



## Kazakhstan's Armored Vehicles to Get New Combat Modules

**OE Watch Commentary:** In 2014, the government of Kazakhstan and the South Africa-based global defense company Paramount Group formed a joint venture called Kazakhstan Paramount Engineering (KPE), to produce various armored vehicles for the country's armed forces, such as the Arlan 4x4, and Barys 8x8. This marked a significant step in the government's overall effort to build a defense industry. The first series of armored vehicles produced in Kazakhstan tested well and there are now reportedly a few dozen in service with the country's ground forces. The accompanying excerpted article from the Russian-language news website *Inform-Buro* discusses three new combat modules designed and created by KPE for use with the Arlan 4x4 and the Barys 8x8 armored vehicles "to give [them] optimal fire power."



*Arlan armored vehicle.*

Source: Vitaly Kuzmin, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Army2016demo-109.jpg>, CC BY SA 4.0

The article notes how KPE developed Barys as "a new BTR for the ground forces." It is reported that KPE developed three combat modules, the "Ansar," designed for the Barys; "Sunkar," designed for the Arlan; and a marine module "Turan," which will be put into service on ships in the Caspian Sea." It also mentions how the "modules are based on the "Shughyla" platform, which is a unified management system with uniform software." The head of KPE states that the company studied Russian, Turkish and European systems while developing the modules, but that "not one of the companies with whom we negotiated planned to transfer their technology."

Enterprises within Kazakhstan's defense industry have utilized technology transfers to improve their own capabilities to design and produce weapons and equipment and while there was no reported technology transfer for the modules, the article mentions how "KPE established a subsidiary company, Weapon System Engineering" to fulfill this role. The article goes on to mention how one of the new modules "has already shown itself to be of use in the army" and that KPE has created a simulator to allow soldiers "to train at a home station." While the new combat module by KPE still appears to be at an early stage, the article provides insight into the capabilities the industry is looking to build. **End OE Watch Commentary (Stein)**

***“The results and efforts by engineers and designers of KPE to give the armored vehicles optimal fire power was the development of three new combat modules: “Ansar,” designed for the Barys; “Sunkar,” designed for the Arlan; and a marine module “Turan,” which will be put into service on ships in the Caspian Sea.”***



## Continued: Kazakhstan's Armored Vehicles to Get New Combat Modules

**Source:** Grigoriy Bedenko, ““Барыс” и “Арлан” на огневом рубеже. Фоторепортаж (“Barys” and “Arlan” at the firing range. Photo report),” *Inform Buro*, 16 February 2020. <https://informburo.kz/stati/barys-i-arlan-na-ognevom-rubezhe-fotoreportazh.html>

*At the military base “Mailan,” located in the Akmola Oblast, 50 kilometers from the capital, Kazakhstan’s Arlan 4x4 and the Barys 8x8 armored vehicles are equipped with new combat modules...*

*The Arlan armored wheeled vehicle (BKM), produced by Kazakhstan Paramount Engineering (KPE is a joint venture with investors from Kazakhstan and South Africa), has already been well established among Kazakhstan’s security forces. At the same time, KPE specialists developed a new BTR for the ground forces, called Barys. There are currently two prototypes of armored personnel carrier, with an 8x8 and 6x6... Various types of combat modules are tested on these machines in order to find the best configuration for our military in areas of fire and performance characteristics...*

*The results and efforts by engineers and designers of KPE to give the armored vehicles optimal fire power was the development of three new combat modules: “Ansar,” designed for the Barys;*

*“Sunkar,” designed for the Arlan; and a marine module “Turan,” which will be put into service on ships in the Caspian Sea. All of the modules are based on the “Shughyla” platform, which is a unified management system with uniform software.*

*“Choosing the best weapon for our armored vehicles, we carried out a detailed analysis of the market for these kinds of systems,” said Erbol Salimov, CEO of KPE... “This is specifically combat modules that can use 30mm automatics... “We studied Russian systems, the best Turkish systems as well as European designs that could be applied to our Barys 8x8 and 6x6 armored vehicles,” said Salimov – and in the negotiation process, we found out that not one of the companies with whom we negotiated planned to transfer their technology, because we are a market with a small amount of demand.”...*

*As a result, KPE established a subsidiary company, Weapon System Engineering. The company specializes in the development of fully domestic software for new combat modules. A design office was also created. It began work on the Ansar and Sunkar modules as well as the Turan shop module... As mentioned, all of the software is based on the “Shughyla” platform...*

*The combat module Sunkar, designed specifically for the Arlan 4x4 armored vehicle, has already shown itself to be of use in the army. This system has two machine guns: a NSVT (12.7mm) and a PKT (a tank variant of the PKM, 7.62mm)...*

*If a soldier has been trained on at least one of the modules, he could easily work on all three... The system includes special training programs that allow a gunner to train at a home station. In this case, there is no need for the entire combat module, it is enough to use a simulator.*

*“I would like to note that the designs of the Ansar, Sunkar and Turan combat modules are completely domestic and there will be a very high percentage of local production,” Salimov summed up...*



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