

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [The West Badly Needs More Missiles—But The Wait To Buy Them Is Years Long](#)

Article Link: <https://www.wsj.com/politics/national-security/missiles-demand-threats-wait-to-buy-them-is-years-long-3332c151>

Author(s)	Alistair MacDonald, Doug Cameron, and Dasl Yoon
Publication	Wall Street Journal
Publication Date	January 03, 2024

Tweet: Order books of ten of the largest Western defense firms are up 57% since 2017 to \$730B, but they are facing significant labor constraints. The Pentagon is rolling out a new industrial base strategy to try to clear supply chain logjams.

Summary: A Kongsberg factory west of Oslo produces a missile-defense system that can shoot down drones and other airborne threats from almost 25 miles away. When first deployed in Ukraine in 2022, it recorded a 100% success rate shooting down cruise missiles and drones in its first few months. New customers, though, will have to wait: It takes two years to make one Nasams, and there is already a multiyear backlog. To ramp up, Kongsberg has moved to 24-hour, seven-day shifts and has workers in for some holidays when the factory would typically have been idled for maintenance. That still may not be enough. The defense industry is grappling with a prolonged labor crunch, as it scrambles to find workers with niche skills, from software development to welding, and who are willing to endure lengthy security checks.

Related Articles: U.S. Weapons Industry Unprepared for a China Conflict, Report Says and It's Not Just Ukraine and Gaza: War Is on the Rise Everywhere and The Cost of the Global Arms Race

Primary Topic: Security

Topics: Investment, News article, Productivity, Security

Permalink: <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/order-books-of-the-ten-of-the-largest-western-defense-firms-are-up-57-since-2017-to-730b-but-they-are-facing-significant-labor-constraints-the-pentagon-is-rolling-out-a-new-industrial-base-strateg?view=detail>

Featured Image Link: <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Size-Of-Order-Books-At-Select-Major-Defense-Companies-.png>