

DAILY TRACKER**NUCLEAR ISSUES**

1. Assystem, an international engineering firm, has been named as a partner in the new Hinkley Point C (HPC) Commissioning Alliance. This new multi-year contract, according to the business, will be critical in bringing the UK's first new nuclear power plant into operation in more than 30 years.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Assystem-joins-HPC-Commissioning-Alliance>
2. The outdated Maiiagala radioactive waste storage facility will be demolished, and the waste it houses will be permanently disposed of. A tender for the project's buildings and equipment has been issued.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Lithuania-to-tackle-Soviet-era-waste-store>
3. The HotBENT international field experiment is evaluating the behaviour of bentonite clay used as an impermeable backfill in deep geological repositories for high-level waste. Modeling and laboratory work is being done at three US Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratories to support the HotBENT international field experiment.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/US-national-labs-support-international-waste-dispo>
4. A competition to identify solutions for a human operator "to project in" by using virtual reality equipment to remotely conduct complex jobs and manage equipment from a safe distance has been announced with a fund of GBP1.3 million (USD1.8 million).
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Telexistence-contest-for-UK-nuclear-decommission>
5. In Allerdale, Cumbria, UK, a community collaboration has been formed to forward discussions about the location of a geological disposal facility (GDF) for high-level radioactive waste. Following the formation of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership and the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership in late-2021, the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership is the third to form.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Another-GDF-community-partnership-forms-in-Cumbria>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. According to US officials, the US is looking at methods to possibly speed up the delivery of Taiwan's next generation of new-build F-16 fighter jets, enhancing the Taiwanese air force's ability to respond to what Washington and Taipei regard as increasing military intimidation from China.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/exclusive-us-seeks-way-speed-delivery-new-fighter-jets-taiwan-2022-01-20/>

2. A US destroyer has cruised the contested South China Sea, igniting new tensions with China, only days after an American nuclear-powered submarine made a rare port call in the Pacific island of Guam.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-navys-warship-transgresses-into-chinese-waters-days-after-nuke-sub/>
3. Russia's navy announced on Thursday that it will conduct a series of drills involving all of its fleets from the Pacific to the Atlantic this month and next, the latest show of might in a spike of military activity during a standoff with the West.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-hold-major-navy-drills-involving-all-its-fleets-2022-01-20/>
4. Russia is said to have placed a substantial number of Iskander-M short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) systems near Ukraine's border, escalating tensions between the two countries.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/russia-deploys-tactical-nuclear-missiles-near-ukrainian-border-kiev-says-iskander-m-can-destroy-critical-military-infra/>
5. Iran, China, and Russia held their third combined naval drills in the northern Indian Ocean on Friday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/india/iran-china-russia-hold-naval-drills-north-indian-ocean-2022-01-21/>
6. China has been accused of espionage and stealing American military technology, particularly the F-22 Raptor, which is considered the world's most powerful air-superiority fighter.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-22-raptors-china-thrust-vectoring-capabilities-j-20-fighters/>
7. The PLA Ground Forces' (PLAGF) Xinjiang Military Command is said to have incorporated a huge batch of modern air defence missiles, artillery, and multiple rocket launch systems, including HQ-17 missile systems.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/hq-17-missiles-china-to-deploy-exact-replica-of-russias-tor-near-india/>
8. When the US and Japanese leaders meet for the first time since Fumio Kishida became Japanese Prime Minister in October, they will discuss China's expanding might, North Korea's missiles, and Russia's intentions in Ukraine.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/security-co-operation-china-dominate-bidens-talks-with-japans-kishida-2022-01-20/>
9. As part of the CHIRU-2Q22 joint drills with the Russian and Iranian navies, China has dispatched its naval missile destroyer Urumqi to the Gulf of Oman.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/china-sends-destroyer-for-russia-iran-naval-drill-in-gulf-of-oman-446334>
10. Indonesia appears to have cancelled its proposal to acquire Russian combat aircraft Su-35 and explore the option of either 4.5 generation Dassault Rafale and Boeing F-15EX Eagle II or both, due to a threat factor in the form of two letters from China.
Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/indonesia-looks-to-withstand-chinese-military-aggression->



11. According to Russia's Defense Ministry, two divisions of the S-400 air missile defence systems have been dispatched to Belarus to test the readiness of the Unified Regional Air Defense System of Belarus and Russia, as well as joint military exercises.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/amid-nato-tensions-russia-dispatches-two-s-400-missile-defense-divisions-to-belarus-for-military-drills/>

12. According to Sky News, the United Kingdom (UK) has sent a group of roughly 30 elite troops to Ukraine to train the country's armed forces on anti-tank weapons that London has handed to Kiev over fears about the Ukrainian conflict escalating.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/uk-elite-troops-to-ukraine-to-help-kiev-knock-out-russian-tanks/>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. China and Russia delayed a U.S. bid to impose U.N. sanctions on five North Koreans on Thursday, diplomats said, as Pyongyang suggested it may resume tests of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-delays-us-bid-sanction-north-koreans-un-2022-01-20/>

2. After a round of discussions in which a French diplomatic source indicated there was no progress on the key issues, the US and its European allies said on Thursday that it was only a matter of weeks until the 2015 Iran nuclear deal could be salvaged.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/iran-nuclear-talks-need-change-approach-february-decisive-french-source-2022-01-20/>

3. On Friday, Britain issued a warning to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying that its allies would band together to resist dictatorships that were more powerful than at any time since the Cold War.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britain-warns-putin-xi-west-will-stand-up-dictatorship-2022-01-20/>

UN REFORMS

1. Sh Miram Taron, a 17-year-old was abducted by the Chinese PLA yesterday, January 18th, 2022, from within Indian Territory.
Source: <https://twitter.com/TapirGao/status/1483813236436713476>
2. The tragedy of a migrant worker's hunt for his kid, which has enthralled Chinese social media users, took a turn on Friday when police announced his son's death over a year ago, a conclusion his parents refused to accept.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/police-say-missing-son-migrant-worker-whose-story-captivated-china-is-dead-2022-01-21/>
3. Two congressional oversight and trade committee chairs slammed Tesla's (TSLA.O) growth in China's far-western Xinjiang province, where detention centres have attracted widespread condemnation, and questioned the electric carmaker about its Chinese product sourcing on Thursday.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/us-lawmakers-call-tesla-expansion-xinjiang-misguided-2022-01-20/>
4. The French parliament has passed a motion sponsored by the opposition, calling on the government to condemn China for "crimes against humanity and genocide" against the Uyghur Muslim minority, and to take foreign policy measures to put an end to it.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/french-parliament-passes-motion-condemning-china-genocide-against-uyghurs-2022-01-20/>
5. The Norwegian foreign ministry said on Friday that representatives from Afghanistan's Taliban will arrive in Norway on Sunday for three days of negotiations on how to address a humanitarian catastrophe.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/taliban-delegation-due-norway-humanitarian-talks-2022-01-21/>
6. Tesla's growth in Xinjiang, where the Chinese government is reported to have opened detention camps for Uyghurs, has been criticised by US lawmakers.
Source: <https://www.wionews.com/world/poor-example-us-lawmakers-slam-musks-tesla-for-expanding-in-xinjiang-446403>
7. White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said Fox News Channel on Thursday that the US would work with the US Olympic Committee to address any concerns about the safety of athletes competing in the Beijing Olympics next month.
Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/us-would-work-with-us-olympic-committee-if-athlete-safety-becomes-concern-white-2022-01-20/>
8. The new head of Hong Kong's Bar Association pledged on Thursday to defend the Chinese-ruled territory's vaunted rule of law amid concerns over the impact of a Beijing-imposed national security law on the Asian financial hub.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/new-leader-hong-kong-barristers-vows-defend-rule-law-2022-01-20/>

9. Three people working for the independent news outlet Dawei Watch were detained by Myanmar's military on Thursday, according to an editor at the magazine. The arrests are the latest in a media crackdown that has occurred since last year's coup.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/myanmar-military-arrests-more-journalists-media-crackdown-editor-2022-01-20/>

10. On Thursday, Peruvian President Pedro Castillo declared an environmental emergency when rogue waves rocked a ship offloading oil at the country's largest refinery, causing a massive oil spill.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/perus-castillo-decrees-major-oil-spill-an-environmental-emergency-2022-01-20/>