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EDN News Feed – N°6

04/08/20

The French Italian aerospace manufacturer Thales Alenia in Mars [EN-EN](#)

On July 30 the American agency NASA has launched an Atlas V rocket to Mars. Its mission is to study Mars surface, taking soil samples and analyzing them lately to understand if there is life on Mars. This mission is carried out jointly with the European Space Agency (ESA). For this mission, the French Italian aerospace manufacturer Thales Alenia has provided a high performance new generation laser called "SuperCam", which will be carried by the NASA Perseverance rover. It will provide a qualitative and quantitative portrait of the basic chemical composition of a sample and it will determinate the molecular composition of surface materials. According to ESA, those samples will be returned by two future missions in 2026. The ESA's involvement in this mission will cost probably 1,5 billion euros.

Meeting of the Head of French, German and Spanish Procurement Agencies on SCAF [ER FR](#)

The French Délégué Général pour l'Armement, Joël Barre, the German State Secretary for Defence Benedikt Zimmer and the new Spanish State Secretary for Defence Esperanza Casteleiro Llamazare met on July 17th to share the status on armament cooperation and especially the Next Generation Weapon System (NGWS). Identified as key for replacing the combat aircraft fleet by 2035, the NGWS program has been subject to a framework agreement signed in June 2019 Paris Air Show, followed by Research & Technologies studies last February. The global cost is estimated between 50 and 80 billions euros.

During this meeting, they confirmed their common intent to engage themselves in a demonstrator phase from 2021 to 2026 for the various components of the system.

This may be key for the French parliament, who recently expressed their concern about the long-term commitment from France's partners regarding the evolution of national political issues. They stated that the project should be made irreversible by signing a global framework contract for the demonstrator studies, instead of successive ones.

First European sanctions answering cyberattacks [EN-EN EN](#)

A step in Europe's reaction to cyberthreats and cyberattacks has been made. Answering the attempt against the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in April 2018, and the more recent called WannaCry, NotPetya and Operation Cloud Hopper, six individuals and three entities have been exposed to restrictive measures. They consist of a travel ban, an asset freeze, and the interdiction for EU persons and entities to make funds available to them.

The EU agreed in June 2017 to develop a cyber diplomacy toolbox to encourage cooperation to answer to malicious cyber activities. The legal framework for targeted restrictive measures against cyber-attacks was then adopted in May 2019 and recently renewed.



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12.000 US troops withdrawn from Germany [EN EN EN](#)

Following the recent decision of Donald Trump in June, the US Defense Secretary, Mark Esper, confirmed the withdrawal of 12.000 of the 34.500 American soldiers from Germany. This decision was justified as a consequence of Germany's refusal to increase Defence spending to 2% of GDP, according to NATO's rules. Half of these troops will be redeployed over other European countries. Poland recently agreed to increase fund for infrastructures and logistic support for US troops and may receive more troops.

NATO being significant in the German defence strategy, this has provoked worried reactions on the german side. Five parliamentarian groups out of six stated their opposition (Die Linke excepted) to this withdrawal. They were also economical actors and the object of investments.