



Iran: Submarine-to-Surface Missile Launch System Entered Mass Production

OE Watch Commentary: The Iranian navy operates close to 20 submarines, some acquired from North Korea and others manufactured inside Iran from Russian design. The relative shallowness of the Persian Gulf—its maximum depth is just 300 feet and many areas are significantly shallower—may limit the utility of Iranian submarines, especially compared to the small boats which the Revolutionary Guards more frequently use to swarm and harass shipping. Indeed, the Iranian Navy has utilized Jask, a small port outside the Strait of Hormuz, as a submarine base in order to provide them greater access to deeper water.



The Iranian navy is seeking to upgrade its submarines with new, domestically-produced missiles.

Source: Fars News Agency, https://media.farsnews.ir/Uploaded/Files/Images/1399/09/15/13990915000745_Test_PhotoN.jpeg

In the excerpted article from the *Fars News Agency*, a hard-line outlet with close ties to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Majid Maqsoudi, head of

the Iranian Navy's research center, made two announcements. First, he said that Iranian military industries now manufacture the bulk of the spare parts and equipment that Iran needs to maintain its submarine fleet. He did not reveal the parts that compose the rest or where they are drawn from, although Iran likely would seek to acquire these parts from Russia and/or North Korea. Second, he also announced production of a new drone nicknamed "Pelican," which would launch and land vertically from Iranian navy ships.

In addition, General Amir Rastegari, chief of the Marine Industries Organization, announced that Iran has moved forward with its plans, first announced in 2018, to equip Qadir-class submarines with Valfajr torpedos, which can "sink a 1,000-ton vessel in less than ten seconds." He further said that Iran was in talks to export the Qadir and submarine-to-surface missiles to other friendly governments. Hezbollah's *Al-Manar* television channel covered this comment, suggesting the Iranian-backed and U.S.-designated terrorist group's interest in this platform or technology, although it is unclear how the group would acquire submarines unless provided indirectly from Russia through Syria. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**

“We are able to produce 90 percent of submarine parts in-house.”

Source: “‘Samaneh Pertab Mushak Zirsateh beh Sateh Vared Farayand Tawlid Anbaveh Shod (Submarine-to-Surface Missile Launch System Entered Mass Production),’ *Fars News Agency*, 5 December 2020. <https://www.farsnews.ir/news/13990915000747>

Mizan News Agency has conducted an interview with Admiral Amir Majid Maghsoudi, head of the Naval Self-Sufficiency Research and Jihad Organization, the key points of which are as follows:

- *Domestic production of more than 90 percent of submarine parts*

Submarines are complex, and the repair of submarines depends upon the repair and domestic-sourcing of their parts. Fortunately, we are able to produce 90 percent of submarine parts in-house by tapping into specialized companies, the private sector, and universities....

- *Submarine-launched missile systems have entered mass-production*

Over the years, we have been able to acquire the technology to build submarine-launched missiles to the level of that of just a limited number of countries. The tests of this submarine-to-surface missile launch system which can destroy surface targets has been completed, and today it has entered the executive processes for mass production by the defense industry, which in fact significantly increases the country's defense capacity....