

DENMARK ESTABLISHES DEFENCE INDUSTRY HUB IN KYIV

Since Russia's invasion, Denmark has been one of the most active military donor countries in terms of purchasing equipment and weapons from the Danish and foreign defence industry. At the same time, Denmark has been at the forefront of efforts to procure military equipment and weapons from the Ukrainian defence industry via the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Strategic Industry for donation to the Ukrainian defence - the so-called Danish model.

"When I visited Ukraine in the spring to visit a number of defence industry companies, I was convinced of the possibilities of supporting Ukraine through procurement directly from the Ukrainian defence industry. I have since been back to Ukraine and visited several companies that are working around the clock to produce the defence material that Ukraine so desperately needs in its fight for independence. With the establishment of a defence industrial hub, we are now taking the next step," says Minister of Defence Troels Lund Poulsen.

"Ukraine needs the best possible support as soon as possible. Therefore, we must integrate public-private cooperation in the defence industry. Denmark has already purchased equipment for the Ukrainian defence directly from the Ukrainian defence industry, and with the Defence Industry Hub at the embassy in Kyiv, we are now going one step further. We are now strengthening the opportunity for Danish companies to cooperate more directly with the Ukrainian defence industry," says Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen.

Despite the challenges posed by the war, the Ukrainian defence industry is developing rapidly, and total production capacity has increased significantly since 2022. This creates increased potential for Danish defence companies, which are well placed to enter into strategic partnerships and development cooperation with Ukrainian companies.

Putin's obnoxiousness knows no bounds. And Russia is trying hard to destroy the Ukrainian economy and fighting spirit. But if you look at the Ukrainian defence industry, Putin's mission has failed. The situation in Ukraine clearly shows that wars are not only won on the battlefield, but to a large extent also in industry. Therefore, we are now strengthening the cooperation between the Danish and Ukrainian defence industry with the establishment of the Defence Industry Hub. With the new hub, we are laying the foundation for new development partnerships and increased trade, so Denmark can continue to contribute to Ukraine's fight for freedom,' says Morten Bødskov, Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs.

Work to establish the defence industrial hub is now underway and it is expected to be operational before the end of the year. The hub will be a joint public-private platform with participation from Danish authorities and industry. It will be an integral part of the Danish Embassy in Kyiv, where employees will use their strong network and local knowledge to support Danish companies in e.g. establishing themselves in or exporting to Ukraine.

"The Defence Hub in Kyiv is the first step in a closer Danish cooperation with Ukrainian companies and authorities, which can contribute positively both in the short and long term. It is crucial for the Danish Industry (DI) that we utilize the Danish capabilities in the companies in the best possible way so that together we support the Ukrainian struggle. In Denmark, the public and private sectors are united behind the Ukrainian fight, which the defence hub is yet another expression of," says Joachim Finkielman, Director of the Danish Industry (DI) Defence and Security Industries Association.

To support the strategic work in Ukraine, a Danish board will also be established with participation from the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs, and Danish Industry (DI). Other business organizations and company representatives will have the opportunity to join.