

Iran Wants to Be a Nanotech Leader

By Michael Rubin
OE Watch Commentary

The Iranian government increasingly seeks to brand itself as a nanotechnology powerhouse. It hosts annual international nanotechnology exhibitions, encourages university nanotech programs, and regularly reports on the latest nanotech developments—everything from sunscreen to automobile parts. While the Iranian presence on the world’s nanotech stage is relatively small and overlooked for military applications, it is growing and has a notable client list.

The accompanying excerpt of an interview with Sayyid Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, a parliamentarian from Mashhad who serves as the Parliament’s Vice President, by the *Fars News Agency*, an outlet close to Iran’s Defense Ministry, outlines the latest developments in the Iranian nanotech sector. Hashemi claims that Iran has surpassed Europe in the sector and enjoys a six percent global share in the nanotech market. Saeed Sarkar, Secretary of Iran Nanotechnology

Innovation Council, has previously stated that Iran exports nanotech to 49 countries. Major clients include China, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey, and Azerbaijan has become an importer of Iranian nanotech-coated radiators over the past year. Hashemi announced his ambition to raise nanotech exports to more than \$1 billion over the next five years.

“The important requirement is budgetary support tailored to the nanotech programs.”

Perhaps the most interesting portion of the excerpted article, however, is the open airing of frustrations from those involved in the nanotech sector that the Iranian

government does not adequately invest in field. That the Iranian government lags in investments contradicts much of the Iranian government’s public relations about the field as well as Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei’s pronouncement that Iranian investment in nanotechnology should equal two percent of the total global investment made by all countries in the field.

Source: “Iran Qavi, Iran Daneshbanian Ast (Iran is Strong, Iran is Knowledge-Based),” Fars News Agency (media outlet close to Iran’s defense ministry), 24 April 2021. <https://www.farsnews.ir/news/14000204000027>

Despite the current situation [sanctions], Iran ranks fourth in the world in the field of nanotechnology production after China, India, and the United States. In fact, Iran is one of the top countries in the field of nanotechnology and scientific power, although researchers and those active in this field have complaints from officials and face challenges to develop this technology further. In this regard, we talked with Sayyid Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, the first vice-president of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and received responses from the First Vice-President of the Islamic Consultative Assembly regarding the country’s scientific progress in the field of nanotechnology and the need for more government action and cooperation in this area....

Fangs of the Lone Wolf

Chechen Tactics in the Russian-Chechen Wars 1994-2009

Dodge Billingsley with Lester Grau

Fangs of the Lone Wolf is about combat experience in urban, mountain and fairly open terrain. It is not a comprehensive history of conflict. This book is a series of snapshots — of vignettes — describing the difficulty, the hardship, the victories and the defeats of the participants. It is an examination of the raw data of combat in a foreign land, and is aimed to advance the professional military study of conflict.

<https://community.apan.org/wg/tradoc-g2/fmso/m/fmso-books/195587/download>