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## **China's Largest Solid-Fuel Rocket Scheduled for First Launch in 2019**

*March 7, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: "Chinese legislators have urged the country to formulate its own space law to boost the development of commercial space and pay more attention to the outflow of talent.

China's private space sector will embrace more opportunities in 2019. The country should complete its laws and regulations on the private space sector to support its commercial development, Hu Shengyun, a senior rocket engineer at China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation and deputy to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) from Wuhan, Central China's Hubei Province, told the Global Times.

The value of commercial space travel in China is projected to reach 30 billion yuan (\$4.6 billion) annually by 2020, Hu said.

Xiaomi founder and CEO Lei Jun, who is also an NPC deputy, told media that China is the only space power without its own space law, suggesting that promoting legislation on space will guarantee the rights of private companies on utilizing space resources. Lei also suggested the government relax its market access to private companies and promote the sharing of space infrastructure. Around 29 countries have space laws or regulations."

Hu also said the Kuaizhou-11, China's largest solid-fuel carrier rocket is scheduled to make its maiden launch this year. The new type solid-fuel carrier rocket series Kuaizhou is the country's first carrier rocket for commercial purposes, and the Kuaizhou-11 is much larger than the Kuaizhou-1.

Kuaizhou is a low-cost solid-fuel carrier rocket with high reliability and a short preparation period. With a lift-off mass of 78 tons, the rocket was designed to launch low-Earth and Sun-synchronous orbit satellites.

Hu also suggested the country pay more attention to the exodus of space talent. State-owned space enterprises are losing a large number of scientific and technological talent, which should be given more attention, Hu said."

## **Erdogan determined to go ahead with Russian missile deal**

*March 7, 2019* spacedaily.com reported: "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Wednesday it was 'out of the question' to reconsider a controversial deal to buy a top-line Russian anti-missile system and he might even look at other purchases.

The United States, a long-standing NATO ally and supplier of much of Turkey's military equipment, has pressed Ankara to drop the S-400 deal, saying it is incompatible with its established weapon systems and is part of Russian efforts to muddy the waters in a key, volatile region.

'As for the S-400, the deal is done and it is out of the question to go backwards... and perhaps after the S-400, we will move onto the S-500,' Erdogan told Kanal 24 television..."

## **U.S. Commander: Russian Modernization Efforts 'Threaten to Erode' U.S. Military Advantage in Europe**

*March 6, 2019* Breitbart.com reported: "The top U.S. commander in Europe on Tuesday declared that American and NATO troops could not yet mount a credible deterrence against Russian aggression, noting that the Kremlin's efforts to modernize its armed forces are eroding the United States' military advantage in Europe.

Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) head and NATO's supreme allied commander, identified a lack of manpower, naval capability shortfalls, and inadequate intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) capacity as reasons why American and NATO troops are unable to handle the credible deterrence against Russian aggression.

The general's comments came as he testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee about American military activities in Europe, telling lawmakers the United States needs to follow in the footsteps of American rival Russia and modernize its force..."

## **North Korea resumes work at rocket site**

*March 6, 2019* asiatictimes.com reported: "At a time when the diplomatic outlook is unclear following the failure of last week's North Korea-US summit in Hanoi, US think tanks and South Korean analyses indicate that work has restarted at a satellite launch site in North Korea.

Influential North Korea-specialized think tank 38 North, citing a South Korean intelligence briefing, produced an analysis of rebuilding work underway at the Sohae Satellite Launch Station at Tongchang-ri in the country's northwest.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had pledged to dismantle the facility – which can test missile engines while hefting satellites into orbit using dual-use rocket technology – at the first US-North Korean summit held in Singapore last June. According to 38 North, the dismantling work halted last August, and between February 6 and March 2, work recommenced.

US think tank CSIS also produced commercial satellite imagery showing that work had recommenced on a rail-mounted, rocket-transport facility at the site..."

## **'Israel tells Hamas to rein in border violence or face major military action'**

*March 6, 2019* YNetNews.com reported: "Israel is reportedly warning Palestinian terror organization Hamas that it faces widespread military action if it does not rein in violence along the country's border with the Gaza Strip, the neighboring coastal enclave that it rules.

The two sides are in the midst of indirect negotiations mediated by Egypt meant to consolidate a ceasefire arrangement after months of escalating tensions between the two sides, the London-based, Arabic-language newspaper Asharq al-Awsat reported Wednesday.



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According to Lebanon's Al-Akhbar newspaper, Israel said that although the government is willing to amend the terms of the agreement in line with Hamas demands, if the terror group persists with the border violence, a wide-scale military operation in the Strip would be inevitable..."

### **U.S. deploys THAAD missile defence in Israel for exercise**

**March 5, 2019** spacedaily.com reported: "The United States has deployed its advanced THAAD (*Terminal High Altitude Area Defense*) missile defence system temporarily to Israel for a joint military exercise, the first of its kind, officials said Monday.

The two countries confirmed the deployment, with Israel's military stressing it was 'not related to any specific current event'.

It is the first such exercise in Israel, although the two allies hold regular joint war games. No dates have been announced for the manoeuvres.

Israel has its own missile defence system, but the exercise aims in part to examine how to incorporate THAAD so that 'we are ready for any challenges in the future', military spokesman Jonathan Conricus said..."

### **German engineers produce and test 3D-printed rocket engine**

**March 5, 2019** spacedaily.com reported: "The new method will allow the weight and production cost of a rocket to be reduced, while increasing payload and implementing more sophisticated cooling systems.

German Aerospace Centre (DLR) in collaboration with SLM Solutions, have successfully created a rocket engine, called BERTA, fully assembled using 3D-printing technology. The engine, which will be used in an Ariane 6 modular rocket developed by the ArianeGroup for the European Space Agency (ESA), is capable of delivering satellites to geostationary transfer or sun-synchronous orbits.

The new production method has allowed the engine's weight to be reduced by 30% thus increasing its effectiveness by 20%, Deutsche Wirtschafts Nachrichten reported. The 3D printing will also enable the use of more sophisticated cooling systems for the combustion chamber, which would be impossible using an ordinary assembling method." ..."

### **'If someone drops nuclear bomb on Israel, I wouldn't care'**

**March 5, 2019** Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Palestinian Arab journalist Dr. Nasser Al-Laham recently said that Israel has become so arrogant that one day someone angry will drop a nuclear bomb on it.

Nasser added that on that day, he will write an article titled 'Lo Ichpat Li,' which means 'I don't care' in Hebrew.

The comments were made in a video that was uploaded to the Maan News agency's YouTube channel on January 16, 2019. They were translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI)..."

### **Israeli aircraft hit Hamas post in Gaza after bomb attack**

**March 4, 2019** Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The IDF struck Hamas positions in the Gaza Strip Sunday, after bomb attacks on the Israeli border. Israeli aircraft struck a Hamas post in the northern Gaza Strip, an IDF spokesperson reported Sunday.

'On Sunday, explosive devices were hurled at the security fence from the Gaza Strip. In response, an IDF aircraft targeted a Hamas military post in the northern Gaza Strip.'

The Palestinian Authority WAFA outlet claimed that three Gazans were wounded during clashes with the IDF on the border between the northern Gaza Strip and Israel..."

### **US, South Korea to end key joint military exercises**

**March 3, 2019** spacedaily.com reported: "The US and South Korea announced Sunday an end to key annual large-scale military exercises in support of diplomatic efforts to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons programme.

The decision comes days after the conclusion of US President Donald Trump's second summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi, which ended without a formal agreement but with both sides suggesting they would keep talking.

There are close to 30,000 US troops stationed in South Korea, and their annual drills with tens of thousands of South Korean soldiers have been a perennial target of North Korean fury -- with Pyongyang condemning the manoeuvres as provocative rehearsals for invasion.

While Trump has ruled out withdrawing the troops, he has repeatedly complained about the cost of the exercises, describing them at a press conference in Hanoi as "very, very expensive".

During a Saturday phone call between South Korean Defence Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo and his US counterpart Patrick Shanahan, "both sides decided to conclude the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle series of exercises", according to a Pentagon statement." ..."

### **Chicago imam: Islamic caliphate our ultimate aim**

**March 3, 2019** World Net Daily reported: "While Muslim clerics in the United States typically insist they submit to the U.S. Constitution, an Illinois cleric chastised Islamic relief organizations for not stating that an Islamic caliphate is the ultimate objective for Muslims.

Omar Baloch said many Islamic organizations are afraid of losing funding if they are too vocal about the establishment of a caliphate.

'We all have a higher goal ... that is bigger than us, and that is the establishment of the caliphate,' he said in a video uploaded to his YouTube channel Jan. 29 titled 'Constructive Criticism of Islamic Relief Organizations,' according to the Middle East Media Research Institute.

Jihad Watch Director Robert Spencer commented that in Sunni Islamic theology, the caliphate is 'the sole legitimate government to which Muslims owe loyalty.'..."

