

# SASSI SECURITY REVIEW

A PROJECT OF SOUTH ASIAN STRATEGIC STABILITY INSTITUTE (SASSI) UNIVERSITY

## XI Moscow Conference on International Security in 2023



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UNIVERSITY**

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The "ARMY-2023," the International Military-Technical Forum of the Russian Federation, one of the most extensive display of the modern military weaponry developed and used by the Russian armed forces and its allies is perhaps the single largest military exhibition and conference in the world.

Organized as a week-long defense exhibition and activity is held from August 14 to 20 at the "Patriot Convention and Exhibition Center", the main exhibition site of the Russian ministry of defense along with the sub exhibitions at the facilities of the Central Military-Patriotic Park of Culture and Recreation of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, at the Alabino training ground and Kubinka airfield.





Nearly around one million 93 thousand or so attended the forum and its related activities in a week long display of the most advance weapons by the leading military technology industry leaders of Russia as well as its global partners.

The Forum 'Army 2023', one of the world's largest exhibitions of innovations and modern military products, while gives credit to its users is perhaps the most serious contributor to the development of military-technical cooperation between the technological leaders, defense industry giants and the new aspirants in the field of military technologies and weapons.

Developed and organized as a rich combination of military displays of static exposition and dynamic scientific and business programs, it also provided a great insight to the diverse Russian culture and its artistic heritage spread over thousands of years.

The presence of the high level of military delegations and military leaders from the east to the west as well as the diversity of defense industry with global outreach signified that despite the sanctions imposed by the EU and the US on Russia, it stood as a global industry leader with an extensive global outreach.



This indicated that the economy of the sanctioned world, in particular that of the Russian federation was not restricted by a league of western nations positioned against its military development or outreach but was that of military leader in its awaking marshalling an era of cooperation and development for those affected by the sanctions approach of western military industrial complex. Based on political autocracy rather than the principle global trade or a mutual win for those invested in the US and its allied defense partners, the message to present at the forum was clear that the Russian military weaponry was not only modern In its inception but was battle proven and more resilient for global transfers in the wake of national crises or war than those of the west, as it aimed to provide a competitive military edge to all those who would work and collaborate with the Russian military industrial complex as a partner or a user.



The moto was simple the relationship and technology would be resilient, effective, superior and cost effective in face of adversity and war. The golden principle of assurance of supply in the awake of the demands.

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The success of the forum is a silent but a sure victory of defiance against a discriminatory global military economic order led by the western military industrial complex.

The collective outcome remaining static that the desire to declare the Russian federation as a ‘pariah’ state by the western world would time and again face failure in the awake of true cooperation and the need of states to be self-resilient in defense, as more than 83 plus states attended and participated in the forum, twice as much than the number present at the Lancaster House meeting in March this year.

The forum registered the presence of more than 80 plus global defense companies and hosted an equally impressive string of high level bilateral meetings of the defense individuals and military leaders. The national expositions of countries like Belarus, Peoples Republic of China, India, Vietnam and that of Pakistan were among the lead defense industry players and the national pavilions of the Russian Federation. Approximately more than 1500 hundred plus Russian and foreign enterprises and organizations presented over 28 thousand prototypes and samples of military and dual-use products in the form of full-scale samples, mock-ups and advertising and information materials.





The defense exhibition opens to the foreign delegations from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> where defined their presence in the scientific and business events at the forum made an equal space for the general public from the 18<sup>th</sup> till the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2023.

Offering a diverse display both indoors in the pavilions where the static exposition was formed and outdoor areas of the Patriot Convention and Exhibition Center and Kubinka Airfield housed the larger battlefield weaponry and battle systems signifying that full combat solutions were there for those who were looking for professional inclusions in the fire power of their military capabilities.

The “Central Exhibition Complex”, gave a detailed, outlay of the allied military departments and sectors such as military education, military medicine and military construction complex.

Each segment of the exhibition gave a unique display of all activities which were developed by the key industry leaders present at the patriot park.



This included:

- exposition of manufacturers of radio electronics and trace element base;
- thematic exhibition "Military Education – in the service of the Fatherland", where advanced training systems in educational organizations of the Russian Ministry of Defense were demonstrated, taking into account the experience of battle hardened troops, including those who were in special military operations and exercises; their experience was shared with great details.

Whereas the exposition "Military Construction Complex" was dedicated to the contribution of the military builders those who spearheaded the development of the socio-economic infrastructure of the Republic of Crimea and new regions of the Russian Federation;

The exposition "Military Medicine" with a demonstration of advanced technologies used by military medical institutions in the treatment of combat injuries.

Expositions "Diversification of the Russian Military-Industrial complex" were formed on the open site of the Patriot Exhibition Center, in the temporary pavilion, as well as a thematic exhibition dedicated to advanced achievements in the field of Russian artificial intelligence technologies, which was launched for the first time at the forum. This exposition was presented under the motto "Time for results!". It demonstrated the best practical developments and technologies in various industries and fields of application, including in certain regions of Russia. The organizations with the best practical results were the exhibitors of the exhibition.

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Additionally, the main elements of advanced reconnaissance and firing artillery complexes were demonstrated at the exposition of Specialized elite weaponry for military purposes and special equipment for special operations and special forces. The exposition included intelligence and control subsystems linked to a common contour with the means of destruction as a final maneuver available as a commander's panel, expanding the military initiative exponentially.

The equipment was displayed with specific ammunition used for missions of extraordinary sensitivity and complexity as a firing mean.

The exhibition of the "Military Innovative Technopolis, 'ERA'" presented approximately 99 plus exhibits indicating all developments in the field of emerging technologies. This part of the exhibition was divided into five clusters **"Artificial Intelligence Technologies"**, **"Unmanned aerial vehicles, Robotic complexes"**, **"Critical information infrastructure. Technological independence"**, **"Intelligent learning systems, digital twins"**, and **"Advanced technologies of integrated security and medical support"**. The exposition was accompanied by the platform for

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demonstrating innovative developments, but also a center for holding thematic events of the business program and professional consultations.



The forum showcased the most detailed display of the achievements of the Russian military industrial complex. The six category demonstrations and Exhibition Centers, of the "Products of the leading enterprises of the Russian military-industrial complex" was a marvel of the promise of the emerging technologies as it not only displayed the world of the key enterprises of the Russian defense industry but it gave a unique insight into the promising developments of weapons, military and special equipment, as well as samples of high-tech dual-use products.

The biggest Russian defense players, “Rosatom and Roscosmos”, manned the larger sets of military equipments in the grounds at the exhibition center, giving the depth and texture to the diversity of the weapon systems at display right from the emerging technologies, to the battle hardened larger traditional weapons and a weapons system and technologies that are back bone of any armed force .

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The inclusion of the Russian Geographical Society ‘RGS’ in the events of the forum indicated the depths of work undertaken by the Russian military industrial complex in understanding the context of both and peace as war today has evolved into a process and is no longer just an event. The key areas of the RGS activities, as well as their maiden projects implemented in cooperation with partner organizations in particular with the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation were at the heart of this display.

The most significant share by the RGS was the “unique artifacts” that were found on the shipwrecks in the Gulf of Finland during the “Tallinn” breakthrough.

An exposition was formed in the aviation cluster at Kubinka airfield, where modern samples of military aviation and air defense equipment, new and emerging prototypes of the aviation weapons, as well as unmanned aerial vehicles were presented.



Another information consuming effort was the ability of the visitors to benefit from the ‘master classes on the assembly of aircraft models,’ a unique effort organized for visitors.

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In order to inform about the upcoming Army International Games–2024, the Polygon Club was deployed. 22 thematic sites were presented on its territory, where 35 competitions of professional skills of military personnel planned within the framework of ARMI-2024, including various gaming, information zones and recreation areas, were demonstrated.



During the forum, the final stage of the All-Russian computer sports competitions among cadets of law enforcement agencies was held at the site of the Polygon Club. A total of 119 teams from 65 higher educational institutions of Russia took part in the competition.

The sensation of the forum this year was the site of the Dronbiathlon Club, which included an expanded set of events: a static exhibition of unmanned aerial vehicles and anti-aircraft systems, a scientific and business program with the participation of representatives of federal executive authorities, leading industrial enterprises, scientific

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and business elites, as well as heads of leading schools for training volunteer pilots of FPV drones. The championship program included competitions and master classes on practical tasks for piloting FPV drones in a complex electronic environment, reconnaissance and target destruction using methods tested in a real combat situation. 51 manufacturing companies presented their samples at the exhibition site in the Demo Center of the Patriot Park. More than 100 exhibits were shown to the guests at the forum, master classes were held at which the drone assembly process was demonstrated. The exhibition area occupied more than 1.5 thousand square meters.

A dynamic display of weapons, military and special equipment of Ground and Airborne Troops took place at the Alabino training ground during the ARMY-2023 forum. A total of 10 episodes were played, during which foreign and Russian specialists, military attaches of the participating countries of the forum demonstrated the combat capabilities of modern models of the VVST.



The forum hosted for the first time the Festival of the All-Russian Society of Inventors and Innovators "Science and Inventions for Life". The project was aimed at popularizing science and invention in Russia, as well as at finding, demonstrating and supporting developments and solutions created by Russian scientists and inventors.

Participants and guests of the forum were able to visit the exposition of captured weapons and equipment captured during a special military operation. The exposition itself was formed in August 2022 and during the year of its existence it collected more than 870 samples of weapons and military equipment. Most of the exhibits are weapons and equipment of the Ukrainian military–industrial complex. Visitors of the exhibition could see the modernized T-72AMT tank used by the AFU, armored personnel carriers BTR-3E and BTR-4E, armored vehicles for various purposes and even patrol boats. The exhibition demonstrated the Ukrainian armored vehicles "Varta", "Kozak" and "Triton", the lightly armored boat "Kalkan-P" with the tail number BG-309, developed by the former Ukrainian plant "Liman" for the needs of the Coast Guard of Ukraine. The burned Australian Bushmaster armored car, the American M-113 armored personnel carrier, the Swedish CV90-40 BMP, and the French AMX-10RCR wheeled tank aroused special attention of visitors to the exhibition. Most of the Western captured equipment at the exhibition were British combat vehicles: Hysky and Mastiff armored cars, the AT105 Saxon car. The description of the exhibits indicated where and under what circumstances they were captured.

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Traditionally, a meeting of graduates of the Military Innovation Technopolis "ERA" was held. About 80 people who have been serving in the military innograd since 2019 have become participants of the event. As part of the meeting, graduates and the management of technopolis addressed the audience, and a "Job Fair" was organized, at which Russian enterprises, including residents of technopolis, were represented.

A unique feature of 2023 was the concurrent activities held at the forum such as the international moot, "the XI Moscow Conference on International Security" and the, the 2<sup>nd</sup> "International Anti-Fascist Congress". The activities encompassed an expansive exchange of ideas and rich discussions about future aspirations of the military leaders, academics and policy makers towards the changing trends in international security and their impacts on the states, the region and the world at large; all this made the exchange a rich mosaic of views expressed from the un documented south and the ever present Russian sphere of influence and its co relevance to all such debates.

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One other equally significant activity was the scientific and business program of the forum that provided for more than 260 events on topical issues of the development of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, the military-industrial complex of Russia and international military-technical cooperation, taking into account modern conditions.

The landmark events of the scientific and business program were:

- Congress on the "Diversification of the Russian Defense Industry";
- Congress on the "Strategic Leadership and Artificial Intelligence Technologies" under the leadership of Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Dmitry Chernyshenko;
- Conference on the "Army and Society. Mental Security Strategy"; -

The anniversary scientific and technical conference was held by the "Kurchatov Institute for the Defense of the Fatherland. History, modernity, future" under the leadership of the president of the SIC "Kurchatov Institute" Mikhail Kovalchuk.

The forum also penned on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023, an agreement between the Department of Innovative Development of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation and the Consortium of Robotics and Intelligent Control Systems.

The document highlighted that the future development of scientific and technical cooperation, the implementation of joint programs, the implementation of technology transfer, experimental and development work, the development of human resources in the field of robotics and its components would now would be co-developed and co initiated through the joint efforts of the two departments where necessary; signaling sea change in activities

Whereas the plenary session of the “Unmanned Aviation – dual-use technologies in the conditions of war and peace” of the ‘Dronbiathlon club’ held on the 19<sup>th</sup> August

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2023 witnessed the presence of the representatives of more than 51 plus organizations such as federal executive authorities, the ERA Foundation, Kalashnikov, Almaz-Antey Concerns and leading manufacturers of unmanned aerial vehicles.

The event was organized by the Department of Innovative Development of the Ministry of Defense of Russia. The meeting reflective of the efforts of the department to help coordinate the efforts of regional centers and manufacturers of unmanned multirotor aircraft systems in the interests of improving conditions for operator training, development and mass production of UAVs, integrated development and popularization of operator training schools in the interests of increasing their respective competitive edge.



Similarly, eight events of the scientific and business program were held on the subject of Aerospace Forces at the Kubinka airfield. In these moots the experts discussed the issues of electromagnetic compatibility of avionics, communications of the manned aviation complex, as well as issues of information support for the operation of military complexes.

Lastly the "ARMY-2023" forum commenced seven award ceremonies that were held for participants of the largest weapons exhibition. The laureates of the MVTF

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"ARMY-2023" were honored in 15 different nominations, the widespread range of the categories in which nominations were made only signify the diversity, excellence and spread of the forum which can not only be said to be one of the largest defense exhibitions and military forum in the world but also one that on regular basis attracts all serious military investors, developers and users under one roof.

Within the framework of the ARMY-2023 state contracts worth 400 billion Rubles were awarded to enterprises of the military-industrial complex by the Russian Ministry of defense.

In the same continuity, 11 state contracts were signed and 9 were awarded at the forum. As a result of their implementation, the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation will receive more than 2.5 thousand new samples of weapons, military and special equipment and over 1.8 million units of weapons of destruction.

Furthermore, the participants of the forum were able to visit the unique artifacts of the Central Military-Patriotic Park of Culture and Recreation of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation "Patriot" bringing to life the past the present and the future under the title of the largest exposition of historical and modern equipment at the Museum Site showcasing "the Center of Military tactical Games with a wide variety of tactical team games and master classes"; "a national treasure – the collection of armored vehicles" in the Technical Center of the Patriot Park; "the Main Temple of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation"; the "Multimedia historical and memorial complex", a "Memory Road"; the open-air museum "Field of Victory"; and lastly, the military-historical complex "Guerrilla Village".

Where the progressive displays were offering an insight and texture to the development architecture of the Russian military industrial complex and the Russian ministry of defense the creative collectives of the Ministry of Defense of Russia, soloists of Moscow, the Academic Song and Dance Ensemble of the Russian Army named after A.V. Alexandrov entertained at the forum with their enthralling musical performance, and

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aderlaine altering military-patriotic action – through a motorcycle rally that also took place in the grounds of the patriot park.

It is safe to conclude that the “Army 2023” forum of the Russian federation was a diverse and rich and perhaps one of the largest defense exhibitions hosted by any ministry of defense in the world; a tribute to the unending, innovative developments in military technologies by the ministry of defense of the Russian federation. Long live the Russian federation a leader global defense technologies.