

8.37x32.48	1	8 עמוד	hamodia	04/02/2016	51727256-5
מכון פישר אברהם עשהאל - ראש מכון פישר - 38630					

THE HEADLINES

Israeli Space Program Lags Behind Iran's

While Iran races forward in the development of its space program, Israel lags behind, which could have a serious impact on relative missile capabilities, an Israeli space expert warned Tuesday.

Speaking at the 11th Ilan Ramon International Space Conference, Brig. Gen. (res.) Abraham Assael noted that the lifting of sanctions will enable Tehran to invest more heavily in its space program and missile development. Assael is CEO of the Fisher Institute for Air and Space Strategic Studies, which hosted the conference.

"After over a decade in which the Fisher Institute watched and examined the Israeli space industry, we can today say that without an innovative and dynamic civilian space industry, and without significant investment in research and development on the national and academic, as well as industrial levels, there is no future for sustainable space industry in the State of Israel," he said.

Israel has in the past led space technology advances, particularly in small satellites and their launchers.

"Today, we are moving forward in very measured steps, while other space industries, like the Iranian space industry, are developing at a sped-up rate," Assael added.

"The lifting of sanctions following the Iran nuclear agreement will cause its space program development to speed up. This will act as a legitimate engine driving Iranian technology in a range of fields, and serve as a fertile ground for the development of matching military capabilities, like the research and development of long-range missiles."

Ofer Doron, CEO of Israel Aerospace Industry's (IAI) MBT Space Division,

sounded a similar warning, saying that Israel's civilian satellite program is shrouded in uncertainty.

"Israel has no space policy, and we are moving backward," Doron told the conference. He warned of inadequate educational and academic research to support Israel's space agency, which could harm future technology and satellite development.

"In most of these areas, there is no significant activity in Israel, and I can only be jealous of foreign space agencies around the world. A multiyear budget is required, with a significant scope. We need mechanisms that allow us to take advantage of the budget," Doron added.

"Even the low budget of the Israel Space Agency cannot be implemented. We need to leverage the great achievements of military space programs toward civilian applications, so that budgets can have dual uses. Without civilian licenses, which are the norm in the world, this simply will not work."

The Israel Space Agency's current annual budget stands at \$15 million, comparable to the Mexican, Swiss and South African programs.

"If we make it five times bigger, we will be like Pakistan. We are behind Iran, Spain, and Argentina, and significantly behind European space agencies," Doron said.



8.33x10.09	1	עמוד 10	hamodia	04/02/2016	51727325-2
מכון פישר טל ענבר ראש המרכז לחקר החל - 38630					

Security & Diplomacy

Israeli Satellite Images Show Russian Planes in Syria

Israeli satellite images of Russian military deployments in Syria in recent days were released by ImageSat International (ISI).

The images show dozens of planes and surface-to-air missile batteries at the coastal army base of Latakia, where Russia has centered its military presence in Syria.

Tal Inbar, the head of the space research center at the Fisher Institute, says that the images show more than 30 warplanes parked at Latakia Air Base. "The photos show that the Russians have set up and started operating the S-400 antimissile systems, deployed alongside the Pantsir SA-22, which has also been purchased by Iran, to protect them from attack," Inbar said.