



# Arab Defense Industry Papers News Bulletin

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## About the ADIP News Bulletin

The Arab Defense Industry Papers (ADIP) is a new professional series focusing on the role of the defense industry in Algeria Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. The focus of the series is on the establishment of national defense industrial bases in these countries and joint collaborative defense projects as well as defense exports. The ADIP News Bulletin complements the analytical papers by providing information about current and upcoming developments relevant for the Arab defense industrial establishment. The ADIP News Bulletin is available by subscription. ADIP and the ADIP News Bulletin are joint initiatives of Borchert Consulting & Research AG and Verocy. For more information about ADIP, see: <http://www.arabdefenseindustry.com>.

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## The Big Picture

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### Major U-turn in U.S. defense export policy vis-à-vis Saudi Arabia?

(6 May 2017) Recent reports indicate that the U.S. administration seems willing to push through a multi-billion arms deal prior to President Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia later this month. As *The Independent* reported on 6 May 2017, the following elements of a package are under consideration:

- Lockheed Martin's Terminal Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system worth around \$1bn and its Command and Control, Battle Management, and Communications System (C2BMC)
- A package with satellite capabilities
- Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M109 artillery vehicles
- Four multi-mission surface combatant ships worth around \$11.5bn, which had been approved by the State Department back in 2015
- Around \$1bn worth of munitions including, among other things, Paveway laser-guided bombs

<http://ind.pn/2qSHE6E>

### Saudi Arabia is not planning a major ground offensive in Yemen

(4 May 2017) On 2nd May 2017, Saudi Deputy Crown Prince and Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman indicated in a TV interview that his country was not preparing to launch a major ground offensive against rebels in Yemen, *Jane's Defence Weekly* reported. Rather he pointed out that time was on the coalition's side as the "rebels were politically divided, cut off from external supplies, short of money, and opposed by many tribes."

<http://bit.ly/2qh6ccA>

### Turkey's armed forces continue to bleed from coup

(3 May 2017) The Turkish government is continuing to enforce a strong hand on people suspected to have been involved in the failed coup against President Erdogan in July 2016 (see ADIP News Bulletin dated 20 March 2017, p. 3).

Under new decrees issued on 29 April 2017, the Turkish government expelled another 1,000 officers of various ranks from the Turkish Armed Forces, *Jane's Defence Weekly* reported on 3 May 2017.

<http://bit.ly/2qS2LVO>

### Russia and Turkey said to have reached agreement on S400

(28 April 2017) Quoting Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Russia's TASS news agency reported that, "Turkey and Russia have reached an agreement in principle" on the delivery of the S400 air defense system. "We are continuing the negotiations on all the issues related to the S400, including joint production and the price," Cavusoglu added. Despite the media hype surrounding this statement, it should be taken with a grain of salt. The procurement of a new Turkish air defense system has been a very long and protracted undertaking with different U-turns. It remains to be seen, how things are going to develop.

<http://bit.ly/2qJSajE>

### Saudi Arabia boosts defense cooperation with Djibouti

(28 April 2017) Saudi Arabia and Djibouti have penned an agreement to "strengthen defense cooperation, enhance security, and monitor military meddling in the region," *Arab News* reported on 28 April 2017.

<http://bit.ly/2qf9OLX>

### King of Jordan meets with Australian Minister of Defense

(28 April 2017) Jordan's King Abdullah II has received Marise Payne, Australia's Minister of Defense, in Amman. According to news reports they discussed relations between the two countries with a view on military cooperation and regional developments, in particular in Syria and Iraq.

<http://bit.ly/2qgFwsB>

### Unmanned bomb boat intercepted by Saudi Border Guard

(26 April 2017) Saudi Arabia's Border Guard has intercepted an unmanned boat equipped with explosives, *Jane's Defence Weekly* reported on 26 April 2017. The boat was on its way to attack a petroleum terminal at Jizan in the south of the country. It seems that this is the second attempt by Yemeni rebels to use unmanned attack boats against Saudi Arabia. A first incident occurred on 30 January 2017 involving a Saudi frigate.

<http://bit.ly/2qSvcmQ>

### Saudi King announces new key appointments

(22 April 2017) In a move widely seen by commentators as a bold step to solidify the position of this son, Deputy Crown Prince and Minister of Defense Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi King Salman has issued a decree on 22 April 2017 making several surprise appointments:

- Prince Kahled bin Salman, the Deputy Crown Prince's brother, replaces Prince Abdullah bin Faisal bin Turki as Saudi ambassador in the United States.
- The royal decree has also established a National Security Council linked to the Saudi Royal Court with Mohammad Bin Saleh Al-Ghufaili being appointed as the National Security Adviser.
- LTG Eid Al-Shalwi, the current head of the army, was removed and named an advisor to the Minister of Defense.

<http://bit.ly/2qhM9uL>; <http://bit.ly/2pr0dOk>

### U.S. Secretary Mattis on Middle East tour

(22 April 2017) U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis visited Doha on 22 April 2017 as part of a Mideast tour that also brought him to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Israel. While meeting with Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, he reinforced the importance of deepening bilateral relations. According to a readout published by the U.S. Embassy in Qatar, the discussion also covered "shared security interests, which include the defeat of ISIS."

While in Saudi Arabia, Secretary Mattis met with Mohammed bin Salman, Deputy Crown

Prince and Defense Minister. Among other things, the two discussed "confronting Iran's destabilizing regional activities", a press statement indicated.

<http://bit.ly/2pm0IYY>;

<http://bit.ly/2pVBMvx>; <http://bit.ly/2pc3PHJ>

### HH Mohammed bin Zayed receives President Putin

(20 April 2017) The leaders of Abu Dhabi and Russia met on 20 April 2017 in the UAE. According to press reports, HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Vladimir Putin discussed bilateral relations with a view on both nations' interest in promoting stability in the region. In particular WAM news agency pointed out that the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi was looking forward to a "greater and active Russian role to ensure the stability and peace in the Middle amid unprecedented critical events and challenges in the region." This, as observers have pointed out, is illustrating the UAE's increasingly important mediating role between the U.S. and Russia in particular with regard to future relations in the region.

<http://bit.ly/2pVXbEO>;

<http://bit.ly/2pVO5Yx>

### Qatar signs MoU with Uganda

(19 April 2017) Qatar and Uganda have signed several MoUs on defense, foreign affairs, investments, and agriculture during the visit of President Yoveri Huseveni in Doha, where he was received by HH Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. This was reported by Uganda's *New Vision* on 19 April 2017.

### Egypt said to establish a military base in Eritrea

(17 Apr 2017) On 17 April 2017, the *Sudan Tribune* reported that Eritrea had granted Egypt the right to build a naval base at Dahlak Island. The military base would house between 20-30,000 Egyptian naval forces. "Concerned by Saudi and UAE military presence in Eritrea, Ethiopia warned the two Arab nations against supporting what it said was 'Asmara's long-standing destabilizing agenda against Ethiopia'."

<http://bit.ly/2pg1DhZ>

## Defense Industry

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### IDEF2017: Turkish manufacturers to showcase new products

(8 May 2017) In the run up to the IDEF Defense Exhibition taking place from 9 to 12 May 2017 in Istanbul, Turkish manufacturers have issued several announcements with regard to new defense systems to be presented:

- Aselsan is about to show a newly developed 120mm mortar launching system (AHS-120) that will be compatible with any mortar shell. The company will also demonstrate the new STAMP-2 remote controlled weapon station, which provides automatic target detection and tracking, the IHTAR mini/micro UAV air defense system, the ETI system for counter IED detection as well as a new light torpedo, a wearable exoskeleton for soldiers, and a new railgun.
- Automaker Nurol Makina is about to introduce a new 4x4 light-armored vehicle and armored vehicle platform.
- Havelsan will show its new simulator system for the TAI T-129 ATAK helicopter. The simulator consists of two systems, one for flight and avionics components and one to manage the helicopter's weapon systems.
- FIGES Engineering will exhibit a metal melted 3D printer developed with the support of TÜBİTAK, Turkey's Scientific and Technological Research Council.
- Roketsan will exhibit its Explosive Reactive Armor (ERA) system for various armored vehicles and the Khan mobile short-range ballistic missile system.
- The Turkish company Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation will present its new Yavuz self-propelled howitzer, which uses NATO standard ammunition and can hit targets at a distance of up to 30km.

<http://bit.ly/2pqyhKx>; <http://bit.ly/2pqRNGO>;  
<http://bit.ly/2pncJNL>; <http://bit.ly/2qS97Vg>;  
<http://bit.ly/2pnis6d>; <http://bit.ly/2qSVICS>;  
<http://bit.ly/2pmQMyk>; <http://bit.ly/2pmKMG1>;  
<http://bit.ly/2qJFjxB>; <http://bit.ly/2qJByIK>;  
<http://bit.ly/2qSMwYM>; <http://bit.ly/2qKa99z>

### IWI and Punj Lloyd set up JV in India

(3 May 2017) India's Punj Lloyed and Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) have set up a joint venture to manufacture different small arms such as assault rifles, light machine guns, and snipers, *C4Defence* reported on 3 May 2017.

<http://bit.ly/2pT06hg>

### Aselsan continues to leverage modernization expertise for international business

(17 April 2017) Turkish land system companies have for a long time leveraged national expertise in modernizing systems procured from international partners to seize international market opportunities. Now Aselsan seems to follow this avenue in the international helicopter market. As *Defense News* reported on 17 April 2017, Aselsan announced its ambition to take an "active role" in modernizing around 10,000 Mi-series helicopters in operation worldwide. According to a company statement, Aselsan takes particular interest in upgrading Mi-series helicopters "in the Gulf and Central Asian, or Turkic, countries." Indigenous systems used for the respective upgrades could include "multi-function displays, keyboard display units, inertial navigation systems, mission computers, digital moving map systems, internal communications systems, and very/ultra-high-frequency and high-frequency radios."

<http://bit.ly/2pXObwW>

## Defense Exports

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### Secret Saudi-Turkish deal in the making?

(3 May 2017) According to *Defense News* Saudi Arabia and Turkey could soon finalize a significant defense export contract. So far, negotiations are top secret, so no information is available on the defense systems to be supplied and the contract value. One defense industry source speculated the deal could involve naval platforms.

<http://bit.ly/2pYNZQT>

## Defense Modernization and Support

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### Boeing to upgrade Saudi Apache helicopters

(5 May 2017) Boeing has been awarded a \$143M contract to upgrade Saudi Arabia's H-64E Apache attack helicopters, *UPI* reported on 5 May 2017. 24 helicopters will receive "unique modifications" set to be completed by April 2022.

<http://bit.ly/2pcvc4C>

### Iranian midget submarine missile test seems to have failed

(4 May 2017) Iran's test launch of a missile from a midget submarine seems to have failed, *Jane's Defence Weekly* reported quoting *Fox News*. The Nasir missile had been tested from a Ghadir-class submarine in the Strait of Hormuz, the weekly wrote on 4 May 2017.

<http://bit.ly/2pmHfHI>

### MAM L missile integrated on Anka UAV

(28 April 2017) On 28 April 2017, Turkey's Undersecretariat for Defense Industries (SSM) has announced that TAI had successfully integrated Roketsan's MAM-L air-to-surface missile on the Anka UAV. According to *Quwa*, the MAM-L air-to-surface missile weighs about 22.5kg, can carry a warhead of up to 10kg, and has a reach of around 8,000 meters.

<http://bit.ly/2pXPuf6>

### First LST delivered to the Turkish Navy

(26 April 2017) ADIK Shipyard in Tuzla has handed over the first of two landing ship, tank (LST) to the Turkish Navy. The handing over ceremony for the TCG Bayraktar took place on 22 April 2017. According to *Quwa* the LST combines the Thales SMART-S Mk2 radar with the GENESIS combat management system from Havelsan. An LST can carry around 350 soldiers and vehicles of up to 1,180 tons.

<http://bit.ly/2qSIII8>

### Nasir anti-ship missile delivered to IRGC Navy

(24 April 2017) During a ceremony that took place on 22 April 2017, the Nasir anti-ship missile has been formally handed over to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy (IRGCN), *Jane's Defence Weekly* reported. According to Defense Minister Hossein Delghan, the missile can be "mounted on speedboats, prepared quickly for launch, flies at a low flight altitude, and has an advanced radar systems that gives it anti-jamming capabilities."

<http://bit.ly/2q90y93>

### Iran builds new naval ship

(21 April 2017) According to Capt. Ahmad Reza Baqeri, Commander of the Iranian Navy's Northern Fleet, Bandar Anazli's Shahid Tamjidi naval industries have started working on a new missile launch naval ship of the Peykan class. News reports did not indicate when the ship would enter Iran's fleet.

<http://bit.ly/2pcie6Q>

## Defense Procurement

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### Egypt gets first Mig-29 fighters

(27 April 2017) Egypt has received the first batch of Mig-29M2 fighter jets, *Interfax* reported on 27 April 2017 with reference to Mohammad Al-Keshky, Egypt's Deputy Minister of Defense. Egypt has placed an order for 50 Mig-29M/M2 fighter jets to be delivered no later than 2020.

<http://bit.ly/2pYiL9K>

### Two Lockheed Martin programs reportedly in trouble in the UAE

(27 April 2017) As per *Jane's Defence Weekly*, two Lockheed Martin programs for the UAE are facing unexpected problems. Marilyn Hewson, Lockheed's CEO, said in a telephone call with investors on 25 April 2017, that the company had taken extra charges on the Extended Air Defense Ground Environment – Transformation (EDGE-T) integrated air and missile defense program as well as the AMMROC joint venture operated with Mubadala. AMMROC, active in

the maintenance, repair, and overhaul business, seems behind expectations with regard to regional business development. EDGE-T, in turn, "ended up being far less robust than what was needed," Hewson said. In addition, Lockheed also needed to deal with "evolving customer requirements". In total Lockheed took extra charges worth around \$184M for both projects in the first quarter of 2017.

<http://bit.ly/2pr1moW>

### UAE said to intend buying "several dozen" Su-35 fighter jets

(23 April 2017) Cooperation between Russia and the UAE on 5th generation fighter collaboration was one of the headline grabbing stories of the 2017 IDEX defense exhibition (ADIP News Bulletin dated 20 March 2017, pp. 6-7). Now, Denis Manturov, Russia's Ministry of Industry and Trade, told the Russian News Agency TASS that negotiations with Abu Dhabi on "several dozen" Su-35 Flanker E multi-role fighters were underway. No further details on the number of fighters, likely costs, and possible transfer of technology were given.

<http://bit.ly/2ok6GxW>

### tkMS delivers first Type 209/1400 submarine to Egypt

(20 April 2017) On 19 April 2017, Egypt has received the first of a total of four Type 209/1400 submarines from thyssenkrupp Marine Systems. The second submarine could be handed over soon, *Quwa* reported with reference to Egyptian sources.

<http://bit.ly/2pXQYX0>

### Additional patrol boats for Bahrain

(19 April 2017) Throughout 2017 Bahrain is about to get another five patrol boats from the U.S., *Jane's Defence Weekly* reported quoting reference to the U.S. Federal Business Opportunities website. Delivery date for the ships is 1 August 2017.

<http://bit.ly/2oscy3D>

### Iraq gets equipment for two Peshmerga brigades

(19 April 2017) The U.S. State Department approved a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Republic of Iraq in support of two Peshmerga brigades. The Iraqi government had requested to fully outfit two full light infantry Peshmerga brigades and two artillery battalions. Among other things, the sale would include rifles, machine guns, CBRNE detection and protective equipment, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, different trucks as well as refurbished M119A2 105mm howitzers. Estimated program costs are around \$259.6M.

<http://bit.ly/2pilqxD>

### U.S. lawmakers make case for UAV sales to Jordan and the UAE

(18 April 2017) Around two dozen U.S. lawmakers have appealed to U.S. President Donald Trump to break with the Obama administration's restriction on selling MQ-9 Reaper UAV to Jordan and the UAE. According to *Defense News*, Republican Representative Duncan Hunter from San Diego spearheaded the initiative. His district is home to General Atomics, the MQ-9 manufacturer.

<http://bit.ly/2olGMG8>

## Military Cooperation and Training

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### Meeting of the Gulf Navies' Commanders in Bahrain

(8 May 2017) The Commanders of the GCC navies met in Bahrain on 8 May 2017. Field Marshal Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander in Chief of Bahrain's Defense Force, lauded efforts to reinforce GCC naval cooperation and reiterated the importance of regular meetings "aimed at increasing the efficiency of joint action and activating maritime cooperation among GCC countries' armed forces", *Al Defaiya* reported.

<http://bit.ly/2qRVDsR>

### Jordan and Saudi Arabia conclude "Abdullah 5" military exercise

(4 May 2017) "Abdullah 5", a joint military exercise conducted by Saudi Arabia and Jordan since 18 April 2017, ended on 2 May 2017. The exercise involved units of Saudi's Eastern Fleet Operations and the Royal Jordanian Naval Special Forces. According to *Israel Defense* the "training included traditional and non-traditional special operations, which included helicopter rope suspension operations, the use of speed boats, use of reconnaissance aircraft, training in counter-terrorism field, and training on mine clearance using the latest devices, in addition, to exercise on dealing with new explosives and blunted ammunition."

<http://bit.ly/2q71qhK>

### Sudanese and Qatari military leaders met

(3 May 2017) On 3 May 2017 LTG Awad Mohammed Abhmed Ibn Auf, Defense Minister of Sudan, paid a visit to Qatar where he met with MG Mubarak bin Mohamed al-Kumait al-Khayarin, Commander of the Air Force of Qatar. According to *Al Defayia*, Qatari officials informed their guests about equipment issues related to the Qatar Emiri Air Force.

<http://bit.ly/2qRI4u9>

### Italian defense leaders tour UAE and Bahrain

(4 May 2017) General Claudio Graziano, Italy's Chief of the Defense Staff, visited the UAE in early May 2017. Among other things he met with Mohammend bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, UAE's Minister of State for Defense Affairs, and LTG Hamad Mohammed Thani, the UAE Armed Forces Chief of Staff. Al Bowardi stressed the importance of continuing bilateral ties, a line of argumentation supported by LTG Hamad Mohammed Thani. According to *Al Defaiya*, the two generals discussed the current state of military cooperation and ways to strengthen it.

Prior to this, VADM Danato Marzano, Commander of the Italian Naval Fleet, met with Field Marshal Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander in Chief of the Bahrain Defense

Force, on 27 April 2017 to discuss ways to enhance bilateral military cooperation.

<http://bit.ly/2qS7Yhd>; <http://bit.ly/2pmfiQn>

### King of Bahrain visits Malaysia's Armed Forces

(3 May 2017) In early May 2017, HM Hamad Ibn Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain, arrived in Malaysia for a four-day tour. According to *Al Defaiya* the King held several discussions, among other things with Muhammad Najib Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia. The two leaders discussed options to strengthen bilateral relations. King Hamad also received Hishammuddin Hussein, Malaysia's Defense Minister, and "reiterated Bahrain's keenness on strengthening military cooperation and exchanging expertise", in particular in the field of military training.

<http://bit.ly/2pm1gy6>

### U.S.-UAE military exercise "Iron Claw 3"

(2 May 2017) The UAE and the U.S. have successfully concluded "Iron Claw 3", a joint military exercise, which is part of a series of bilateral military exercises. According to WAM, UAE's state news agency, the exercise helped enhance participant's "military capabilities" and provided "UAE forces with the ability to handle various types of sophisticated weaponry and equipment."

<http://bit.ly/2pVwzDR>

### Turkey and Azerbaijan conduct military exercise

(1 May 2017) In early May 2017, Turkey and Azerbaijan have conducted live-firing exercises, *C4Defence* reported. According to the online platform the two countries aim at improving coordination, combat readiness, and interoperability through joint exercises.

<http://bit.ly/2qSi011>

### Turkmen defense leaders visit Qatar and the UAE

(27 April 2017) At the end of April 2017, Turkmen defense leaders visited Qatar and the UAE to discuss the current state of bilateral affairs and means to enhance cooperation. Dr Khalid

bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, Qatar's Minister of State for Defense Affairs, received Yaylim Berdiyev, Turkmenistan's Minister of Defense in Doha, while Yusup Muhammetgulyyev, Turkmenistan's Deputy Minister of Defense, met with Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi, UAE Minister of State for Defense Affairs, in Abu Dhabi, *Al Defaiya* reported quoting national news agencies.

<http://bit.ly/2qREnnA>

#### UAE and Malaysia conclude "Desert Tiger 4" military exercise

(25 April 2017) The UAE and Malaysia concluded the "Desert Tiger 4" bilateral military exercise at the end of April 2017. The exercise was part of a broader Emirati plan to maintain and develop the bilateral partnership and to further enhance military capabilities, in particular of the UAE Land Forces, WAM news agency stated.

<http://bit.ly/2qIjnmN>

#### Jordan's Air Force uses Grob trainers

(24 April 2017) The King Hussein Air College uses Grob G 120 TP turboprop training aircraft, *Jane's Defense Weekly* reported on 19 April 2017 with reference to newly released videos. Grob confirmed that 12 out of a total of 14 training aircraft had been delivered to Jordan's Air Force.

<http://bit.ly/2pn54PB>

#### Kuwaiti and Jordanian military leaders meet

(20 April 2017) In order to discuss ways to further develop bilateral military relations Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister, received MG Mahmoud Freihah, Jordan's Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Kuwait City.

<http://bit.ly/2qRFu7l>

#### Omani-Indian Military Cooperation Committee meets

(19 April 2017) On 17 April 2017, the 9th meeting of the Omani-Indian Military Cooperation Committee was held in New Delhi, *Oman News*

*Agency* (ONA) reported. According to ONA the meeting served to review bilateral cooperation and to identify steps to further strengthen the partnership.

<http://bit.ly/2pq62H>

#### Mohammed bin Salman receives Minister of Defense of Mauritania

(19 April 2017) Diallo Amadou Bathia, Mauritania's Minister of Defense, met with Prince Moahammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud, Deputy Crown Prince and Minister of Defense, in Riyadh to discuss ways to bolster bilateral military cooperation.

<http://bit.ly/2pVVtU1>

### Cybersecurity and Space

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#### Yahsat Space Lab launched

(20 April 2017) According to *Al Defaiya*, Al Yahsat Satellite Communications Company (Yahsat), Orbital ATK, and the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology have launched the Yahsat Space Laboratory in Abu Dhabi. The new laboratory will "provide students and faculty of the Masdar Institute Master's concentration in space systems and technology with the facilities required to construct, test and launch miniature satellite CubeSats." In addition, the lab will support the development of intellectual capital required to advance the space and aerospace sectors.

<http://bit.ly/2oNWUCO>

#### UAE and Algeria sign MoU on space collaboration

(2 May 2017) The space agencies of the UAE and Algeria have signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate, the *Algerian Space Agency* reported on 2 May 2017. The MoU "covers various aspects of the peaceful use of outer space, as well as collaboration in the fields of policy making, regulations, space science, technology, and human capital development in the space sector," the statement says. Back in January 2016, the UAE's Space Agency signed another MoU with

Bahrain, the first MoU on space collaboration  
with another Arab nation.

<http://bit.ly/2pmPm7j>