

#### Britain: We Were No. 2 Exporter In '08

Britain is claiming second place in the world defence equipment export league for 2008, after issuing figures showing U.K. companies registered overseas sales valued at £4.2 billion (\$6.8 billion) for last year.

Defense News

#### Raytheon to develop laser under phase I

Raytheon has been awarded a phase I contract from the U.S. Navy to develop a free electron laser technology for potential combat applications.

UPI

#### Britain 'unlikely' to meet Eurofighter Typhoon commitments

Britain is unlikely to buy all of the remaining 48 Eurofighter Typhoon jets it has signed up for, despite on Wednesday Germany pledging to take up its full order of aircraft because of defence needs.

The Telegraph

#### Major new aerospace, defence & security organisation to be formed

The Society of British Aerospace Companies (SBAC) and the Defence Manufacturers Association (DMA) have cleared the final hurdle in the process to agree a merger between the two trade associations.

SBAC Press Release

#### Defense contractors see open door in India

Global defense companies have found India. As the fast-growing Asian economic powerhouse tackles a massive modernization of its forces to counter China and tackle security threats at home and from Pakistan, defense companies are lining up at India's door for a share of the pie.

Reuters

#### New arms treaty must exclude weapons in space - Russian general

A new strategic arms reduction pact with the United States must prohibit any kinds of offensive weapons in space, Russia's Strategic Missile Forces commander said on Wednesday.

RIA Novosti

Russia to keep at least 1,500 nuclear warheads

Russia's strategic nuclear forces need at least 1,500 nuclear warheads, and this must be taken into account in a new strategic arms deal, the commander of the Strategic Missile Forces said on Wednesday.

RIA Novosti