

Indonesia to buy Indian-Russian missile system for coastal defense

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Indonesia has agreed to purchase a supersonic missile system from a Russian-Indian company to strengthen security on its coastline, the Ministry of Defense confirmed on Tuesday.

The BrahMos missile is one of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missiles. It can reach speeds of Mach 2.8, or nearly three times the speed of sound, and be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or land.

It was developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between the Indian military research and development agency DRDO and Russian weapons manufacturer NPO Mashinostroyeniya.

"Indonesia has partnered with India to strengthen our defense technology and industry," Rico Ricardo Sirait, spokesperson for



Visitors walk past a model of the Indian-Russian Brahmos supersonic cruise missile displayed at the Defence Expo 2022 in Gandhinagar, India on Oct. 18, 2022. AFP

the Indonesian Defense Ministry, told Arab News on Tuesday.

"This includes (the procurement of) the BrahMos missile system to beef up our coastal defense, as part of efforts to modernize our weaponry."

He declined to disclose more information about the deal.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelagic state with around 18,000 islands and over 7.9 million sq. km of sea, is the latest Southeast Asian nation to acquire the weapons.

In 2022, the Philippines closed a \$374 million deal to acquire three BrahMos anti-ship missile batteries, while Vietnam has reportedly been in talks to purchase the weapons system.

Jakarta has been working to upgrade the country's aging military hardware in recent years, setting aside big budgets for defense spending.

In January, three Rafale fighter jets arrived in Pekanbaru, Riau, from France, marking the first batch of deliveries of a multi-billion-dollar defense deal between the two countries. The next batch is expected to reach Indonesia later this year.