

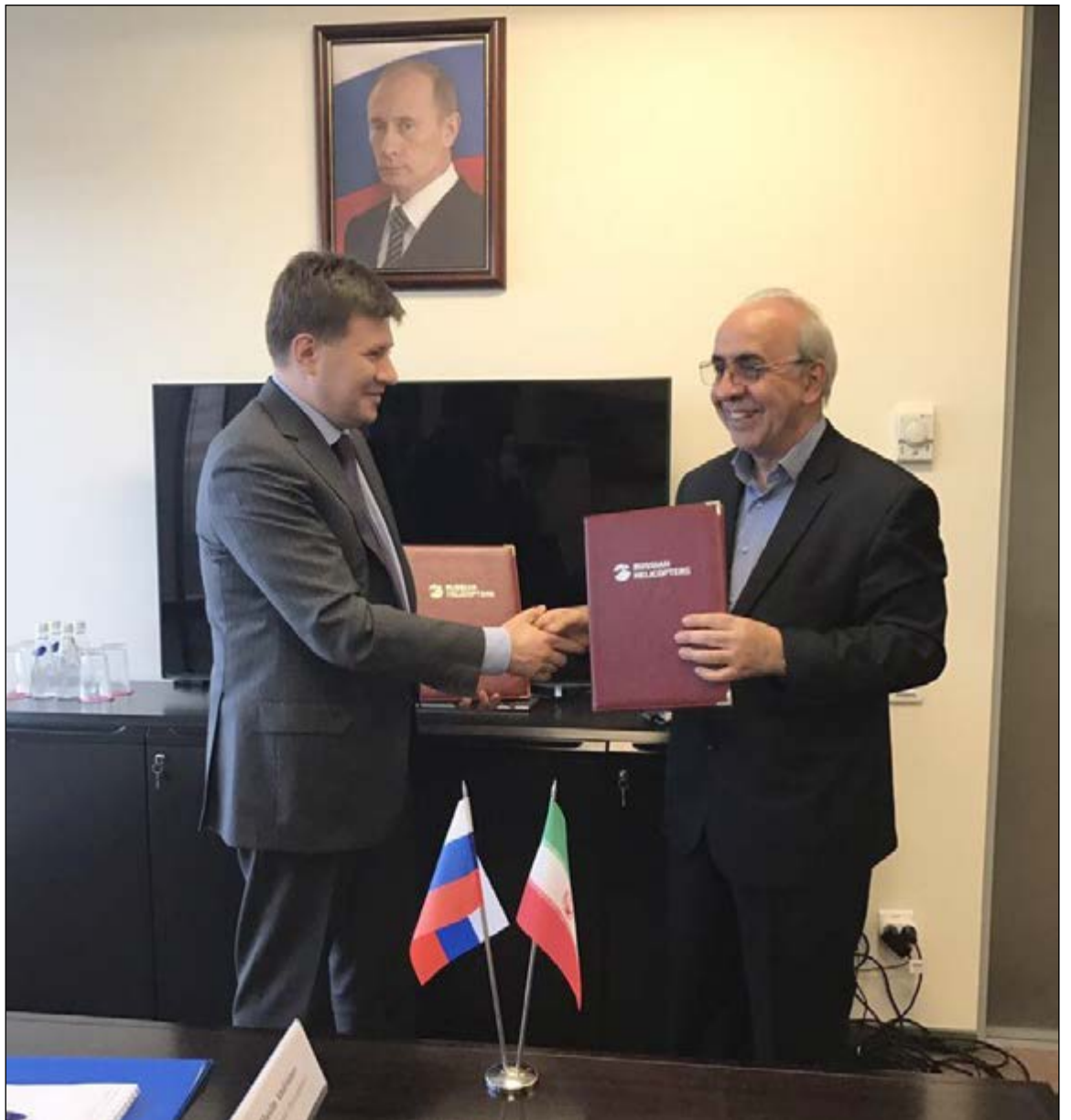


## Iran, Russia to Jointly Manufacture Helicopter

**OE Watch Commentary:** In the wake of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), many European and Russian companies sought investment opportunities inside Iran. In the accompanying excerpted article posted on *Parsine.com*, Behzad Etemadi, the deputy head of Iran's Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO), announced the signing of an agreement between the IDRO and Russian Helicopters to manufacture two helicopter models inside Iran.

Etemadi explains that the Russian company, a subsidiary of the Russian aerospace giant Oboronprom, won the contract and beat out Airbus and the Italian firm Leonardo largely because they insisted on more controls than their Russian counterpart. IDRO has also previously signed an agreement with the Russian rail company Transmashholding to manufacture in Iran.

While IDRO was founded in 1967 by the shah of Iran, many of its almost 300 companies are today owned or operated by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The IRGC presence in such companies highlights the difficulties of investing in heavy manufacturing in Iran without investing in or transferring technology to them. It also raises questions about whether technology transfer from ostensibly civilian projects will leak into military platforms. **End OE Watch Commentary (Rubin)**



Mansour Moazzami, chairman of the board of investors of the IDRO and Andrey Boginsky, chairman of the board of directors of Russian Helicopters, exchange signed contracts.

Source: Tasnim News Agency, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, <https://goo.gl/5qJEAL>.

*“... there were negotiations with the Russians, and with the company Russian Helicopters, and we have completed [talks] for the manufacture of two models of helicopters.”*

**Source:** “Iran ba Komak-e Rusha Balgerd Misazad” (“Iran to Build Helicopters with the help of Russians”), *Parsine.com*, 24 April 2018. <https://goo.gl/k2aqmk>

*Behzad Etemadi, today in a conversation with the Islamic Republic News Agency, said, in the past months, incidents like the Kermanshah earthquake and the limited access to helicopters, as well as the need for helicopters in the maritime arena and for oil platforms, etc., led IDRO [Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran] to act to address those needs. According to him, in this context, we first negotiated with Leonardo in Italy, and at the beginning, there was a promise, but for some reason, this wasn't continued.*

*The official continued that a partnership with Airbus was then considered, but since the company was unwilling to send helicopters to Iran even though their goal was sales, they didn't fit with the IDRO agenda. He added, “Finally, there were negotiations with the Russians, and with the company Russian Helicopters, and we have completed [talks] for the manufacture of two helicopter models.” Etemadi continued, “If this contract is executed, helicopter construction for the Red Crescent, firefighting, emergencies, oil platforms—everything but military purposes—will be on the agenda. Our country's specialists will also be involved in after-sale servicing and recruitment.” He added, “The Russian company has been very capable in the industry, and it has high international standards.”*