



## Turkey to Sell ATAK Helicopters to the Philippines

**OE Watch Commentary:** Turkey and the Philippines signed an agreement extending the Turkish defense industry's reach into South East Asia. A memorandum of understanding was signed by Ismail Demir, the head of Turkey's Defense Industries Presidency (SSB), and Delfin Lorenzana, the Defense Secretary of the Philippines on 18 December 2018. The accompanying excerpted article from the Turkish newspaper *Haber Turk* argues that this agreement will pave the way to more defense cooperation between Turkey and the Philippines.

The article notes that at the signing ceremony, Demir said Turkey currently sells firearms, ammunition and night-vision systems to the Philippines and that this memorandum puts the sales of the Turkish Aerospace Industries' (TAI) T-129 ATAK combat helicopter as well as unmanned aircraft (possibly TAI's Anka) on the agenda. The Philippine Air Force was initially going to purchase 24 T-129 ATAK helicopters, but due to the lack of funds, the number was reduced to eight for now.

Turkey previously signed an agreement with Pakistan for the sale of 30 T-129 ATAK combat helicopters (see: "Turkey to Sell T-129 Helicopters and Four Corvettes to Pakistan" *OE Watch*, September 2018). The agreement with Pakistan has been postponed for six months because of issues surrounding the engine license. Exporting T-129 ATAK helicopters is subjected to the permission of the United States because of the rights over the use of LHTEC T800-4A turboshaft engine and Turkish officials are now reportedly in search of T-129 ATAK helicopter engines in Europe and China. While Turkey continues to increase its defense exports and to strengthen its position through diversifying industrial collaboration efforts with more countries, it still heavily relies on the industry's leading countries for critical parts of military hardware. **End OE Watch Commentary (Gunduz)**

*“Turkey and the Philippines have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in defense industry cooperation...Turkey's ATAK helicopter's new address will be in the Philippines...”*

**Source:** “Atak helikopterine Filipinler yolu açıldı (A way opens for ATAK helicopters to the Philippines ),” *Haber Turk*, 18 December 2018. <https://www.haberturk.com/atak-helikopterine-filipinler-yolu-acildi-2265016-ekonomi>

*Turkey and the Philippines have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in defense industry cooperation...Turkey's ATAK helicopter's new address will be in the Philippines...*

*The deal was signed by Ismail Demir, the head of Turkey's Defense Industries Presidency (SSB), and Delfin Lorenzana, the Defense Secretary of the Philippines.*

*Demir said [Turkey] is currently selling guns, ammo and night-vision glasses to the Philippines, Turkey now has its indigenous ATAK battle helicopter, unmanned aircraft and vessels on its agenda to sell to the Philippines...*

*Demir [continued] cooperation in technology and local talent development are key to the bilateral relations with the Philippines...*

*Demir pointed out to Turkey's experience in these matters [and] said “Our defense industry policies are attractive because these countries want to know the models Turkey is implementing and they wonder how Turkey has achieved this up until now.”*

*The Philippines at first will purchase about 10 [helicopters]. There is a possibility of [purchasing] more than 10.*

*TAI previously signed an agreement with Pakistan for the sale of 30 ATAK helicopters.*



Turkish Land Forces T-129 ATAK attack helicopter of Turkish Aerospace Industries at IDEF 2015.

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