

DAILY TRACKER**NUCLEAR ISSUES**

1. The consortium of Ferreira Guedes, Matricial, and ADtranz, according to Electronuclear, can now proceed with the completion of unit 3 of the Angra nuclear power plant in Rio de Janeiro.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Contract-signed-to-allow-resumption-of-Angra-3-wor>
2. Within the European Union, there has been a split over whether nuclear power - and natural gas - could be considered "sustainable." Nuclear energy was initially excluded from the Delegated Act pending further review. However, a further study by the EU Joint Research Centre, which was evaluated by two additional expert groups, found that the technique is viable. As a result, the Commission has adopted a Complementary Delegated Act to include nuclear energy as a transitional activity in the taxonomy (CDA).
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/A-guide-to-the-EUs-green-taxonomy-and-nuclears-pla>
3. The United States' GE has agreed to sell a portion of its nuclear power business, including Arabelle steam turbines, to France's EDF. The proposed deal would combine GE's nuclear steam turbine technology and services experience with EDF's commitment to the nuclear power sector, resulting in the EDF Group's creation of a global steam turbine equipment and services provider.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/EDF-to-buy-part-of-GE-Steam-Power-s-nuclear-activi>
4. Oklo Inc of California and Argonne National Laboratory of Illinois have inked an agreement to commercialise advanced reactor fuel recycling technology as part of a US Department of Energy-funded project.
Source: <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Oklo,-Argonne-to-commercialise-advanced-fuel-recyc>
5. European scientists claim to have achieved a significant step forward in the development of practical nuclear fusion, the energy mechanism that powers the stars.
Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-60312633>
6. A 24-year-old record in nuclear fusion has been shattered. On February 9, scientists at the Joint European Torus (JET) near Oxford, UK, revealed that they had achieved the highest-ever sustained energy from fusing together atoms, more than doubling their previous record set in 1997.
Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00391-1>
7. The experiment at the Joint European Torus (JET) facility in Oxford, England, set a new record by producing 59 megajoules of sustained fusion energy in a five-second period, more than double the previous record.
Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/scientists-make-breakthrough-with-nuclear-fusion-record/a->

8. On Wednesday, European scientists hailed further breakthrough in their efforts to make nuclear fusion a practical, safe, and sustainable energy source, claiming that an experiment at a facility in England achieved a new record for the quantity of fusion energy produced, more than tripling the previous record.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/science/european-scientists-set-nuclear-fusion-energy-record-2022-02-09/>

MISSILES/ BIO WEAPONS

1. Iran boasted on Wednesday that it had created a new 1,450 km-range ballistic missile capable of hitting Israel, Gulf state capitals, and US facilities in the Middle East.

Source: <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2021266/middle-east>

2. The Lockheed Martin F-35 might land yet another large European fighter jet contract, outperforming Rafales and Eurofighter Typhoons in a number of markets.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-35-fighters-knock-out-rafale-typhoon-for-big-ticket-european-deals/>

3. According to a US research tank, North Korea has built a secret underground bunker near its border with China to house long-range ballistic missiles. It tested 11 missiles in January alone, including the Hwasong-12 intermediate ballistic missile, spurring the US to request additional UN sanctions.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/kims-ingenuous-plan-to-attack-us-allies-from-china-backyard/>

4. Larsen & Toubro (L&T), an Indian military company, is reportedly working with South Korean defence company Hanwha Defense to create light tanks for the Indian Army. The two companies previously collaborated on the K9 Vajra-T self-propelled howitzer (SPH), a variant of the K9 Thunder, for the Indian Army. On February 7, an L&T spokeswoman told Janes that the business plans to work with Hanwha Defense on the development of light tanks.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/indian-army-hunts-for-light-weight-tanks-to-battle-china-hanwha/>

5. After signing a series of agreements, Indonesia will acquire 42 Rafale fighter jets from France, according to defence minister Florence Parly.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/its-official-indonesia-orders-42-rafale-fighters-from-french-dassault-aviation-defense-minister-parly/>

6. According to an investigative journalism media organisation, the US is planning to improve its airbases in the UK, allowing Washington to intercept international communications and conduct military strikes from UK soil more rapidly and with greater devastation.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/us-to-expand-its-biggest-surveillance-facility-outside-america/>

7. The AGM-88G Advanced Anti-Radiation Guided Missile – Extended Range was successfully tested



for the second time by the US Navy (AARGM-ER). The Northrop Grumman missile was launched from the F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft of the US Navy at the Point Mugu range off the coast of southern California on January 21. It successfully detected and destroyed a transmitting radar on the San Nicolas Island range that was simulating an enemy air defense system, Northrop Grumman, announced on February 7.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/f-a-18-super-hornet-fires-advanced-anti-radiation-missile/>

8. Australia is expected to develop eight nuclear attack submarines with American and British aid under the AUKUS agreement, in part to fight China. When operational, Australia's SSNs might provide crucial support to the 14 US SSNs in the potential conflict with China.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-could-be-ill-prepared-for-a-deep-sea-encounter-with-the-us/>

9. As several Russian warships arrived in the Black Sea on Wednesday, a Ukrainian think group warned that Russia might close off the coast of Ukraine for upcoming missile manoeuvres next week.

Source: <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/02/10/russia-readies-for-naval-blockade-of-ukraine-ahead-of-missile-drills-reports-2-a76321>

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. Ten days of joint military training between Russia and Belarus have begun despite continued worries of a Russian invasion of Ukraine. Belarus is Russia's closest ally and shares a long border with Ukraine.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60327930>

2. As tensions between Russia and Ukraine rise, Boris Johnson has stated that Europe is facing "the most dangerous moment" in its "biggest security crisis" in decades.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60326142>

3. According to the Pentagon, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with the defence ministers of South Korea and Japan on Wednesday to discuss the risks posed by North Korea following Pyongyang's missile launches.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/pentagon-chief-discusses-north-korean-threat-with-japan-south-korea-2022-02-10/>

4. The chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee spent the next 60 minutes arguing vehemently against resurrecting the Iran nuclear deal, saying that the limits it would place on Tehran's "dangerously and rapidly escalating nuclear programme" are insufficient.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/9/as-iran-nuclear-talks-enter-final-stretch-opposition-grows-in-us>

5. During their meeting in Tel Aviv on Thursday, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett reminded German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock that Israel believes reviving the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran would be dangerous to the region, according to a statement from Bennett's office.

Source: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/bennett-calls-for-deadline-in-iran-nuclear-talks-during-meeting-with-german-fm/>

6. Negotiations to resurrect the 2015 Iran nuclear deal resumed this week in Vienna, more than ten months after they originally began and hampered by increased uncertainty and mutual distrust. Iran's nuclear capabilities are growing by the week, making a return to a deal less and less feasible.

Source: <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/02/10/iran-nuclear-talks-restart-as-critical-time-pressure-and-distrust-builds.html>

UN REFORMS

1. Even as another measure aimed at bringing scrutiny to Canadian corporations doing business abroad was tabled in the House of Commons on Tuesday, pressure is rising on the government to act on transnational slave labour. The private member's bill, introduced by fellow Liberal MP Marcus Powlowski, is one of several developments, according to John McKay, that show Ottawa is on the verge of taking action to prevent forced labour.

Source: <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2022/02/09/modern-slavery-draws-more-attention-as-new-bill-increases-pressure-on-ottawa-to-act.html>

2. The ongoing Beijing Winter Games, which is one of the most contentious Olympic events in history, continues to take centre stage. The location of ski events has become a hot issue among netizens, with many questioning if it was a tower, a mill, or an abandoned nuclear site.

Source: <https://eurasianimes.com/china-over-mysterious-towers-that-resemble-a-nuclear-plant/>

3. Hundreds of Afghans staged a rare demonstration at a United Arab Emirates facility where they have been held since fleeing their nation last year, clutching banners appealing for freedom and requesting to be relocated in the United States.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/afghan-refugees-uae-protest-halt-us-relocation-process-2022-02-10/>

4. During the Beijing Winter Olympics, authorities have tightened security measures in Tibetan districts of western China, with police closely monitoring locals to prevent communication with Tibetans in exile, according to sources in the region.

Source: <https://www.rfa.org/english/news/tibet/controls-02102022152539.html>

5. Hong Kong's press freedom crackdown and the imprisonment of journalists at the now-defunct independent media site Stand News were criticised in a statement signed by 21 western countries.

Source: <https://hongkongfp.com/2022/02/09/21-nations-condemn-hong-kong-press-freedom-crackdown-and-closure-of-news-outlets/>

6. According to an internal UN note seen by Reuters, the UN plans to launch a system this month to convert millions of dollars in aid into Afghan currency in order to alleviate humanitarian and economic crises while also bypassing blacklisted Taliban commanders.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/exclusive-un-aims-launch-new-afghanistan-cash->

7. According to estimates from companies that watch the flows, Iranian oil exports have surpassed 1 million barrels per day for the first time in almost three years, owing to increased shipments to China.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/nuclear-talks-resume-irans-oil-exports-increase-2022-02-10/>