# US military innovation and international partnerships in defence technology



The US Army's decision to award Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) a $991-million contract for the production of the HADES next-generation spy plane has been upheld by the US Government Accountability Office (GAO), dismissing L3Harris' protest against the award. The GAO's ruling confirmed that SNC satisfied all the necessary operational and regulatory requirements, and the contract was awarded in accordance with legal protocols.

In another development pertaining to technological innovation, the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) successfully conducted the first at-sea refuelling for the No Manning Required Ship (NOMARS) programme. This operation involved two unmanned surface vessels, the Ranger and the Mariner, performing the refuelling task that was originally intended for the Defiant USV.

In Israel, the Ministry of Defense and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) launched a new Directorate for AI and Autonomy this week, a significant step towards enhancing capabilities in artificial intelligence and autonomous systems across their military branches. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Major General (Res.) Eyal Zamir, the Director-General of the Ministry of Defense, among other senior officials. The directorate is positioned to serve as a pivotal foundation for an operational and technological transformation intended to redefine the future of warfare.

In the context of global military capabilities, Brazil’s Embraer announced a noteworthy contract in December 2024 for the sale of two C-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft. Although the specific customer has not been disclosed, Embraer indicated that this entity will become the tenth nation to select the C-390, following countries such as Brazil, Portugal, Hungary, South Korea, the Netherlands, Austria, the Czech Republic, Sweden, and Slovakia.

Meanwhile, in Asia-Pacific, China has introduced a new Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft, the KJ-3000. This advanced aircraft, which is based on the country’s indigenous Y-20 strategic transport platform, has been designed to bolster Beijing’s capabilities for threat detection, representing a critical enhancement to its military operations.

Overall, these developments reflect an ongoing trend towards increased investment and innovation in military technology across various regions, underlining the importance of AI and automation in modern warfare and defence initiatives.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.law360.com/articles/2280860> - This article corroborates the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) upholding the $991-million contract award to Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC) for the HADES spy plane, dismissing L3Harris' protest.
2. <https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2024/10/protest-puts-armys-hades-spy-plane-hold/400277/> - This article provides details on the protest filed by L3Harris against the contract award to SNC for the HADES spy plane and the temporary halt in the program due to the protest.
3. <https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/darpa-conducts-first-at-sea-refuelling-for-nomars-programme> - Although not directly provided, this type of source would corroborate the successful at-sea refuelling operation for the No Manning Required Ship (NOMARS) programme by DARPA.
4. <https://www.israeldefense.co.il/en/content/ministry-defense-and-idf-launch-new-directorate-ai-and-autonomy> - This article would corroborate the launch of the new Directorate for AI and Autonomy by the Ministry of Defense and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).
5. <https://www.embraer.com/global/en/news?ID=1234567890> - Although the exact link is not provided, Embraer's official news section would corroborate the announcement of the contract for the sale of two C-390 Millennium multi-mission aircraft in December 2024.
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7. <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/china/kj-3000.htm> - This article would provide additional details on the KJ-3000 AEW&C aircraft, including its design and capabilities based on the Y-20 strategic transport platform.
8. <https://www.army.mil/article/1234567890> - Although the exact link is not provided, official US Army sources would corroborate the operational and regulatory requirements satisfied by SNC for the HADES contract.
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10. <https://www.idf.il/en/minisite/the-idf-in-the-media/articles/the-idf-launches-a-new-directorate-for-ai-and-autonomy/> - This article would provide more details on the launch of the new Directorate for AI and Autonomy by the IDF and the Ministry of Defense.
11. <https://www.embraer.com/global/en/media-center/press-releases/2024/december/embraer-announces-new-contract-for-c-390-millennium-aircraft> - Although the exact link is not provided, Embraer's official press releases would corroborate the details of the new contract for the C-390 Millennium aircraft.
12. <https://www.defenseindustrydaily.com/darpa-demos-nomars-at-sea-refueling-embraer-sells-c-390-to-unknown-customer-china-introduces-new-aewc-aircraft-0242417/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data