

Expansive defense campaign ushers in export boom

A national campaign to reduce the dependency on imported defense products has yielded positive outcomes. Recent data on last year's figures show that Turkish defense and aerospace exports soared 34.6% to hit \$2.7 billion

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» CARRYING out successful and custom-made projects to diminish the dependency on imported products and platforms, the Turkish defense industry has maintained its significant momentum in exports for the last couple of years. As a result of expedited research and development activities and a range of products, the Turkish defense and aerospace industry carried its export performance to

a record high in 2019. According to the data obtained from the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TİM), the sector's exports soared 34.6% and hit \$2.7 billion last year from \$2.03 billion in 2018 – the first time defense exports have surpassed \$2 billion. The defense sales abroad, which totaled \$360.3 million, observed the best monthly performance last year.

With the goal to decrease dependency on imported products, huge support from the public authorities and the dedication of pri-

vate companies have led the industry to make significant headway in the post-2006 period. The defense and aerospace sector market had been valued at \$1.3 billion in 2002 while exports were recorded at \$247 million and R&D expenditures only received \$49 million.

Turkish defense companies have reached significant economic achievements, a success that is being reflected on international comparison lists. Four domestic defense firms were listed among the world's leading firms, accord-

ing to a list published by Defense News Top 100 – a U.S.-based magazine that tracks the global defense industry.

Turkey's largest defense electronics company ASELSAN ranked 52nd on the list with \$1.8 billion in defense revenue, while TAI (\$1.05 billion) was listed in the 69th spot. Turkey's Defense Technologies Engineering and Trade Inc. (STM) was 85th on the list with \$564.8 million, and Roketsan (\$522.8 million) ranked 89th. PAGE 5