

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-76

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Korea (ROK).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$40.1 million.

Other \$12.0 million.

Total \$52.1 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Forty-two (42) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II+ Tactical Missiles.

Ten (10) AIM-9X Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).

Five (5) AIM-9X Block II+ Sidewinder Tactical Guidance Units (GU).

Three (3) AIM-9X Sidewinder CATM Guidance Units (GU).

Non-MDE: Also included are missile containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical assistance, engineering, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (KS-P-ANP).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KS-P-ALE.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 15, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Korea (ROK)—AIM-9X Block II and Block II+ (Plus) Sidewinder Missiles

The Government of the Republic of Korea has requested to buy forty-two (42) AIM-9X Sidewinder Block II+ Tactical Missiles; ten (10) AIM-9X Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); five (5) AIM-9X Block II+ Sidewinder Tactical Guidance Units (GU); and three (3) AIM-9X Sidewinder CATM Guidance Units (GU). Also included are missile containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor representatives' technical assistance and engineering and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$52.1 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's capability to meet current and future threats while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Korea will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles and Defense (RMD), Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of the proposed sale will require U.S. Government and contractor personnel to visit the ROK on a temporary basis

in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews, as well as to provide training and maintenance support in country.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

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Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-9X Block II and Block II+ (Plus) SIDEWINDER Missile represents a substantial increase in missile acquisition and kinematics performance over the AIM-9M and replaces the AIM-9X Block I Missile configuration. The missile includes a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, low drag/high angle of attack airframe and the ability to integrate the Helmet Mounted Cueing System. The most current AIM-9X Block II/II+ Operational Flight Software developed for all international partner countries, which is authorized for export by USG export policy, provides fifth-generation Infra-Red Missile capabilities such as Lock-On-After-Launch, Weapons Data Link, Surface Attack, and Surface Launch. No software source code or algorithms will be released.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Republic of Korea (ROK) can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the ROK.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY

COOPERATION AGENCY,

Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-78, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$650 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

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Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Korea (ROK).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$385 million.

Other \$265 million.

Total \$650 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to thirty-eight (38) Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I Missiles

Non-MDE: Also included are MK 21 Vertical Launch System (VLS) canisters; obsolescence Engineering, Integration, and Test (EI&T) materiel and support; handling equipment; spares; training and training equipment and aids; technical publications and data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical assistance, including related studies and analysis support; product support; materiel and support for demonstration and interoperability live fire events; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (KS-P-ANP).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KS-P-AMO; KS-P-AMR; KS-P-ALM.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 14, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Korea (ROK)—Standard Missile 6 Block I (SM-6 Blk I)

The Government of the Republic of Korea has requested to buy up to thirty-eight (38) Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I missiles. Also included are MK 21 Vertical Launch System (VLS) canisters; obsolescence Engineering, Integration, and Test (EI&T) materiel and support; handling equipment; spares; training and training equipment and aids; technical publications and data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical assistance, including related studies and analysis support; product support; materiel and support for demonstration and interoperability live fire events; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$650 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Korea's capability to meet current and future threats while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Korea will have no difficulty absorbing these articles into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles and Defense (RMD), Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of the proposed sale will require U.S. Government and contractor personnel to visit the Republic of Korea on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews, as well as to provide training and maintenance support in country.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

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Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) is a Navy surface-to-air missile that provides area and ship self-defense. The missile is intended to project power and contribute to raid annihilation by destroying manned fixed and rotary wing aircraft, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), Land Attack Cruise Missiles, and Anti-Ship Cruise Missiles in flight. It was designed to fulfill the need for a vertically launched, extended range missile compatible with the AEGIS Weapon System to be used against extended range threats at sea, near land, and overland. The SM-6 combines the tested legacy of Standard Missile 2 (SM-2) propulsion and ordnance with an active radio frequency seeker allowing for over-the-horizon engagements, enhanced capability at extended ranges, and increased firepower.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Republic of Korea (ROK) can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the ROK.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT OBJECTION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am announcing my intent to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to S.1490, the Kids Online Safety Act.

I agree with the sponsors of this bill that social media and online games can have a negative impact on the mental health of minors. However, this bill makes the mistake of empowering State attorneys general already enforcing bans on LGBTQ information and prosecuting individuals for helping

others receive abortion healthcare. Armed with this bill, all a State attorney general would need to do is link the content they want to scrub from the internet with causing "anxiety" or "depression" and demonstrate that the platform allowed minors to access such content. For everyone except the largest platforms, the act of being served with the complaint, no matter how specious, would be enough incentive to take down the content in question. Sadly, some deep-pocketed groups that promote anti-choice and anti-LGBTQ policies are cheerleading the bill for this reason.

Until the bill is amended to foreclose the ability of State attorneys general to wage war on important reproductive and LGBTQ content, I will object to any unanimous consent request in relation to this legislation.

2023 WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, November 19, 2023, marks the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, WDoR, commemorating the millions of people killed and injured by the devastating cost of car crashes. On this day, communities across the Nation and globe gather to call for action against the roadway safety crisis, recognizing that these are not isolated incidents but rather widespread problems with known solutions. This day also serves as a powerful reminder of the critical work of emergency responders in saving lives and as a moment to stand in solidarity to recognize how road traffic deaths and injuries deeply impact our community. Now is the time to take decisive action. By investing in proven, tangible measures and enacting legislation, we can prevent further loss of life. Our Nation must invest in advanced technology and the redesign of our roadways to spare more families the tragedy of losing a loved one.

Like other issues that are uniquely American, the U.S. failure to protect all road users, especially pedestrians and cyclists, makes us stand out among developed nations. According to the World Health Organization, the United States ranks 47th out of 54 in traffic fatality rate among high-income nations. In 2021, there were 42,915 deaths due to roadway crashes in the U.S., the highest figure since 2005. This highlights the lack of progress that has been made in addressing these preventable losses.

As we solemnly observe this day, we are reminded of the profound message behind this year's poignant theme: Safe Streets for All. Since its inception in 1995 and its subsequent adoption by the United Nations for global observance on November 15, 2005, the WDoR has become a catalyst for change across continents. It is a day that compels us to reflect on the heartbreaking losses experienced by families worldwide due to unsafe road conditions.

Our call to action is clear and urgent: We must not only remember but also advocate for immediate change. This means demanding from our leaders a steadfast commitment to invest in and reimagine our infrastructure. By fostering the creation of safer vehicles, redesigning our roadways, and ensuring walkable and bike-friendly communities, especially for those communities that have been persistently marginalized, we can transform our streets into corridors of safety rather than peril.

In honoring the lives tragically cut short by traffic accidents, we confront the profound loss of family members, partners, and cherished friends, alongside the burdens of caring for those left with permanent disabilities. Yet it is in our collective commitment to act that we find the truest form of remembrance, ensuring such tragedies become rare exceptions. Rejecting complacency, we honor the victims by embracing our shared duty to prevent further needless interruptions of life stories on our roads. As a community, both local and global, we are called to forge a path toward safer streets, decisively acting to protect every life and using the memories of those we have lost as a catalyst for real and enduring change.

REMEMBERING HERBERT "BERTIE" BOWMAN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to Herbert "Bertie" Bowman who passed away on October 25, 2023, at the age of 92 after a remarkable life and over six decades of service to the U.S. Senate.

As has been noted by my colleague Senator CARDIN, Bertie was the embodiment of the American Dream. Bertie began his Capitol Hill career by sweeping steps of the Capitol after running away from his South Carolina home, where his family members were sharecroppers, following a chance encounter with then-Senator Burnet Maybank in a Summerton, SC, general store. Senator Maybank invited Bertie—then only 13 years old—to come see him in Washington sometime, and that is just what he did.

A week later, Bertie hopped on a train bound for Union Station and ended up in the Senator's office. The Senator gave him his first job—to sweep the Capitol steps for \$2 a week—and from there, he went on to build a reputation on Capitol Hill as someone who could do it all. According to his memoir, Bertie's mother gave him the best career advice anyone could ask for. She said, "Be patient and do what you're supposed to do."

Over his many decades in the Senate, one job led to another, and Bertie eventually got a clerical position with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1966. He left the Senate in 1990 to run