asymmetry

Naval capabilities reflect a broader shift toward unmanned, autonomous, and network-enabled maritime operations. ASELSAN's approach in this domain is centered on strengthening maritime situational awareness, enabling coordinated multi-platform operations, and delivering operational flexibility across complex environments. This positioning reflects the company's ambition to play a leading role in next-generation maritime concepts shaped by autonomy and distributed operations.

## Electronic Warfare and the Electromagnetic Battlefield

Electronic warfare remains a defining pillar of ASELSAN's multi-domain portfolio, with a strong focus on securing dominance in the electromagnetic spectrum. The company's capabilities in this field reinforce its strategic ambition to shape modern electronic warfare doctrines, enabling superior situational awareness, protection, and operational disruption in contested environments. Its growing international footprint, including an electronic warfare export to a NATO member state, Poland, further underlines its

credibility and competitiveness within allied defense ecosystems.

Within broader layered defense architectures, ASELSAN positions electronic warfare as a core enabler of Anti-Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) environments and integrated defense concepts such as the Steel Dome vision. In parallel, its counter-unmanned aerial system capabilities reflect a clear focus on addressing rapidly evolving aerial threats, supporting layered protection through coordinated detection, tracking, and neutralization mechanisms.

ASELSAN's air and missile defense vision is built around integrated, multi-layered architectures that connect sensors, command-and-control structures, and effectors into a unified operational network. The Steel Dome concept represents this strategic direction, where the company aims to strengthen its role as a key enabler of fully integrated air defense ecosystems capable of responding to complex and saturated threat environments.

## Air Superiority, Sensing, and Precision Engagement

In the airborne domain, ASELSAN continues to reinforce its position through advanced capabilities in intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and precision engagement. Its radar and sensing solutions enhance operational awareness and decision superiority,

supporting missions that require persistent tracking, classification, and mission planning support in dynamic environments.

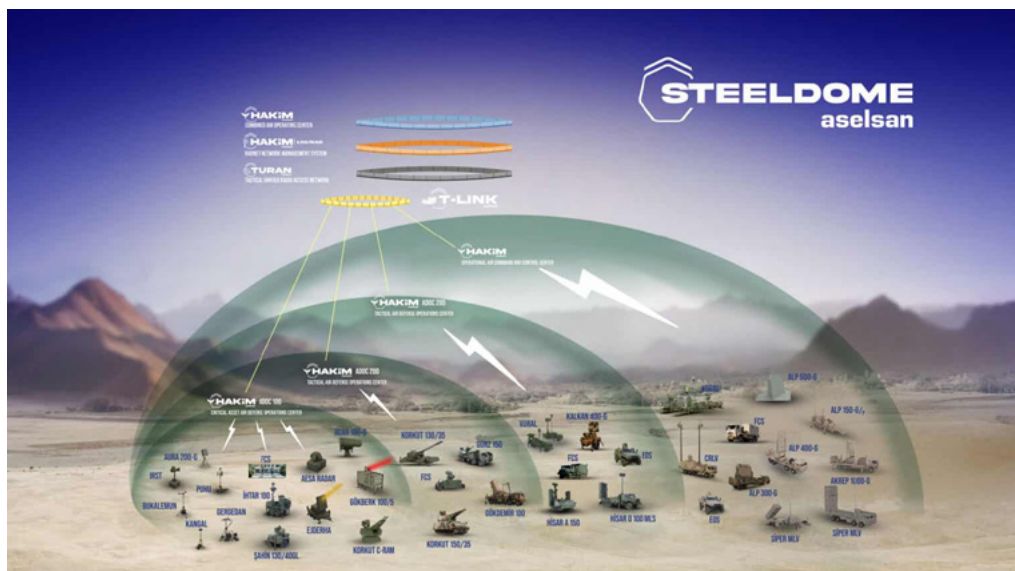
On the effect side, ASELSAN's precision engagement approach reflects a scalable and adaptable strike architecture designed to address a wide spectrum of operational needs. This capability set underlines the company's ambition to deliver end-to-end operational effectiveness across the air domain, combining sensing and strike within an integrated framework.

## From Systems to an Ecosystem

What distinguishes this portfolio is not only the diversity of systems, but the coherence between them. Each solution contributes to a larger operational framework where sensing, decision-making, and effect generation are increasingly interconnected.

Presented together, these systems signal a move toward an ecosystem approach, one where integration, adaptability, and multi-domain effectiveness define the next phase of defense technologies.

This vision, together with the new capabilities that enable it, is taking center stage at SAHA 2026, where ASELSAN's integrated, multi-domain approach is expected to be one of the key elements attracting significant interest from visitors.



**BAE SYSTEMS**

# Strengthening Turkiye's future frontline

[baesystems.com/typhoon](https://baesystems.com/typhoon)





## Typhoon Takes Centre Stage at SAHA as Turkiye Advances Fighter Acquisition

The Eurofighter Typhoon is being showcased at SAHA 2026 against the backdrop of Turkiye’s confirmed acquisition of the aircraft, with industry partners highlighting both the platform’s capabilities and the programme’s delivery roadmap.

Visitors to the Eurofighter stand are being offered an up-close look at the aircraft through a full-scale replica and a high-fidelity simulator, providing insight into its operational performance, avionics and mission systems. The display is aimed at engaging delegations and stakeholders as Turkiye prepares to induct the aircraft into service.

### Joining the Club

Turkiye formally joined the Eurofighter programme in October 2025 with an order for 20 aircraft, marking its entry as the tenth operator of the platform and a partner within the wider Eurofighter community.

The agreement includes provisions for additional aircraft beyond the initial batch, giving Ankara flexibility to expand its fleet as requirements evolve. The programme also strengthens Turkiye’s role within a European combat air framework that includes the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Eurofighter has described the development as a significant step in expanding the programme’s operational footprint, with Turkiye expected to play a role in reinforcing security along NATO’s southern and Black Sea regions.

### First Deliveries from 2030

Manufacturing of the aircraft for Turkiye is already underway across the Eurofighter partner nations, with final assembly of Turkish aircraft taking place in the United Kingdom.

According to programme details, the first aircraft is scheduled for delivery in 2030, marking the beginning of Turkiye’s transition to the Typhoon platform.

The production effort spans multiple countries, reflecting the collaborative structure of the Eurofighter programme, with different components manufactured across the partner nations before final assembly.

### BAE Systems: An Able Partner

Alongside the aircraft acquisition, BAE Systems has secured a contract to provide training and support services for Turkiye’s Typhoon fleet.

Under the agreement, BAE Systems will supply spares, support equipment,

pilot and engineer training, as well as high-fidelity simulators and electronic warfare capabilities. The company will also deliver technical support services for an initial three-year period from the aircraft’s entry into service.

The support package is designed to enable the Turkish Air Force to build operational readiness while developing sovereign sustainment capability over time.

In parallel, the Royal Air Force is expected to train Turkish instructor pilots and maintenance personnel, supporting the transition to independent operation of the aircraft.

### Multi-role Platform

At SAHA, the Typhoon is being positioned as a mature multi-role platform capable of performing air superiority, strike and reconnaissance missions. Developed by a European consortium, the aircraft has undergone continuous upgrades to enhance radar performance, weapons integration and survivability.

Its operational use across multiple air forces has established it as a core element of European air power, with deployments spanning NATO air policing, quick reaction alert duties and expeditionary operations.

The simulator demonstrations at the show are expected to focus on these mission profiles, providing a practical view of how the aircraft performs in contemporary operational scenarios.

Programme reflects broader defence cooperation and NATO alignment.

### Eurofighter Typhoon at SAHA

**According to Eurofighter, Delegations, partners, key stakeholders and visitors will have the opportunity to explore the Typhoon’s advanced capabilities at its stand through a state-of-the-art simulator and full-scale replica. This will offer an immersive insight into one of the world’s most capable multi-role combat aircraft.**

**The agreement with Turkiye includes an option for the country to purchase additional aircraft beyond the initial 20.**

# GET READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT IN ADVENT AI CMS

## AIfordefence

5-9 MAY 2026

ISTANBUL EXHIBITION CENTER (IFM)

HALL: 6, STAND: 6H-02

 HAVELSAN



## Many Turkish Defence Programs About to Hit the Headlines Again



**With** the Turkish defense industry on the verge of several key milestones that could take its global reputation up a few notches, there is an air of anticipation around SAHA 2026.

An update on several major programs spearheaded by major firms such as ASELSAN, Baykar, Turkish Aerospace, and ROKETSAN is likely during the event. The signing of the serial production contract for the Turkish Aerospace-produced KAAN fifth generation fighter jet as well as its Hürkuş trainer aircraft is expected this year. There will be a lot of eyes on Baykar as well; initial

deliveries of its Kızılelma unmanned combat aircraft, the first deliveries of the Bayraktar TB3 UCAV to the Turkish Navy, and the first deliveries of Bayraktar TB2T-AI armed UAV are scheduled to take place in 2026.

In July last year, ASELSAN successfully tested the YILDIRIM 100 Directed Infrared Countermeasure (DIRCM) for helicopters to protect the assets from various MANPADS threats. The company is also developing the YILDIM 300 variant for KAAN. The delivery of the YILDIRIM 100 DIRCM on a helicopter is expected this year. ASELSAN unveiled the KORAL 200 New Generation Mobile Radar Electronic Warfare System at IDEF 2025; the system is also expected to be delivered this year.

Among the other high-profile projects that Dr. Haluk Görgün, Secretary of Defence Industries (SSB), spoke about earlier this year is the development of a domestically produced engine for KAAN. The preliminary design review process of the TF35000, a high-thrust turbofan engine that TUSAS Engine Industries (TEI) and TRMotor are

currently working on, is expected to be completed this year. A contract will be signed for the critical design review stage, with the TF35000 expected to be used on the fighter jet from 2032.

Türkiye intends to deliver at least ten Altay main battle tanks to the Turkish Land Forces this year, a major jump from three serial production units that were delivered in 2025. Another initiative set to be launched this year is the GIZEM Project, which will see Türkiye developing high-powered laser weapon systems. GIZEM is a key part of the ambitious Steel Dome project, a multi-layered air defense system.

Plenty of action is expected in the maritime domain as well, including the demonstration of swarming capabilities for kamikaze USVs and the delivery of the second I-class frigate TCG İzmit (F-516). Serial production of AKYA 533 mm torpedoes for submarines is also scheduled to begin this year. The country is also expected to make progress this year on the serial production of multiple types of unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs).

# Tayfun Ballistic Missile Draws Strong Attention as Roketsan Advances Long-range Strike Capability



**Turkiye's** TAYFUN ballistic missile programme is drawing significant attention at SAHA Expo, with industry and military delegations closely tracking the progress of the country's most advanced long-range strike system developed by Roketsan.

Initiated in line with requirements set by the Ministry of National Defence, the TAYFUN project is designed to enhance Türkiye's ability to engage strategic targets through a dedicated missile and weapon system architecture. The programme represents a major step

forward in indigenous ballistic missile development.

At the exhibition, officials are highlighting the system's transition into mass production and delivery, underlining its growing operational relevance. The missile has undergone multiple test launches, with recent trials demonstrating pinpoint accuracy against designated targets.

TAYFUN is currently Türkiye's longest-range domestically produced ballistic missile, and testing continues on different variants as the system evolves. The programme is being positioned as a key component of a broader effort to build layered, indigenous defence capabilities.

Senior officials have linked the programme to strengthening deterrence, noting that each successful test adds

to operational confidence. "Our Tayfun missile has crossed another threshold with its successful test launch," Turkish Defence Industries Secretary Haluk Gorgun said in remarks following a recent trial, adding that it expands the country's security horizon.

Roketsan has also indicated that production and delivery activities are progressing in parallel with ongoing testing, signalling that the system is moving steadily towards full operational deployment. Company leadership has described the missile as ready for duty following recent validation milestones.

The attention around TAYFUN at SAHA Expo reflects broader global demand for long-range precision strike systems, particularly those developed indigenously. Within Türkiye's expanding missile portfolio, the programme is emerging as a central capability, combining operational reach with a domestically controlled development and production base.

## China's Jiangxi Helicopter Brings UAVs to Istanbul

**Jiangxi** Helicopter Co., Ltd., a state-owned aviation firm based in Jingdezhen, is highlighting a range of unmanned and light helicopter platforms at Türkiye's flagship defence and aerospace exhibition.

The company is set to present four systems – the JH-1 "Little Azure Dragon", JH-5 "Little White Tiger", JH-6 "Little Sparrow" and the JH-2 "Little Vermilion Bird" – at the Istanbul Expo Center from May 5 to 9.

The JH-1 "Little Azure Dragon" is positioned as a multi-role rotary UAV designed for surveillance, logistics and emergency-response missions. It belongs to a growing class of unmanned helicopters that combine vertical take-off and landing capability with remote or autonomous operation, allowing them to operate in confined or infrastructure-limited environments such as islands, mountainous terrain and maritime areas.

While detailed specifications remain limited, the platform is understood to support flexible missions ranging from reconnaissance and logistics to disaster response, aligned with China's push into low-altitude aviation systems.

The JH-5 "Little White Tiger", another unmanned platform, is designed primarily for emergency response, logistics and low-altitude operations.

Converted from a manned helicopter, it retains the payload capacity of traditional rotorcraft while operating without a pilot, with potential hybrid configurations. The platform is intended for roles including search and rescue, disaster relief, maritime logistics and firefighting, and has been tested in demanding maritime environments.

Jiangxi Helicopter will also showcase the JH-6 "Little Sparrow", a compact unmanned helicopter designed for low-altitude missions where larger aircraft are



impractical. It offers vertical takeoff and landing capability, modular payloads and cost-efficient deployment for surveillance, infrastructure inspection, maritime monitoring and disaster response.

Rounding out the lineup is the JH-2 "Little Vermilion Bird", a light, manned helicopter designed for general aviation, training and multi-role utility missions.

The platform is positioned as a cost-effective and easy-to-maintain solution for short-range operations, supporting roles such as pilot training, aerial patrol, search and rescue, medical evacuation and disaster response, reflecting growing demand for versatile low-altitude aircraft in civilian and public safety applications.



# ENGINEERING THE NEXT



# Strong Demand for MKE TOLGA from Every Region: MKE General Manager İlhami Keleş



**MKE**, Türkiye's state-owned defense company, is currently in discussions with potential customers from different regions for the MKE TOLGA Short-Range Air Defence System, says İlhami Keleş, General Manager. The system is now ready for serial production.

*"In January and February this year, we signed agreements with Qatar, Egypt and Saudi Arabia covering the joint production and export of MKE TOLGA and its technologies," Keleş tells Arun Sivasankaran in an interview. "Interest is not limited to the Gulf region; we are seeing strong demand from Europe, the Americas and Asia. Our teams continue discussions, and we will share further developments with the public in due course."*

Keleş, who assumed charge in 2023, introduced the "Effective-Simple-Affordable" approach for every high-technology product the company develops, a move that has paid rich dividends. He now oversees a major investment program that will help the company achieve significant capacity increases, by the end of this year, across various critical segments of the defence industry.

**Please provide an update on the company's ongoing US\$1.5 billion investment program. When will the proposed new facilities at Kırıkkale, Kırşehir, and Samsun be operational?**

As MKE, we have launched a strategic investment programme worth USD 1.5 billion covering the 2023–2027 period. Within the scope of this programme, we commissioned more than 350 new machines and over 30 production lines in 2025 alone, significantly increasing

our manufacturing capacity in ammunition and weapon systems.

The establishment of our new facilities in Kırıkkale, Samsun and Kırşehir is ongoing. At our Hüseyin Kahya Energetic Materials Factory in Kırıkkale, we will produce a wide range of explosive raw materials, meeting both our internal requirements and the needs of friendly and allied countries.

**What makes the MKE Tolga Short-Range Air Defence System unique?**

Across today's operational environment, we are witnessing the widespread use of drones in conflict. Low-cost drones are capable of neutralising million-dollar assets such as tanks, aircraft and even naval platforms. However, in the current defence landscape, these cheap threats are often countered with highly costly systems. From a sustainability standpoint, this is not viable for most countries. If the attacking drone is low-cost, the system designed to neutralise it must also be "affordable". This is precisely where the MKE TOLGA Short-Range Air Defence System distinguishes itself and draws attention.

MKE TOLGA has been developed by accurately assessing every parameter of the modern battlefield and applying the "Effective-Simple-Affordable" approach. This philosophy is the key factor that differentiates TOLGA from its counterparts. All development activities have been completed, and the system is now ready for serial production.

MKE TOLGA integrates 12.7 mm, 20 mm and 35 mm weapon systems; a

range of anti-drone ammunition developed by MKE in various calibres; the GÖKBÖRÜ Radar; electro-optical sensors; and a soft-kill jammer system. All these components are available not only in fixed configurations but also as vehicle-mounted mobile systems. In this respect, TOLGA delivers a comprehensive solution encompassing soft-kill and hard-kill capabilities, supported by command and control, radar and electro-optical subsystems. Development is ongoing. The integration of an Acoustic System, a Laser Weapon System, and the ENFAL-17 missile will further enhance its multi-layered defence capability.

**Does MKE currently have the production capacity needed to meet the needs of the Turkish Armed Forces and its international customers? What are some of the steps being taken to enhance capacity?**

As MKE, we continue to strengthen our strategic infrastructure in line with Türkiye's objective of full independence in defence industry production. This is the core purpose of our US\$1.5 billion investment programme: to deliver a substantial increase in capacity while building the capability to develop and manufacture advanced technologies.

With this comprehensive investment programme, by the end of 2026 we will achieve significant capacity increases across critical segments of the defence industry:

Production capacity for 155 mm howitzer ammunition will increase by 5,400%; for the 76 mm DENİZHAN

National Naval Gun 3by 500%; for artillery rockets and 2.75-inch rockets by 1,900%; for 60, 81 and 120 mm mortar ammunition by 300%; and for sniper cartridges by 455%.

Today, as MKE, we can confidently state that we possess the manufacturing infrastructure and engineering capability required to meet the needs of our armed forces, as well as those of friendly and allied countries.

**The company has established ammunition production facilities in nine countries across the world. Do you expect MKE to improve its global footprint further over the next few years?**

Since the 15th century, MKE has produced the weapons and systems required by the Turkish Armies under different names and organisational structures. When this historical depth is taken into account, it is clear that MKE occupies a unique position globally.

It is more appropriate to respond with concrete data. The investment plans we have implemented since I assumed office as General Manager have continued to deliver tangible results. Our turnover increased from USD 470 million in 2021 to USD 1.2 billion in 2024, representing nearly threefold growth. Over the same period, our exports rose from USD 40 million to USD 639 million. This financial momentum over the past three years marks the strongest growth performance in MKE's history.

These achievements have also translated into international recognition, with MKE now ranked among the world's top 100 defence companies. The company entered the Defence News Top 100 list for the first time in 2024 at 84th place, and in 2025 advanced four positions to become the world's 80th largest defence company.

I believe that these results, achieved within a relatively short timeframe, will continue to scale, and that MKE will gain even greater global visibility in the near future.



**The modern battlefield is overwhelmingly driven by technology. How proactive has MKE been in integrating new technologies into its legacy explosive and weapon systems?**

We closely monitor developments on the battlefield as well as emerging technologies. To strengthen our R&D infrastructure, we have established three new research and development centres. By adopting an R&D approach focused not only on manufacturing products but on developing technology itself, we have evolved into a company capable of delivering original designs and systems through national engineering.

Within this framework, in 2025 we managed approximately 200 R&D projects concurrently, including 25 newly initiated projects, and allocated a substantial budget to research and development activities. We continue to advance our technologies through laboratories established within universities across different cities. Each of these developments will be announced to the public and the international community in due course.

**What is the company's view on technology transfer? Is MKE actively pursuing joint ventures with international partners?**

To date, MKE has successfully exported its products to 105 countries across five continents. With our strong manufacturing infrastructure and long-standing experience, we remain ready to support friendly and allied nations. In terms of technology transfer, in 2025 we completed and commissioned

cartridge production lines in Mongolia and Jordan. We are currently engaged in ongoing discussions covering more than ten separate projects across nine countries.

**Is the company highlighting any new products or capabilities at SAHA 2026?**

At SAHA 2026, MKE will present more than 50 new products for the first time, including the ENFAL-17 Missile, Laser Weapon System, and Acoustic System, all designed to operate in the MKE TOLGA Short Range Air Defence System, ATTILA 155 mm Vehicle-Mounted Howitzer, BOZKIR 120 mm Weapon System,

URAN 105 mm Vehicle-Mounted Howitzer, MKE ALPAY-2 Minefield Breaching System, and the .300 calibre MKE BLK.

**What are some of the major short-term and long-term goals of the company?**

In addition to our ten factories, the establishment of new production facilities is currently underway. Once these new factories become operational, our manufacturing capacity will increase significantly, and we anticipate a parallel rise in our export volumes.

With our expanding production infrastructure, deepening R&D capabilities, and growing global presence, we are building a structure that not only meets today's requirements but also shapes the future operational environment.

# “We Want to lead the Unmanned Revolution Beneath the Waves: STM’s Özgür Gülerüz



**Turkish** defence company STM, a name to reckon when it comes to naval platforms, unmanned systems and cybersecurity, is keen on leading the unmanned revolution beneath the waves, says **Özgür Gülerüz**, company General Manager.

“We are building an ecosystem where our proven expertise in naval platforms merges with our pioneering role in autonomy,” Gülerüz tells **Arun Sivasankaran** in an interview. “Having established a strong presence in the UAV market, we are now expanding our family of Unmanned Naval Systems, covering both Surface (USV) and Underwater (UUV) domains. This is a highly niche and strategic field; by combining our deep-rooted submarine experience with advanced robotics, we aim to lead the “unmanned revolution” beneath the waves. Our vision is to create a multi-layered, autonomous defence line that ensures security from the deep sea to the skies.”

## Please provide an update on the MILGEM programme.

As STM, we are proud to be Türkiye’s leading engineering firm in naval platforms, having played a pioneering role in the execution of 44 naval projects across 11 different shipyards both domestically and internationally. Our journey in military shipbuilding began with the MILGEM Ada-Class Corvette Program, where STM, as the main sub-contractor, successfully delivered four Ada-class corvettes to the Turkish Naval Forces. This foundational experience paved the way for our role

as the main contractor for the TCG İSTANBUL (F-515), Türkiye’s first national frigate. We completed the detail design and construction of this landmark vessel with a remarkable 80% localization rate, officially delivering it to our navy in early 2024.

Following the landmark decision by the Defence Industry Executive Committee (SSİK), we entered a strategic partnership under the STM-TAİS Joint Venture to construct seven additional İstif-class frigates, sister ships to the TCG İSTANBUL. The construction phase for the 6th, 7th, and 8th vessels began simultaneously across three different private shipyards between 2023 and 2024. As of 2026, all three ships have been successfully launched. Currently, these frigates are at the piers undergoing intensive outfitting activities.

Furthermore, the momentum of the MILGEM program continues without pause for the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th vessels. The construction of these frigates is proceeding at a high pace, and we anticipate that they will reach the launching stage within the next year.

## Can you talk about STM’s plans to develop medium and large-class unmanned autonomous underwater vehicles?

The STM Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) family is a product of a strategic vision realized entirely through STM’s own R&D budget and internal resources. We introduced the first member of this family, STM NETA, for the first time at SAHA EXPO 2024 and brought it to an operational level in a very short time. As of 2025, our platform began its initial sea trials, where it successfully proved its ability to perform underwater missions autonomously. A major milestone in this journey is the signing of the first domestic sales contract for NETA; it will soon begin serving the Turkish Naval Forces.

Building on the success of NETA, we are utilizing this technological expertise to expand our product family with medium and large-class platforms. We are shaping our autonomous underwater vehicles not only for reconnaissance and surveillance but also as “scout” or “kamikaze” versions capable of meeting diverse operational needs.

At SAHA EXPO 2026, we are proud to showcase our X-Large Autonomous Underwater Vehicle for the first time on the world stage. Our ultimate vision is for these underwater assets to operate in full integration with our aerial and surface platforms, performing coordinated missions within a heterogeneous swarm architecture to create a technological force-multiplier on the battlefield.

### **How far down the development path is the STM500 Shallow Water Submarine? What are your thoughts on its export potential?**

STM is Türkiye's leading private authority in submarine design and modernization. Beyond leading the modernization of 10 "Type 209" submarines for the Turkish Navy, we are the only company globally to have modernized submarines of different origins, as demonstrated by our success with Pakistan's Agosta 90B. Our critical role in the Reis-Class (Type-214) construction further solidified our expertise in this strategic domain.

This know-how culminated in the STM500, Türkiye's first national submarine for special operations and attack missions. By successfully completing the pressure hull test production, we marked the first time a combat submarine's pressure blocks were manufactured in the Turkish civilian industry. Optimized for shallow waters, the STM500 provides a strategic edge in littoral zones through its advanced sensors and special forces infrastructure.

We see immense export potential for the STM500, particularly in regions



with complex coastal geographies like Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and South America. It offers a sophisticated yet cost-effective solution for navies that require modern submarine capabilities but do not need large-tonnage oceanic vessels.

### **Could you talk about the company's ongoing projects for Malaysia, Portugal, and Pakistan?**

Our long-standing partnership with Pakistan spans over 15 years, highlighted by the delivery of the Fleet Tanker PNS MOAWIN in 2018, which continues to serve as a flagship in international waters and across the oceans. In the submarine domain, we have successfully delivered two modernized Agosta 90B submarines to the Pakistan Navy. The effectiveness of our modernization services has been field-proven through successful torpedo firings during international exercises, while work on the final submarine continues at a steady pace.

We have initiated the construction of three corvettes in Türkiye under the LMS Batch-II project for Malaysia in 2025. This project is of historical significance as it marks Türkiye's first corvette export to the Asia-Pacific region. These vessels are being built in Turkish shipyards and are scheduled for launch within 2026.

Our projects in Europe and beyond continue to gain momentum. For Ukraine, the construction of two corvettes under our 2020 contract is progressing successfully in Türkiye. For Portugal, we are executing a landmark project involving the construction of two modern logistics support ships tailored to their specific requirements. It represents the first military ship export from Türkiye to a dual EU and NATO member state; we have already laid the blocks on the slipway and construction is proceeding smoothly.

### **How successful has STM been in promoting its tactical mini-UAV systems to an international audience?**

STM has become a global trendsetter in the tactical mini-UAV market, particularly with our KARGU (loitering

munition), TOGAN (surveillance), and BOYGA (fixed-wing) systems. The KARGU, in particular, has seen extensive combat verification and has achieved remarkable international success, being exported to 15 countries across 4 continents.

We are continuously expanding our tactical UAV family with the recent introduction of platforms like KarguFPV, TUNGA, VTOL, and BOYGA-B, aiming to scale this product line from tactical excellence to strategic-level impact.

Beyond being a platform manufacturer, STM is one of the leading firms in autonomous technologies, focusing on the "intelligence" that powers these systems. We integrate advanced capabilities such as AI-driven computer vision, swarm intelligence, and GNSS-denied flight capabilities into our products. This allows our unmanned systems to operate effectively in electronic warfare environments and GPS-contested areas, ensuring mission success where traditional systems fail.

### **What are your short-term and long-term goals for STM?**

In the short term, our primary goal is to solidify STM's position as a global brand in naval engineering and tactical unmanned systems.

As we continue to provide both platform-level and strategic-level solutions in command and control, we are increasingly focusing on platform cyber security, specifically designed to protect the critical combat systems of modern naval and aerial assets.

To maintain our technological edge, we are committed to sustained investment in "deep-tech" frontiers. While we are continuously refining our AI and swarm intelligence capabilities, we are also closely monitoring emerging fields such as quantum technologies for future integration.

Our ultimate goal is to be a global leader that generates strategic value through naval engineering, technology, and advanced engineering solutions, redefining the future of the defense industry.

# Türkiye Launches Lunar Ambitions At SAHA

The Istanbul Expo Centre opens its doors today for the biennial SAHA 2026 International Defence and Aerospace Exhibition, marking a pivotal moment for the regional space economy. As the largest industrial cluster in Europe and Türkiye, SAHA Istanbul is hosting over 1,700 exhibitors from 140 countries to showcase the rapid maturation of the Turkish National Space Programme. The atmosphere on this opening day is dominated by the unveiling of the Lunar Research Programme (AYAP) spacecraft, which is scheduled for its maiden voyage to the moon later this year.

This year the event operates under the motto Master Technology, Shape the Future, reflecting a strategic shift from terrestrial defence to high-frontier capabilities. The Turkish government has underscored its commitment to this vision by allocating a record \$207.3 million for space and aviation initiatives in the 2026 fiscal budget. This funding supports the development of indigenous hybrid propulsion systems and the establishment of a domestic spaceport, which are central themes during the executive technical briefings held this morning at the Sarayburnu and Atakoy Marina hubs.

According to official reports from the Anadolu Agency and TRT World, the primary objective of the current exhibition is to project Türkiye's technological independence on a global stage. The Presidency of Defence Industries (SSB) has utilised the first day to confirm that the first phase of the AYAP mission will involve an orbital exploration of the moon followed by a hard landing attempt. Haluk Gorgun, President of the SSB, stated that the event serves as a strategic showcase, bringing Türkiye's defence, aviation, and space vision to the world.

## Regional Strategic Alignment

The implications for the Asia-Pacific region are significant as Turkish aerospace firms aggressively pursue partnerships within the ASEAN bloc to



diversify their export portfolios. Just weeks prior to SAHA 2026, Turkish entities secured eight major cooperation agreements in Malaysia, including a landmark deal between CTech and AR Eastern for secure satellite communication solutions. This expansion into Southeast Asian markets suggests a strategic move to provide alternative aerospace technologies that remain neutral amidst the intensifying technological competition between the United States and China.

## Satellite Sovereignty Goals

Technological sovereignty remains the cornerstone of the exhibits presented by Turkish Aerospace Industries and its subsidiaries. The debut of the 85% indigenously produced communication satellites places the nation as the 11th country globally capable of manufacturing such sophisticated hardware. For Southeast Asian nations seeking to enhance their maritime domain awareness without becoming overly reliant on major power blocs, these Turkish satellite platforms offer a compelling middle-ground solution. The reliability of these systems is being demonstrated through the integration of the newly developed rubidium-based atomic clocks for independent positioning, navigation, and timing.

## Lunar Mission Readiness

The most anticipated reveal of the day is the flight model of the AYAP spacecraft, which incorporates a locally developed hybrid propulsion engine. Engineers at the pavilion confirmed that the vehicle has successfully completed its environmental and functional tests, including thermal-vacuum and electromagnetic compatibility trials. This mission is not merely a scientific endeavour but a proof of concept for deep-space logistics that could eventually benefit international partners in the Asia-Pacific through joint research and data-sharing agreements.

## Deep Space Diplomacy

As the exhibition continues through 9 May, the focus will increasingly turn toward the upcoming International Astronautical Congress scheduled for October in Antalya. Turkish officials are using SAHA 2026 to lobby for greater international cooperation in the lunar economy, positioning the country as a bridge between European technical standards and the growing demand for space access in developing economies. Yusuf Kirac, President of the Turkish Space Agency, remarked that the event will help reinforce the country's technological independence with the further global visibility of homegrown initiatives.

## Future Launch Capabilities

Discussions regarding the establishment of a sovereign spaceport suggest that Türkiye is seeking to move beyond its current reliance on international launch providers like SpaceX. This initiative is particularly relevant for the Asia-Pacific region, where the demand for low-earth orbit deployments is outstripping available launch windows. By developing an independent launch capability, Türkiye intends to offer a commercially competitive alternative for small satellite constellations, further integrating itself into the global aerospace supply chain as a critical node for emerging space nations.

# Public Debut for Baykar's Mizrak Loitering Munition

**Turkish** defence giant Baykar is bringing its new Mizrak intelligent and autonomous long-range loitering munition to SAHA 2026 in Istanbul.

The Mizrak has an operational range of over 1,000 kilometers (621.3 miles) and an endurance of over seven hours. It is designed for deep surface-to-surface operations and long-duration surveillance missions with real-time striking capabilities.

Mizrak will be featured in two primary configurations: a heavy-strike variant equipped with twin warheads weighing 40 kilograms (88.1 pounds), and another with a 20-kilogram (44-pound) single-warhead variant fitted with a radio

frequency seeker for precise target detection. The system, which has a 4-meter wingspan and a maximum takeoff weight of 200 kilograms, carries interchangeable electro-optical and infrared cameras for reconnaissance missions.

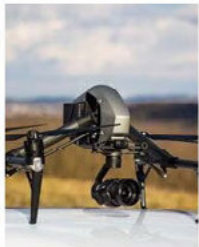
The loitering munition has a service ceiling of 10,000 feet and is capable of reaching speeds up to about 185 kilometers per hour (114.9 miles per hour). As it has a rocket-assisted takeoff system, Mizrak can take off from both standard runways and challenging terrain or unimproved airstrips. It uses an autopilot system powered by AI to operate independently of the GPS. The system's AI-powered optical guidance and built-in visual positioning capabilities



allow the system to autonomously navigate, locate, and strike targets even in environments with heavy jamming or without GPS signals.

The system also features a line-of-sight communications range of 80 kilometers (49.7 miles) and has seamless data and video link integration with Baykar's other combat drones such as the Bayraktar TB2, TB3, and Akinci. Operators will therefore be able to integrate the munition into a broader communications network.

## L3Harris Highlights VAMPIRE Counter-UAS System, Production Ramp-up



**L3Harris** boasts of its counter-unmanned systems portfolio, led by the VAMPIRE system, alongside recent production ramp-up efforts aimed at meeting demand from the United States and allied users.

The company has initiated high-volume production of the VAMPIRE

counter-unmanned system at its facility in Huntsville, Alabama, in response to increased requirements to counter small drone threats targeting personnel and infrastructure. The production line includes flexible assembly and integration areas that allow the system to be installed on a range of ground vehicles and containerised platforms.

VAMPIRE, or Vehicle-Agnostic Modular Palletized ISR Rocket Equipment, is designed as a portable kit that can be mounted on vehicles with a cargo bed. It enables the launch of laser-guided munitions such as the Advanced Precision Kill Weapon System (APKWS), providing a precision strike capability against small unmanned aerial systems.

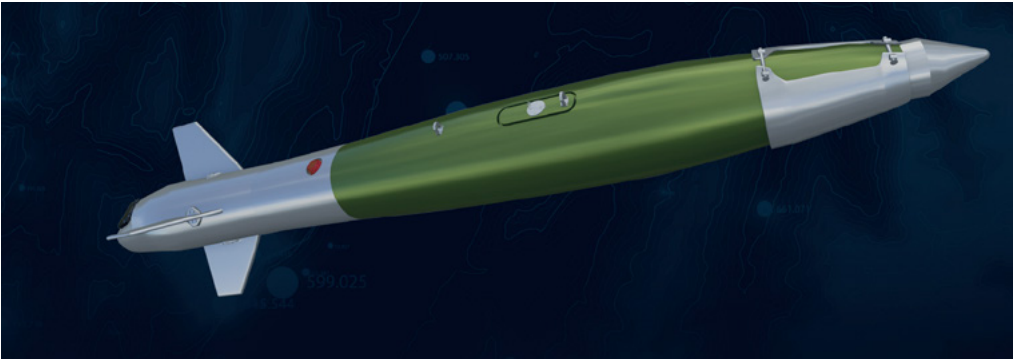
According to the company, the system has been deployed in European combat operations since 2023, where it has been used to detect, track and defeat small drones. The VAMPIRE family has since been expanded to include variants

for land, maritime, air and electronic warfare applications.

The system is designed for rapid deployment and can be installed on non-tactical vehicles using standard tools, with all components housed on a self-contained pallet, including its own power supply. This allows integration without significant modification to the host platform.

L3Harris is also presenting its broader counter-unmanned systems architecture, which covers detection, identification and neutralisation of drone threats across land, sea and air domains. The company's portfolio includes sensor systems, mission management software and electronic warfare tools designed to operate as part of an integrated kill chain.

With growing operational demand for counter-UAS systems, L3Harris positions VAMPIRE as part of a wider set of modular solutions for deployment across allied forces.



## ASFAT Spotlights HGK-84 Precision Guidance Kit for Mk-84 Bombs

**ASFAT** is highlighting its HGK-84 precision guidance kit, presenting the system as part of its portfolio of air-delivered munitions derived from Turkiye's indigenous HGK family.

The HGK-84 is designed to convert standard Mk-84 2,000 lb general-purpose bombs into precision-guided munitions. Developed originally by TUBITAK SAGE, the HGK series uses an inertial navigation system supported by GPS to improve strike accuracy, while ASFAT manages production coordination and

delivery under the supply programme.

According to the company, the HGK-84 offers accuracy of less than 10 metres using GPS/INS guidance, and below 3 metres when equipped with an optional laser seeker. The kit can also incorporate a jam-resistant CRPA antenna as an option.

The system has already been delivered in unspecified quantities to the Turkish Air Force Command under an ongoing supply project, indicating its operational

status. The HGK-84 is positioned within the broader HGK family as Turkiye's equivalent to JDAM-class guidance kits, enabling existing stocks of unguided bombs to be upgraded for precision strike roles.

In terms of integration, the kit has been qualified for use on F-16 and F-4E/2020 aircraft and is described as compatible with most in-service platforms. It can be employed across a wide operational envelope, from sea level up to 40,000 ft.

Range performance varies with release conditions. At an altitude of 40,000 ft and a speed of 0.9 Mach, the maximum range is listed at 25 km, while at 25,000 ft the range is approximately 10 km. The system also allows in-flight re-targeting and is designed for all-weather, day-and-night operations.

ASFAT is highlighting HGK-84 amid continued emphasis on converting legacy munitions into precision-capable systems, with the kit aimed at missions requiring heavier warheads against hardened or high-value targets.

---

## HAVELSAN eyes European market with Mission Planning System

**HAVELSAN** is presenting its Mission Planning System (FSGP) at SAHA 2026, with the system's export to Spain under the HURJET programme forming a central element of its outreach to European and wider international markets.

The company has confirmed that the FSGP will be delivered to both Turkiye and Spain as part of the HURJET advanced jet trainer programme, establishing a common mission planning capability across operators. The system is positioned as a core operational component of the aircraft, supporting mission preparation, execution and evaluation.

Developed over more than two decades and in operational use since 2007, the FSGP serves as the primary mission planning system of the Turkish Air Force, supporting multiple aircraft and munitions through a unified architecture. The system replaces multiple legacy

planning tools with a single integrated environment designed to streamline mission workflows.

Within the HURJET programme, the FSGP functions as a mission-critical layer enabling operational use of the aircraft. HAVELSAN is also providing a

full mission and flight training simulator for HURJET, extending its role beyond software into training and operational readiness.

The system incorporates capabilities including weapon mission planning, electromagnetic spectrum management, low observability planning, and integration with sensors such as infrared search and tracking systems. It also supports mission planning for unmanned aerial systems, allowing coordinated operations between manned and unmanned platforms.

HAVELSAN states that the FSGP is designed to support network-enabled operations and synchronised planning across multiple platforms, reducing planning timelines while improving coordination. The architecture is scalable and is being extended to other programmes, including integration activities for Turkiye's next-generation fighter, KAN.



# Turkish Yards Join Thai Frigate Tender

Thailand's navy has invited 11 international shipbuilders to compete for its next-generation frigate programme, with two Turkish shipyards - TAIS Shipyards and ASFAT - among the contenders.

The Royal Thai Navy recently confirmed it has completed the terms of reference (TOR) for the acquisition, which is positioned as a key effort to strengthen the country's maritime defence capabilities.

According to the service's spokesman, Rear Adm. Parach Rattanachaiyaphan, the TOR defines operational requirements, technology standards, value-for-money criteria, and compatibility with current and future naval missions.

A central requirement is industrial participation. Bidders must provide economic offsets and support Thailand's defence sector, including a stipulation

that at least 20% of each vessel be built locally. The navy says the policy is intended to expand domestic shipbuilding, create jobs, generate revenue, build technical expertise, and enable long-term technology transfer.

The Turkish bidders join a field that includes major European and Asian shipbuilders such as Damen Naval, Navantia, Fincantieri, ST Engineering Marine, Hanwha Ocean, and Hyundai Heavy Industries, alongside Chinese and Russian suppliers.

For Turkish industry, the tender represents a potential expansion of its naval export footprint in Southeast Asia. Both TAIS and ASFAT have been active in international programmes, leveraging modular construction, cost competitiveness, and experience in delivering



surface combatants and auxiliary vessels.

Thai officials say the procurement will follow principles of transparency, openness, and fair competition to secure the best balance of capability, long-term value, and national benefit.

The navy has also allowed civil society observers from anti-corruption organisations to monitor all stages of the process under an integrity pact with the Comptroller General's Department. Oversight will cover TOR drafting, invitations, bid submissions, selection, and contract management.

# Manila Eyes Second Batch of T129 ATAK Helicopters to Boost Military Power

Manila is in talks with Turkey for a second batch of T129 ATAK helicopters in a move aimed at strengthening counter-insurgency, maritime patrol and ground support operations.

Turkish Aerospace Industries (TUSAŞ) confirmed that it is currently in discussions with the Philippines regarding a potential second batch of T129 ATAK attack helicopters.

According to Demiroğlu more than 100 T129 ATAK helicopters have been produced so far, with 96 units already delivered.

"The bidding activities remain ongoing and follow-on talks are being held with existing operators, including the Philippines and Nigeria," he said.

He added: "The discussions reflect continued engagement between the Philippines and Turkish Aerospace Industries amid efforts to sustain and enhance attack helicopter capabilities."

The Philippines acquired six T-129 ATAK helicopters from Turkish Aerospace Industries for about \$269 million, with deliveries beginning in late



2022 and completed in 2024 to bolster the Philippine Air Force's 15th Strike Wing.

The twin-engine, tandem-seat aircraft are designed for high-altitude and hot-weather operations, providing precision strike capabilities for counterterrorism and maritime security missions.

Equipped with advanced avionics and precision-guided weapons, the T-129 ATAK enhances counterinsurgency operations and close air support.

Designed for rugged terrain and night missions, the platform strengthens internal security, territorial defence and rapid-response capabilities across the Philippines, giving the military an edge

in complex operations.

Late last year, the Department of National Defense said it is accelerating the modernisation of the Philippine Air Force under the Comprehensive Archipelagic Defense Concept under Re-Horizon 3, a government initiative prioritising the upgrading of naval forces over the next decade.

The broader Armed Forces modernization programme aims to replace older light attack helicopters such as the MG-520 and AW-109E.

General Romeo S. Brawner Jr, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief, has repeatedly stressed that military modernization is critical to building a credible defence posture, enabling the Philippines to protect its sovereignty, respond to emerging threats and strengthen deterrence as it shifts its focus toward external defence.

"Modernization is essential for us to build a credible defence capability. It allows the Armed Forces of the Philippines to protect our sovereignty, respond to evolving threats, and strengthen our ability to deter aggression."

# Submarine and Surface Operations: Türkiye's Expertise to Help Philippine Navy

The Philippines and Türkiye are deepening maritime defense ties, with cooperation expanding into submarine operations, training and rescue capabilities as Manila seeks to build up its naval expertise.

Ankara has signaled its willingness to support the Philippine Navy in training programs for submarine and surface ship operations.

During a visit last June, Turkish Ambassador Niyazi Evren Akyol told navy chief Vice Admiral Jose Ma. Ambrosio Ezpeleta that Türkiye was ready to support future training and education initiatives. Describing Türkiye as a longstanding partner, Akyol said Ankara remained committed to helping the Philippines strengthen its defense capabilities and safeguard its

sovereignty.

In 2023, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said the government plans to acquire its first submarine, although the navy is still focused on developing anti-submarine capabilities.

Several countries have expressed interest in supplying submarines to Manila, he said.

As an archipelago with one of the world's longest coastlines and ongoing maritime disputes with China, the Philippines is widely seen as lagging behind regional peers in developing an undersea capability.

As part of preparations, the country's navy's Fleet Submarine Group has been honing its skills, including participating in Türkiye-hosted search-and-rescue

drill Exercise INVITEX 2025.

The drills involved coordinated operations to improve interoperability and submarine rescue capabilities, covering scenarios such as locating a distressed submarine, escape and rescue operations, medical response and evacuation, and specialized procedures including personnel transfer under pressure.

Separately, the Philippine Army reaffirmed its commitment to closer defense ties with Türkiye during talks between its chief, Lt. Gen. Antonio Nafarrete, and Akyol.

Discussions focused on expanding cooperation under an existing defense industry agreement, as well as joint training, knowledge exchange and broader military engagement.

Türkiye's defense attaché, Capt. Gökhan Gülbiten, said Ankara remained keen to strengthen ties, while Nafarrete highlighted the role of such partnerships in supporting the Philippines' evolving defense posture.

## SAVX to Unveil Interceptor UAV

SAVX, a subsidiary of TİTRA, is promoting its interceptor UAV alongside a range of drone systems at SAHA Expo 2026, highlighting a growing focus on counter-drone and swarm warfare technologies.

Among the systems on display is the MERKÜT FPV loitering munition, which has an operational range of about 8 kilometers (4.9 miles) and a flight endurance of up to 20 minutes. It carries a guided fragmentation warhead with roughly 950 impact elements and uses a proximity sensor for automatic detonation at distances of 20 centimeters to 5 meters.

The platform is equipped with high-resolution thermal imaging for low-visibility operations and is designed to function in high-interference environments, with options for fiber-optic connectivity. It also incorporates autonomous tracking and target detection to reduce operator workload and can be recovered if a

mission is aborted.

The MERKÜT can be deployed from the KORGAN system, a multi-purpose unmanned launch and control platform that acts as a "UAV nest." Designed as a ground-based or mobile system, KORGAN can store, launch and coordinate multiple drones in rapid succession, including up to three units simultaneously for swarm or saturation attacks. It also serves as a centralized command node, enabling coordinated operations and flexible integration of different UAV types.

According to SAVX, the company's new interceptor UAVs are designed to counter loitering munitions by engaging small- to medium-sized drones, including kamikaze systems such as the Shahed-136.

Using AI-enabled detection and tracking, the systems support both autonomous and operator-controlled engagements and can be rapidly deployed from



ground stations to respond to emerging threats. Once a target is identified, the interceptor UAV tracks and neutralizes it through direct impact or a small explosive payload.

The development reflects a broader shift toward layered air defense, where lower-cost interceptors are used to counter drone swarms while more advanced missile systems are reserved for high-value threats.

SAVX is just among several Turkish firms developing interceptor UAV technologies, alongside companies such as STM, as demand grows for cost-effective solutions in increasingly drone-centric battlefields.



# Sarsilmaz Highlights Integrated Defence Ecosystem Strategy

**Turkish** defence heavyweight Sarsilmaz is officially announcing its transition from a pure-play firearms manufacturer to a holistic defense systems integrator as the SAHA EXPO 2026 International Defence and Aerospace Exhibition opens its doors today. The company is revealing its updated strategic roadmap at the Istanbul Expo Centre, highlighting a suite of next-generation hardware including robotic platforms and medium-caliber cannons. This pivot defines the company's presence at the fifth edition of SAHA EXPO, which runs from 5 to 9 May 2026 and hosts over 1,700 companies from 120 nations.

## End-to-end Solutions

The central theme of the company's 2026 presentation revolves around the concept of a synchronized defence ecosystem rather than isolated weapon

platforms. This shift addresses the immediate necessity for seamless interoperability between sensors, software, and hardware in contemporary high-intensity conflicts. By leveraging its nearly 150-year engineering heritage, Sarsilmaz is positioning itself to provide end-to-end solutions that encompass small arms, heavy machine guns, and remote-controlled weapon stations. These advancements meet the rigorous operational requirements of modern military units seeking high-performance, domestic alternatives to traditional Western or Eastern bloc hardware.

## Official Industry Performance Data

According to official reporting from Hürriyet Daily News and Daily Sabah, the previous iteration of the SAHA EXPO saw the signing of 133 agreements with a total value of approximately

US\$6.2 billion. Sarsilmaz is currently capitalizing on this expanding market by showcasing its TR Mekatronik 20 mm 6-barrel cannon, which boasts a domestic content rate exceeding 95 percent. The company is also introducing the SARBOT robotic platform and the SAR 556 MT light machine gun to international delegations today. These developments arrive as the regional small arms and ammunition market across Southeast Asia and the Middle East is projected to reach US\$1.48 billion in 2026.

## Strategic Asia Pacific Expansion

The company's strategic refocus holds significant weight for the Asia-Pacific region, where ASEAN governments are increasingly utilizing offset clauses to establish joint-venture manufacturing facilities. Sarsilmaz indicates that its systems are specifically designed to respond to the operational needs of diverse geographies, including the humid and demanding environments typical of Southeast Asian theaters. As countries like Malaysia and Indonesia seek to diversify their procurement sources amidst shifting major power dynamics, the availability of high-tech, export-compliant Turkish systems offers a pragmatic middle ground that avoids the geopolitical complications often associated with US-Russia or US-China trade.

## Thinking Global

The Deputy General Manager of Sarsilmaz, Murat Akalın, emphasizes that the success of a modern defence company no longer rests upon a well-designed standalone product. He notes that in the current era, success in the field is determined by holistic frameworks where platforms, sensors, software, ammunition, and weapon systems can work together. This sentiment is echoed by Latif Aral Aliş, who states that the company is strengthening Turkish engineering on a global scale. By consolidating its group companies—including BEST Defence and TR Mekatronik—Sarsilmaz is presenting a unified front that addresses the entire spectrum of defense needs from individual soldier equipment to aerial platform armament.

# Turkish Mid-Tier Firms Drive SAHA Innovation

The gates of the Istanbul Expo Centre opened today for the SAHA EXPO 2026 International Defence and Aerospace Exhibition, marking a significant shift in the Turkish industrial landscape. While primary contractors like ASELSAN and Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) continue to dominate the physical skyline of the event, the first day has belonged to the nimble second-tier firms. These companies are no longer merely subcontractors; they have evolved into specialized system houses offering sovereign technologies that are increasingly attractive to Asia-Pacific nations seeking to diversify their defence procurement away from traditional Western and Russian dependencies.

Meteksan Defence serves as a prime example of this evolution, utilizing the opening day to unveil its latest suite of high-tech sensors and electronic warfare systems. The company is showcasing the MILSAR Synthetic Aperture Radar and the KAPAN Counter Drone System, both of which have transitioned from domestic prototypes to combat-proven assets. These systems represent a critical layer of modern warfare, providing the granular data and electronic protection necessary for the effective operation of larger platforms. The strategic importance of these mid-tier players lies in their ability to provide cost-effective, NATO-standard equipment that can be integrated into a variety of regional platforms, a factor that is drawing significant attention from Southeast Asian delegations present in Istanbul.

According to reports from Daily Sabah and Defence Turkey published in late April 2026, the exhibition is set to break previous records in both participation and trade volume. These sources highlight that the focus of this year's event has moved beyond standalone hardware toward an "end-to-end ecosystem" approach. This shift was explicitly noted by Murat Akalın, Deputy General Manager of Sarsilmaz, who stated that "success on the modern battlefield now depends not on standalone products but on integrated systems that work

harmoniously." This philosophy is being mirrored by other participants like ASPILSAN Enerji and SDT Space and Defence Technologies, who are presenting mission-critical subsystems that form the backbone of Turkey's indigenous military capability.

technologies are increasingly relevant as regional air forces in the South China Sea theatre seek to extend the life of existing fleets through electronic upgrades. By focusing on niche areas like image processing and guidance kits, these second-tier companies provide the essential "nervous system"

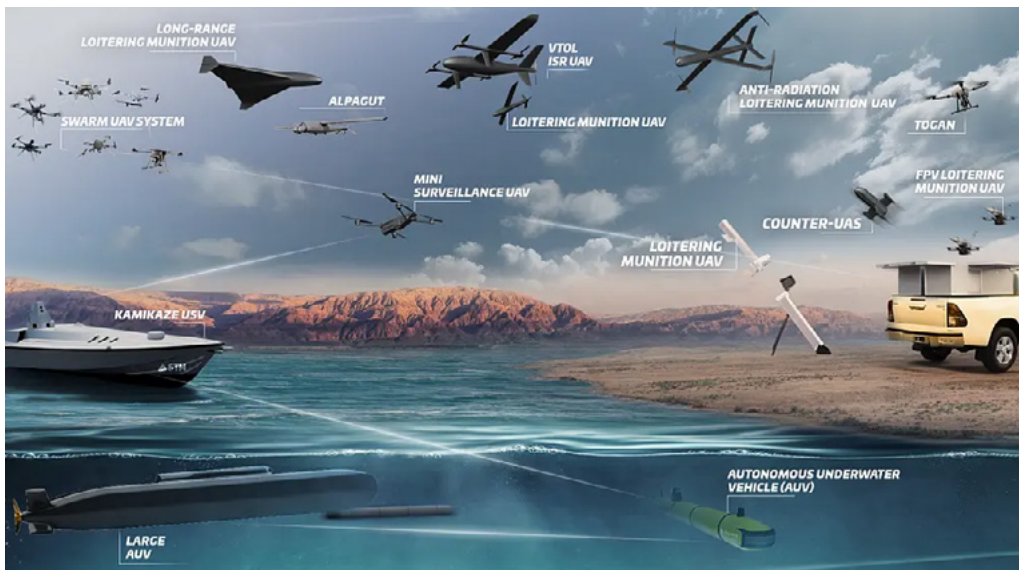


For the Asia-Pacific region, the proliferation of these secondary Turkish firms offers a vital strategic alternative in a period of heightened geopolitical tension. As nations in Southeast Asia face increasing pressure to modernize their maritime and aerial surveillance capabilities, the modular nature of Turkish technology allows for flexible partnership models. Recent agreements, such as the teaming arrangement between ASELSAN and the Malaysian conglomerate Boustead for satellite communication solutions, demonstrate a growing trend of technology transfer. This model allows regional players to build local industrial capacity while gaining access to sophisticated subsystems that do not carry the heavy diplomatic conditions often attached to major power exports.

The aerospace segment of the show is particularly robust, with SDT Space and Defence Technologies displaying advanced avionics and simulation systems that are critical for pilot training and platform modernization. These

for the "muscles" provided by larger platforms. The presence of high-level delegations from Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines on day one underscores the regional appetite for these specific, high-tech Turkish solutions.

Meteksan's General Manager, Adil Baktır, emphasized the international ambitions of the mid-tier sector during his opening remarks. He noted that SAHA 2026 serves as an essential platform for evaluating "new partnership opportunities focused on production and technology transfer projects with local defense companies worldwide." This proactive stance toward localization is a key differentiator for Turkish firms compared to more rigid global competitors. As the exhibition progresses through its five-day run, the focus remains firmly on how these specialized companies can anchor new supply chains that bridge the gap between European manufacturing standards and Asian operational requirements.



## STM Advances Multi-domain Unmanned Operations with Swarm and Autonomous Systems

**Turkish** defence engineering firm STM is positioning its unmanned systems portfolio around a multi-domain operational concept that integrates air, land, surface and subsurface platforms under a unified command framework.

The approach centres on coordinating different unmanned platforms to operate as a single system, rather than as standalone assets. According to company material, the concept connects multiple domains through shared mission awareness, aligning with evolving requirements for network-enabled warfare.

STM's current portfolio includes a range of tactical systems such as KARGU and

ALPAGU loitering munitions, TOGAN and STM-VTOL reconnaissance UAVs, BOYGA ammunition-drop drones and the STM NETA autonomous underwater vehicle. These systems are being integrated into a common operational structure under the company's multi-domain framework.

A key element of this approach is the use of swarm technologies. STM has demonstrated the ability of its unmanned systems to operate in coordinated groups, sharing data and distributing tasks in real time. In one recent test, a swarm of KARGU loitering munitions conducted a live-munition attack, marking what the company described as a first for a 20-platform swarm.

Separate demonstrations have also shown smaller swarms executing coordinated strikes. In one such test, six KARGU drones equipped with different warheads autonomously identified targets and divided tasks, with some units engaging personnel and others targeting vehicles.

The systems are designed to operate with a high degree of autonomy. Using proprietary algorithms and distributed control architecture, individual platforms can make decisions independently while remaining part of a coordinated network. This allows missions to continue even if individual units are lost.

STM's architecture also supports operations in electronically contested environments. The systems incorporate GNSS-independent navigation and visual-based positioning, enabling continued operation in areas affected by jamming or signal disruption.

The company is also working on expanding its unmanned systems family, with plans including long-range loitering munitions, anti-radiation systems, counter-UAV solutions and larger autonomous underwater platforms.

The focus on integration, autonomy and swarm capability reflects a broader shift in unmanned warfare towards distributed, networked operations designed to increase resilience and operational flexibility across multiple domains.

## Turkiye's DASAL PUHU C75 Cargo UAV Multi-Role Platform



**DASAL** Aerospace Technologies will showcase its PUHU C75 cargo UAV at SAHA 2026, presenting the platform as a proven system already in service with Turkish security forces.

The heavy-class unmanned aerial vehicle entered operational use last year. It is positioned as a fully electric cargo drone designed for logistics, resupply

and multi-role missions in tactical environments.

The PUHU C75 is designed to carry a maximum payload of 75 kilograms. It has an endurance of up to 40 minutes and an operational range of 10 kilometres.

The platform is aimed at supporting frontline units with rapid resupply. It can transport equipment, ammunition and other mission-critical payloads without exposing personnel to risk.

DASAL says the UAV has been

developed with in-house engineering and is tailored for demanding operational conditions.

Beyond logistics, the PUHU C75 is designed for multiple mission roles.

It can be equipped with a fire cannon and extinguisher missile launchers. This allows it to respond quickly to early-stage wildfires.

The platform can also support search and rescue operations. Its payload flexibility allows it to carry sensors, cameras or emergency supplies depending on mission needs.

# Titra Sharpens Export Pitch with Expanded Unmanned and Logistics Portfolio

**Titra** Teknoloji is stepping up its presence at SAHA Expo with a focused push across unmanned logistics, ISR and precision strike systems, as it looks to expand its footprint in the international market.

The company is showcasing a mix of rotary-wing and loitering platforms, led by the Alpin unmanned helicopter alongside the Deli loitering munition, Dumrul rotary UAV and the Merkut FPV system. Officials say the emphasis is on offering adaptable systems that can be configured for multiple mission profiles rather than single-role platforms.

Alpin, Titra's heavier unmanned helicopter, is designed for cargo transport and mission support, with vertical take-off and landing capability allowing operations without runway infrastructure. The platform is aimed at logistics resupply in remote or high-altitude environments, while also supporting ISR payloads and emergency response roles.



In the strike segment, the company is promoting the Deli loitering munition, positioned as a cost-effective solution for engaging time-sensitive targets. The system reflects growing demand for expendable precision weapons that can be deployed quickly in contested environments with minimal logistical burden.

The Dumrul rotary-wing UAV is pitched for reconnaissance and surveillance missions, with a compact design that enables operations in confined or complex terrain. It is intended to provide tactical units with flexible ISR capability

while maintaining sufficient endurance for field operations.

At the lighter end, the Merkut 7-inch FPV loitering munition is being presented as a portable, high-speed strike system. Weighing around 2.5 kg, it offers a range of up to 8 km and can reach speeds of 144 km/h, operating at altitudes up to 3,500 ft. The system supports day and night payloads and features adjustable proximity detonation, allowing it to be tailored to specific engagement scenarios.

A company representative said the portfolio is designed to "offer modularity and mission adaptability while meeting the operational requirements of modern armed forces."

With demand rising for unmanned systems across logistics, surveillance and strike roles, Titra's showcase reflects an effort to position itself as a multi-segment supplier in an increasingly competitive export market.

## TEI showcases TS1400 turboshaft engine

**The** TEI-TS1400 turboshaft engine is on display at SAHA Expo, highlighting Türkiye's push to localize helicopter propulsion systems under the Turboshaft Engine Development Project (TEDP).

Developed by TUSAŞ Engine Industries (TEI), the TS1400 is Türkiye's first indigenous helicopter engine and is designed to power the T625 GÖKBAY general purpose helicopter built by Turkish Aerospace. The engine program, launched on March 8, 2017, aims



to reduce foreign dependency while supporting ongoing national helicopter programs.

The TS1400 completed its first flight integrated with the GÖKBAY platform on April 19, 2023, marking a key milestone in the program. Certification activities for full integration of the engine into the platform are currently ongoing.

The engine delivers 1,400 shaft horsepower at sea level under standard conditions, with a 30-second one-engine-in-operative (OEI) power rating of 1,660 SHP. It features a power-to-weight ratio of 8.54 SHP/kg, an output shaft speed of 23,000 rpm, and a service ceiling of 20,000 feet. The engine is equipped with a Full Authority Digital Engine Control (FADEC) system.

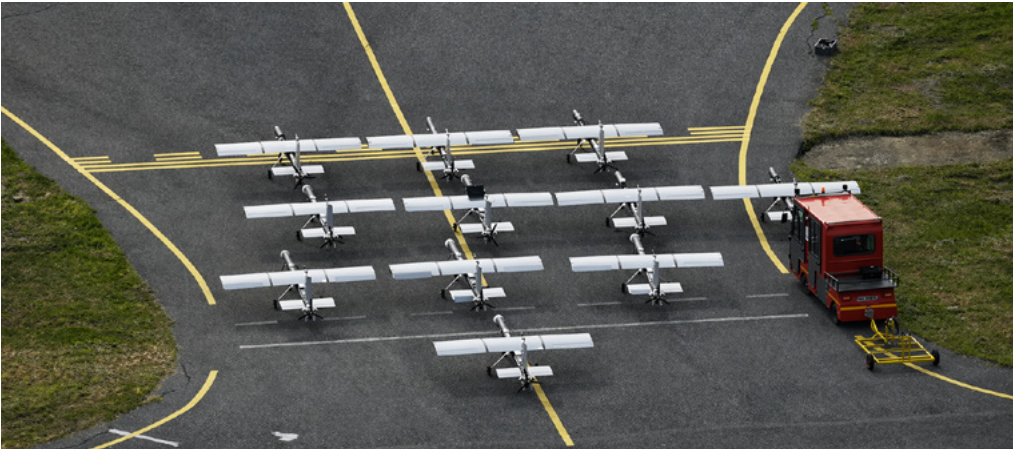
The TS1400 has been developed over an eight-year period by TEI engineering teams working across Eskişehir, Ankara

and Istanbul, forming a core part of Türkiye's broader effort to increase domestic content in aerospace systems.

TEI CEO Dr. Mahmut Faruk Aksit recently stated that the TS1400 is expected to enter service later this year, with deliveries of GÖKBAY helicopters powered by the indigenous engine planned for 2027–2028.

According to the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB), a total of 83 GÖKBAY helicopters are planned for delivery across various users. Domestic content in the platform is currently above 70 percent and is expected to exceed 80 percent with the integration of the TS1400 engine.

The display of the TS1400 at SAHA Expo underscores its transition from development into operational deployment as Türkiye advances its indigenous aerospace propulsion capabilities.



## Baykar Introduces K2 Kamikaze UAV, Sivrisinek Loitering Munition

**Turkish** defence firm Baykar is unveiling its next-generation K2 kamikaze unmanned aerial vehicle and Sivrisinek (Mosquito) loitering munition at SAHA 2026, following a recent demonstration that showcased autonomous swarm operations, GNSS-independent navigation and coordinated strike capability.

The systems were tested at the Keşan Flight Training and Test Center on April 17, where multiple unmanned platforms operated together in a controlled scenario designed to simulate contested battlefield conditions.

The demonstration began with the sequential launch of five K2 kamikaze

UAVs within a five-minute window. Once airborne, the aircraft conducted patrol missions in various formations, including right echelon, line and V formations, before being joined by ten Sivrisinek loitering munitions to form a coordinated swarm. Baykar's Bayraktar TB2, TB3 and AKINCI unmanned combat aerial vehicles also took part, monitoring and recording the operation from the air.

A central feature of the test was the ability to operate in environments where satellite navigation signals are disrupted. Both K2 and Sivrisinek platforms demonstrated AI-supported visual navigation, allowing them to maintain positioning and execute missions

independently of GNSS. The systems also carried out automated target detection and engagement. Sivrisinek units conducted coordinated dive attacks on designated targets, while a K2 UAV separated from the formation to execute a high-speed strike profile. The demonstration concluded with a combined formation flight involving 18 unmanned platforms of different classes.

Sivrisinek is designed as a long-range loitering munition with an operational range exceeding 1,000 kilometres. It is capable of maintaining communication within a swarm and sharing target data in real time, enabling coordinated engagement. The platform is intended to operate in contested environments, including areas affected by electronic warfare or heavy jamming.

The K2 kamikaze UAV is designed to operate as part of such swarm structures, supporting coordinated missions that combine reconnaissance, target identification and strike roles.

Baykar has emerged as a leading exporter in the unmanned aerial vehicle sector, reporting export revenues of \$2.2 billion in 2025. The company derives the majority of its income from exports and has signed agreements with dozens of countries for its platforms, including the Bayraktar TB2 and AKINCI systems.

## MBDA Presents Meteor in European Air Combat Context

**MBDA** is positioning its Meteor beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile system within a broader European combat air ecosystem that continues to evolve with new platform integrations and operator pipelines.

Meteor, which the company will showcase at SAHA 2026, is designed for air dominance missions and is integrated across multiple combat aircraft, including Eurofighter Typhoon, Rafale and Gripen. The missile forms part of a multinational European programme involving six partner nations, reflecting its role as a common capability across several NATO air forces.

The system is powered by a ramjet propulsion system that sustains thrust



throughout flight, enabling a larger "no escape zone" compared with conventional beyond-visual-range missiles. It is designed to operate in dense electronic warfare environments, with a fragmentation warhead for target engagement.

MBDA is placing emphasis on Meteor's role in networked air combat, where missile performance is linked to sensor fusion, data sharing and platform integration. The company is presenting the system as part of a wider shift towards software-enabled, multi-platform air

operations.

The display also comes as the Eurofighter Typhoon programme continues to expand its user base. Recent developments, including Türkiye's ongoing acquisition process supported by a UK-led training and sustainment agreement signed in March 2026, are expected to shape future integration and support frameworks around the aircraft and its associated weapons.

Within this context, Meteor is being presented as one of the core air-to-air capabilities aligned with current and prospective European combat aircraft operators, as MBDA engages delegations at the show on evolving requirements for beyond-visual-range engagements.

# Elektroland Defence Unveils Economic 6x6 Unmanned Ground Vehicle



Türkiye-based Elektroland Defence has unveiled its new Economic 6x6 Multi-Purpose Unmanned Ground Vehicle at SAHA 2026, as the company expands its portfolio of cost-effective robotic systems for defense and public security missions.

The launch comes as Elektroland continues to position itself as Türkiye's first bomb disposal robot manufacturer developed with domestic and national resources, while strengthening its

footprint in unmanned ground systems.

Alongside the new platform, the company is showcasing a range of systems already in operational service. These include the TMR-1 DİNÇER and TMR-2 KUTLU bomb disposal robots, the HANÇER multi-purpose unmanned ground vehicle, as well as the ACROB throwable reconnaissance robot and the MİNİROW mini surveillance system.

The newly introduced 6x6 vehicle is designed as a cost-efficient, multi-role platform capable of supporting a wide range of missions, from reconnaissance and logistics to hazardous operations. The focus on affordability reflects Elektroland's long-standing approach of developing reliable explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) systems using off-the-shelf components that can be delivered quickly to end users.

That philosophy dates back to the mid-2000s, when the company developed

Türkiye's first EOD robot to meet the requirements of the Turkish Armed Forces. Since then, Elektroland has steadily expanded its capabilities, building a broad portfolio of unmanned systems and autonomous solutions.

Today, the company serves a wide base of national and international customers and is a registered supplier to both the United Nations and NATO. Elektroland says it has delivered more than 1,000 systems, including hundreds of EOD robots now in operation across more than 15 countries.

A key part of its growth has been its in-house capability. The company designs, develops, manufactures and supports its systems internally, allowing it to respond quickly to evolving operational needs.

Its platforms are used not only in defense and public security roles, but also in civilian applications such as firefighting, emergency response, transport and mapping. By leveraging a shared supply chain and engineering base, Elektroland is able to adapt production and scale output depending on demand.

---

## BITES Showcases Defense Solutions, Real-time Tactical Planning Systems

**BITES** is presenting an augmented reality-based tactical planning system at SAHA 2026, offering a new way for commanders to visualize battlefield data in real time.

The system, called the Augmented Reality Sand Box, turns terrain data into a three-dimensional holographic field. It allows users to see and interact with operational information using augmented reality glasses.

The solution is designed to work with Command and Control Information Systems and supports NATO Vector Graphics (NVG) data formats.

The Augmented Reality Sand Box creates a live 3D view of terrain and operational data. Commanders can analyze scenarios directly on a physical surface enhanced with digital overlays.

The system uses a combination of sensors and projection technology. A depth sensor reads the sand surface. A projector overlays topographic lines and colour-coded elevations. AR glasses then add a holographic layer of tactical information.

This allows users to view terrain, troop movement and operational data in a single environment.

BITES says the system can be used at multiple command levels. It supports both operational planning and training environments.

Users can simulate missions, analyze past operations and track live developments. The system also supports integration with live command and control systems.

The platform allows multiple users to



interact at the same time. A spectator mode lets additional personnel monitor operations without using AR glasses.

The system is designed to be portable. It can be deployed in headquarters, training centres or field environments.

The compact setup enables rapid installation and use without complex infrastructure. This makes it suitable for both military and training applications.

# IN THE THICK OF THE ACTION

## GBP DAILY NEWS IN 2025

**Hosted by**  
**INDO DEFENCE 2024 EXPO & FORUM**

**INDO DEFENCE 2024**  
 Day 01 - 11.06.2025  
 Day 02 - 12.06.2025  
 Day 03 - 13.06.2025

**Seoul ADEX**

**Seoul ADEX 2025**  
 Day 01 - 20.10.2025  
 Day 02 - 22.10.2025  
 Day 03 - 23.10.2025

**Defense & Security 2025**

**DEFENSE & SECURITY 2025**  
 Day 01 - 10.11.2025  
 Day 02 - 22.10.2025  
 Day 03 - 23.10.2025

## Daily News | SHOWS IN 2026

**OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER**

**OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER**

**OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER**

**OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER**

**OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER**

**OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER**

**OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER**



# Experience Counts. Big Time.



**GBP AEROSPACE & DEFENCE** is a Singapore-based aerospace & defence industry publishing powerhouse. Besides being the publisher of official **Daily News** at various aerospace and defence tradeshows in different regions across the world, the company publishes **Asian Defence Technology** and **World Defence Technology**, publications covering the defence and security sector, **Asian Aerospace & MRO**, which focuses on developments in the world of commercial aviation and MRO, **Space Technology**, a publication that brings the latest from the world of Space to readers, and **Teknologi Pertahanan Asia**, a quarterly defence publication in Indonesian that covers developments in the country as well as the wider Southeast Asia region. **Warta Pertahanan & Aeroangkasa**, a new regional publication in Malay that caters to the Malaysian aerospace and defence market, is an attempt to help companies reach out to their target audience in the language of their choice.

The company's dynamic website covers developments in all four sectors—**defence & security, commercial aviation, MRO, and Space**. Its regional channels offer the latest news in **Indonesian, Malay and Filipino**.



To know more: Contact **Vittorio Rossi Prudente**, CEO & Publisher, Global Business Press. Email: [vittorio.prudente@gbp.com.sg](mailto:vittorio.prudente@gbp.com.sg)  
Phone: +39 335 6119295. Website: [www.gbp.com.sg](http://www.gbp.com.sg)