



## Turkey Inaugurates Space Technology Center

**OE Watch Commentary:** Roketsan, one of Turkey's largest defense companies, has started developing liquid-propellant rocket engine technology, with hopes of putting Turkey into space with a domestically made rocket. During the inauguration ceremony of the center that would develop and produce this technology, the Turkish President announced that Turkey is "set to begin the first space trials of our domestically developed liquid-propellant rocket engine technology." The accompanying article provides insight into Turkey's announcement of developing this new technology.

According to the article, Roketsan's Space Technologies and Advanced Technologies Research Center and Explosive Chemicals Raw Material Manufacturing Plant in the capital Ankara will carry out development and production of the liquid-propellant rocket engine technology. Board Chairman of Roketsan Prof. Dr. Faruk Yiğit stated that the center develops advanced technologies such as a micro satellite launch system, precision guided mini and micro weapon systems, artificial intelligence applications, hypersonic systems, laser weapons and technologies. In the past few years, Turkey has made significant progress in developing its rocket technology and the Turkish defense industry has already produced short-range missiles and their engines. However, similar to other ambitious projects Turkey has announced in the past, it is unclear how successfully it will be able carry out this project with domestic technology. **End OE Watch Commentary (Gündüz)**



Cruise missile SOM-J of Roketsan at IDEF 2015.

Source: Ceegee via Wikimedia, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:RoketsanIDEF2015\\_\(11\).JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:RoketsanIDEF2015_(11).JPG), CC-BY-SA-4.0

***“It is obvious that the studies on space systems in this center will contribute to technological developments on strategic weapons, ammunition and missile systems in our country.” Ismail Demir, Undersecretary for Defense Industries”***

**Source:** Göksel Yıldırım, “Türkiye savunmada iki yeni tesis kazandı (Turkey added two new defense industry facilities)” *Anadolu Ajansı*, 30 August 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/turkiye/turkiye-savunmada-iki-yeni-tesis-kazandi/1957983>

*Turkey, with ROKETSAN Space Technologies and Advanced Technologies Research Center and Explosive Chemicals Raw Material Manufacturing Plant, has gained significant infrastructure in the defense industry...*

*Demir stated that in this center project such as the Micro Satellite Launch Project, solid and liquid fuel rocket engines as well as innovative weapon systems that will be utilized in future warfare and existing missile defense systems are being developed. Demir gave the following information about the facility:*

*“It is obvious that the studies on space systems in this center will contribute to technological developments on strategic weapons, ammunition and missile systems in our country. Thus, foreign dependency in critical explosive technologies will be significantly reduced.”*

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*Board Chairman of the Roketsan Prof. Dr. Faruk Yiğit stated that... at the Space Technologies and Advanced Technologies Research Center the advanced technological studies such as micro satellite launch system, precision guided mini and micro weapon systems, artificial intelligence applications, hypersonic systems, laser weapons and technologies are being carried out.*