

A Kremlin supply line — from Taiwan

Equipment for Russian arms builders was made on U.S.-allied island

BY DALTON BENNETT, MARY ILYUSHINA, LILY KUO AND PEI-LIN WU

It had been a busy year for the employees gathered in June for I Machine Technology's corporate retreat at a resort on Russia's Black Sea coast. With war raging in Ukraine, the Russian defense industry was hungry for the advanced manufacturing equipment the Moscow-based supplier specialized in importing.

Dressed in summer linens, chief executive Aleksey Bredikhin welcomed the crowd seated among plates of local delicacies and flutes of prosecco. He paused to recognize several guests who had traveled thousands of miles to join the festivities in Sochi.

"I especially want to welcome our friends from faraway Taiwan," he said, video footage of the event posted online shows. "For almost a year now, we have been working very hard."

Since January 2023, I Machine Technology has imported over \$20 million of sophisticated equipment called CNC machine tools made in Taiwan, a U.S. strategic partner, according to trade records and Russian tax documents obtained by The Washington Post. The computer-controlled machines are used for the complex and precise manufacturing that is critical in many industries, including weapons production.

The Taiwan-made machines accounted for virtually all of the Russian company's imports in the first seven months of last year, according to the records, and the company's sales during that period were overwhelmingly to the Russian defense industry. Bredikhin also sought to make the machines available for a secretive Russian effort to mass-produce the attack drones that have unleashed horrors on the U.S.-backed Ukrainian army, according to an invitation sent to one of the project managers overseeing engine construction for the drone program.

Kevin Wolf, a former senior Commerce Department official who once headed the agency that implements U.S. export controls, said shipments identified by The Post probably violated prohibitions Taiwan and the West imposed last January on the sale of technology to Russia, in response to the Ukraine war. He said the shipments should "absolutely" be an enforcement priority for authorities in Taiwan.

SEE TAIWAN ON A6

"How can you tell people in Africa, where half the population does not have electricity ... 'Leave your resources in the ground'? There is no sense in that, and it is not fair. We need an energy transition that is fair."

Senegalese President Macky Sall, seen next to an installation of a lion, a national symbol, in the Presidential Palace in Dakar. He is among leaders and analysts who argue that natural gas will be necessary for getting electricity into millions of African homes.



TOP: CARMEN YASMINE ABD ALI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST; ABOVE: GUY PETERSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

African production of natural gas poses a vexing climate challenge

BY RACHEL CHASON IN SAINT LOUIS, SENEGAL

As a young geologist working for Senegal's state-owned petroleum company in the 1990s, Macky Sall was charged with prospecting for oil and gas in this West African nation. For years, he and his colleagues came up empty.

But more than two decades later, after Sall was elected to be Senegal's president, an American energy company found a gas deposit so big that he has called it a "game changer." The 15 trillion cubic feet of gas found in 2015 has turned Senegal into one of Africa's biggest potential producers of natural gas — and turned Sall into a global champion for the right of developing nations to use their resources, including fossil fuels, to industrialize and develop.

After multiple delays, Senegal is now set to start producing gas from the reserves later this year, according to oil and gas giant BP, which is leading the operation.

The World Bank estimates that Africa was home to 40 percent of natural gas discoveries between 2010 and 2020, including one off Senegal's coast near Saint Louis and another smaller deposit closer to the capital, Dakar. And in 2022, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, European leaders, who had previously pledged to move away from fossil fuels, started looking toward Africa's natural gas to replace flows from Russia.

SEE SENEGAL ON A10

Elhadji Fall, president of the local fishermen's association in Saint Louis, Senegal. A natural gas project just off the coast has put huge pressure on already declining fish stocks that locals rely on.

Quinn is in. Now Commanders need to find an offensive mind.

BY BARRY SVRLUGA

Hello, Dan Quinn. Welcome to the nation's capital. Not sure you were the desired outcome when the Washington Commanders began their coaching search, but you seem to be a fine football coach who engenders good feelings from those with whom you work and who can certainly coach up a defense. Before you get settled, one question: Who the heck will be your of-

fensive coordinator?

The Commanders' hiring of the 53-year-old Quinn — the eighth of the eight National Football League coaching vacancies to be filled this offseason — could be a home run or a dud. There's no way to know yet, because we don't know whom Quinn — and, presumably, been-in-the-job-two-weeks general manager Adam Peters — will hire to

SEE COMMANDERS ON A2

Quinn is the pick: Commanders choose coach after long search. D1



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

New Commanders coach Dan Quinn helped turn the Cowboys' defense into a top-five group in three seasons as the coordinator.

Study offers clue to women's autoimmune illness mystery

BY MARK JOHNSON AND SABRINA MALHI

An international team led by scientists at Stanford University has discovered a probable explanation for a decades-old biological mystery: why vastly more women than men suffer from autoimmune diseases such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis.

Women account for about 80 percent of the people afflicted with autoimmune diseases, a collection of more than 100 ailments that burden a combined 50 million Americans, according to the

nonprofit Autoimmune Association. In simple terms, these illnesses manipulate the body's immune system to attack healthy tissue.

In a paper published Thursday in the journal Cell, researchers present new evidence that a molecule called Xist — pronounced like the word "exist" and found only in women — is a major culprit in these diseases.

Better understanding of this molecule could lead to new tests that catch autoimmune diseases sooner and, in the longer term, to

SEE AUTOIMMUNE ON A7

IN THE NEWS

Executive order President Biden announces sanctions for West Bank settlers who he said committed violence against civilians. A4

Fatal D.C. shooting Police released body-cam footage of an officer firing shots at a man who ran from an ambulance after a mental health call last month. B1

THE NATION Efforts to memorialize lynching victims have divided communities across the country. A3 Donald Trump holds a large lead over Nikki Haley in South Carolina, polling shows. A5

THE WORLD "Collective rape" has become a weapon of intimidation and subjugation in Haiti's ongoing gang war, and assistance for the women who are attacked is sparse. A8

THE ECONOMY TikTok is now pushing creators to make longer videos in horizontal mode. A13 Microsoft, powered by the AI boom, has surpassed \$3 trillion in market capitalization, making it the most valuable company in the world. A9

THE REGION A lawsuit from the D.C. attorney general's office alleges that an apartment management company didn't protect Black women from a harasser. B1 Police arrest a man in connection to the bias-related attack of a rabbi from the District. B1

STYLE "Dateline," NBC's enduring true-crime news-magazine show, has been killing it in the world of podcasting. C1

WEEKEND Monuments around the city demonstrate the cultural impact of generations of Black Washingtonians.

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