



## Iran to Build New Missile System?

**OE Watch Commentary:** In the accompanying excerpt from *Tasnim News*, an agency affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Mahmud Ebrahimnejad, the deputy commander of the IRGC's air defense wing (in Iran, air defense is a separate branch of the military, distinct from the air and ground forces), spoke about developing a domestic version of the Russian Pantsir missile system. Russia builds several variants of the Pantsir, a medium range surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft weapon. Ebrahimnejad cited the Pantsir's supposed success in shooting down missiles launched against regime targets in Syria. While there have been only limited airstrikes against Syrian bases and on Iranian facilities and encampments inside Syria, the openness with which Ebrahimnejad talks about copying systems for domestic production is noteworthy. Many Iranian weapons systems today come from Russia, but it is uncertain to what degree the Russian government tolerates the Iranian military industry's reverse-engineering of its products. If Moscow disapproves of the potential Iranian Pantsir system, greater Russo-Iranian tension could be on the horizon. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**

*“This system...destroyed many of the missiles that were fired into Syria.”*



96K6 Pantsir-S (Military-technical forum ARMY-2018 - Demonstration).

**Source:** “Iran ‘Pantsir’ Misazad (Iran to build Pantsir),” *Tasnim News*, 14 September 2018. <https://goo.gl/Sc3uZW>

*This system, which has two 30 mm auto cannons and 12 missile launch pads has performed well in recent wars in the region, as it destroyed many of the missiles that were fired into Syria. Currently, Iraq, Syria, and the [United Arab] Emirates are among those that possess the Pantsir in the region. Gen. [Mahmud] Ebrahimnejad, deputy commander of Khatam-ol-Anbiya Air Defense Base in charge of research and development, in a conversation with the Tasnim correspondents, stated that [the Air Defense center] had begun a study about [possible] Iranian construction of Pantsirs. In response to a Tasnim reporter's question about whether the Defense Base is planning to build such a system, he said, “We started this one or two years ago, and we pursue it seriously. When appropriate, we will give information to the public.”*



## OEWATCH

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