

Sudan's Military Industry Corporation display at the 2015 IDEX convention

On 22–26 February 2015, manufacturers from more than 50 countries gathered at the 2015 International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) in Abu Dhabi, UAE, to showcase their military products. Sudan's Military Industry Corporation (MIC) was among the largest presenters. Sur International, a Sudanese, Turkish, and Qatari conglomerate that produces military uniforms and gear also displayed its goods. This marks the second time that MIC has presented its products at an international weapon convention (the first time was at the previous biannual IDEX conference, in 2013). The Small Arms Survey noted a marked increase in the number and types of Sudanese weapons on display at this year's conference in comparison to 2013. Sudan was also a much more prominent participant: Sudanese president Omar al Bashir was the only head of state in attendance at the opening ceremony. This would appear to confirm a previous Small Arms Survey report that the MIC is stepping up efforts to attract international buyers for its military products.¹ Sudan is now the third largest weapon producer in Africa, behind Egypt and South Africa.

MIC displayed a wide range of weapons and military equipment, including small arms, light weapons and their ammunition, six military vehicles, two naval boats, communication and optical equipment, and an electronic firing range simulator. Consistent with models displayed in 2013, the majority of MIC's products were copies or close derivatives of foreign-manufactured items. Most of the weapons and ammunition reflected Chinese and Iranian design, while the military vehicles were modifications of Russian and South Korean vehicles. Bulgaria designs date from expired licensing deals from the late 1990s. The MIC displayed real samples, miniature models, as well as product brochures. This HSBA Arms and Ammunition Tracing Desk report reviews the physical samples on display.



MIC display at the 2015 IDEX conference.

Arms on display



MIC produces the ‘Terab 5.56 x 45 mm Sub Machine Gun’ at factory A30. It is a close derivative of China’s CQ rifle. The Small Arms Survey has documented Chinese-manufactured CQ rifles in South Sudan, but has yet to encounter the Sudanese version.



‘Khawad 12.7 x 108 mm Anti-aircraft Machine Gun’ mounted to the ‘Ateed Automated Weapon Station’, which is a single automated remote weapon station capable of operating general-purpose and heavy machine guns. It is identical to Iran’s ‘ARIO-H762’. The Small Arms Survey has documented the Khawad among weapons that the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) captured from the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) in Jaw in February 2012, and with weapons that the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) seized from George Athor’s South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army (SSDM/A) in Jonglei in March 2011. Investigators have also documented the Khawad in Central African Republic and Cote d’Ivoire, but have yet to encounter the Ateed Automated Weapon Station.



MIC produced the ‘Sinнар RPG-7V Light Anti-Tank Rocket Launcher’ at factory A30. With the exception of the Iranian-style cylindrical grip to the rear of the trigger assembly, this launcher closely resembles the Bulgarian ‘ATGL’ types that are manufactured by the Arsenal Joint Stock Company. The Small Arms Survey has documented the Sinнар with weapons the SPLA captured from the SSDM/A in Jonglei in February and April 2011, a SAF JIU in Western Bahr el Ghazal in November 2011, and among weapons the South Sudan Defence Forces (SSDF) handed over to the SPLA in May 2012 in Jonglei. Investigators have also documented the Sinнар with rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somalia, and Sudan.



The ‘Sinнар RPG-7V 40 mm Light Anti-tank Rocket Launcher Commandos’ bears a close resemblance to the Iranian manufactured RPG-7 launcher (short version). The front cylindrical grip and rear-moulded grip are defining features of Iranian RPG-7 launchers. The Small Arms Survey has not encountered this launcher in the field.



'Nimir 60 mm Mortar'. The Small Arms Survey documented this weapon among weapons that the SSDF handed over to the SPLA in May 2012 in Jonglei.



The 'Soba SPG-9 73 mm Anti-tank Gun' is similar in construction to the Bulgarian and Iranian models. The Small Arms Survey has yet to encounter this weapon in the field.



The 'Taka Multi Rocket Launcher System' is a close derivative of the Iranian manufactured 107 mm multi rocket launcher. The Small Arms Survey documented this launcher among weapons with the South Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SSLA) in Unity after accepting amnesty in April 2013. Investigators have also documented this weapon in Cote d'Ivoire and Somalia.



The 'Sarib Anti-tank Missile Weapon System' closely resembles the Chinese-produced HJ-8 optically-tracked wire guided missile system. The Small Arms Survey documented HJ-8s that the SPLM-N captured from SAF in South Kordofan, Sudan in December 2012, but has not encountered the Sudanese version.



The ‘Karib Air to Surface Rocket Launcher’ is designed for air-to-surface helicopter fire. It is not clear whether Sudan has employed this weapon during its bombing campaigns in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile.



This miniature model man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) appears to be a copy of China’s FN-6. The model did not include a name plaque or brochure. An MIC representative said that the weapon was still under development, and would be ready for service in one to two years.

Ammunition



MIC displayed 5.56 x 45 mm ('Terab'), 7.62 x 39 mm ('Maz'), 7.62 x 54R mm ('Mokhtar'), and 12.7 x 108 mm ('Khawad') ammunition. The construction and headstamps of the ammunition were identical to Chinese-manufactured ammunition of the same calibre. The 7.62 x 54R mm and 12.7 x 108 mm were produced in factories 945 and 41, respectively. An MIC representative said that all of the ammunition was manufactured in Sudan, including the propellant, which was displayed in glass containers to the rear of the cartridges. According to the MIC brochures, the 7.62 x 39 mm and 12.7 x 108 mm cartridges use a single base propellant containing nitrocellulose (NC), Diphenylamine (DPA), Camphor, and Graphite, and the 7.62 x 54R mm cartridges use a single base propellant with NC, DPA, and Graphite. Sudan also claims to produce 7.62 x 51 mm ('Dinar') ammunition, but it was not on display.



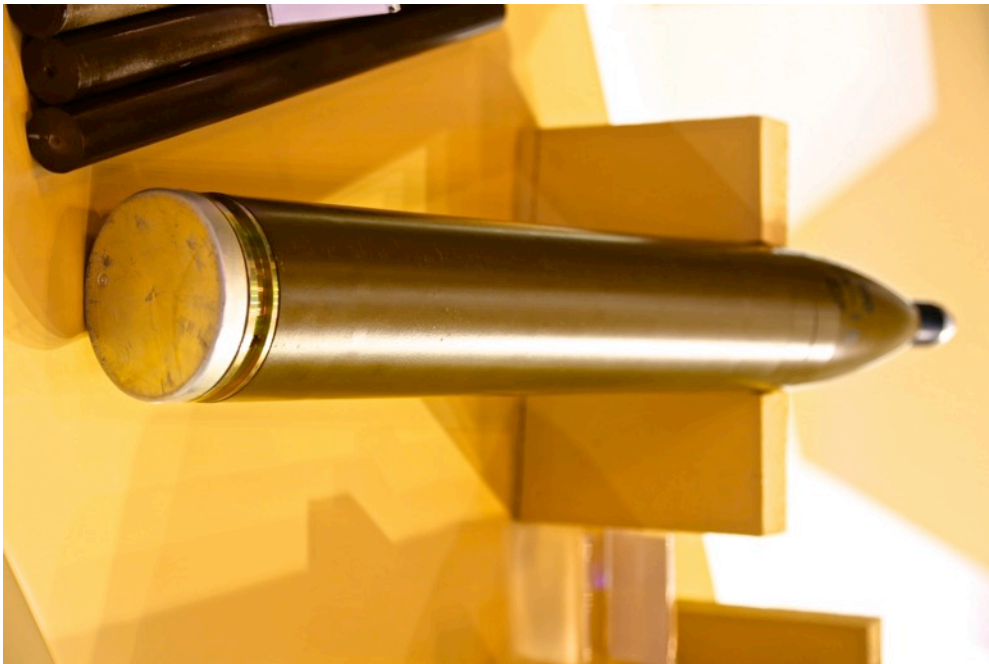
The MIC produces the 'Sinar PG-7V 40 mm Anti-tank Grenade' at workshop 101, according to the markings on the warhead. This rocket is a licensed copy of the Bulgarian version. It uses propellant containing NC, Nitroglycerine (NG), Centralite II, and Vaseline. The Small Arms Survey has documented the Sinar PG-7V with the SSLA in Unity after accepting amnesty in April 2013. Investigators have also documented these rockets in DRC, Somalia, and Sudan.



The MIC manufactures the ‘Sinar OG-7V 40 mm Fragmentation Grenade’ at workshop 115, according to markings on the rocket. The Small Arms Survey documented these rounds among weapons that the SPLM-N captured from SAF in South Kordofan, Sudan in December 2012. Investigators have documented these rounds in Mogadishu, Somalia.



MIC produces 60 mm (‘Nimir’), 82 mm (‘Aboud’), and 120 mm (‘Ahmed’) mortar rounds at workshop 116, according to markings on the rounds. The ignition charges use propellant containing NC, NG, centralite II, and Vaseline. The Small Arms Survey has documented these rounds among weapons that the SPLA captured from the SSLM/A in Unity in May 2011 and that were in the SSLMA’s possession in Unity in May 2013, among weapons that the SPLM-N captured from SAF in South Kordofan and Blue Nile in 2012, and with weapons that the SPLA and JEM captured from SAF when they overtook Hejlj in April 2012. Investigators have also documented these rounds in Central African Republic, Cote d’Ivoire, DRC, and Sudan.



MIC's 'Taka 107 mm rocket' is produced in workshop 115, according to its markings. It uses a double base propellant containing NC, NG, Dinitrotoluene, Dibutylphthalate, Centralite II, and Vaseline. The Small Arms Survey documented Taka 107 mm rounds that SAF left behind when the army left Hejlj in April 2012.

Military vehicles



The 'Khalifa-1 122 mm Self-propelled Howitzer D-30' is mounted on a modified Russian produced 6x6 Kamaz 43118 truck. The howitzer is a licensed copy of the Bulgarian 2S1 'Gvozdika.'



The 'Khatim-2 Armoured Mortar Carrier' contains a 120 mm mortar firing system. The Khatim-2 is identical to the Iranian Boraq-2 infantry-fighting vehicle. The interior of the vehicle had several stickers stating 'I.R.I SANAM Ser. No.: XXX'. Sanam Industrial Group is a subsidiary of Iran's Aerospace Industries Organization (AIO). The presence of these stickers suggests that Iran most likely produces most of the Khatim-2. It also has internal parts manufactured in Germany, Italy, and Sudan.



The ‘Taka Multi Rocket Launcher System Carrier’ has a 107 mm multi-rocket launcher mounted in its rear cab. The truck is a modified South Korean produced KIA 4x4, which, according to the vehicle identification number (VIN) plate, was delivered in 2012.



The ‘Sarsar-2’ armoured reconnaissance vehicle is based on a modified 1.2 ton South Korean KIA chassis, but fitted with armour capable of withstanding small arms fire. The vehicle is mounted with a ‘Multi Mount Pintle 0.50” MK 19/7.62’, which is produced by Nimer Mounts, based in Oman.



The ‘Nimr Long-Range Patrol Vehicle’ is based on a Chinese Dongfeng Motor Corporation 4x4.



The ‘Tamal Tactical Vehicle’ is mounted with a Khawad 12.7 x 108 mm heavy machine gun. It is a modified Ruiqi Series diesel 4x4 pickup, which is produced by Zhengzhou Nissan, a subsidiary of China’s Dongfeng Motor Corporation.

Naval boats



The ‘Elteb-1 Fast Attack Craft’ is 19 meters long and travels up to 51 knots. It is mounted with a ‘Multi Mount Pintle 0.50” MK 19/7.62’, which is produced by Nimer Mounts, based in Oman.



The ‘Tamai-1 Special Operation Craft’ is 14.5 meters in length and travels up to 60 knots. It is fitted with two Nimer mounts. The boat’s navigational equipment is produced by SIMRAD and Caterpillar, both US companies. The emergency raft on board is produced by Lalizas, a Greek company.

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References

¹ See ‘The Military Industry Complex (MIC)’, *HSBA Facts and Figures* report, July 2014. <<http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/facts-figures/sudan/HSBA-MIC-Open-Source-Review-2014.pdf>>.