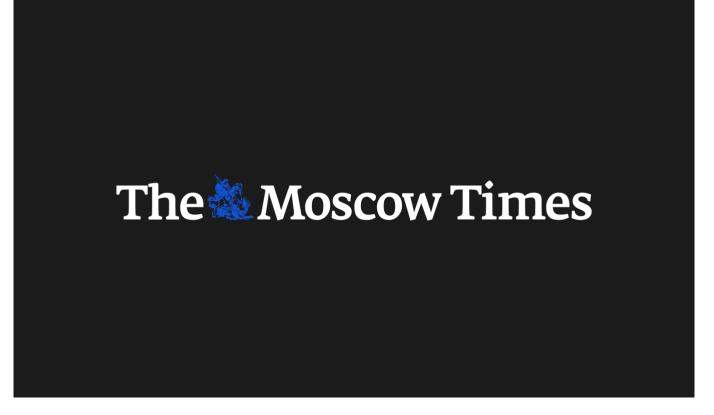


Defense Ministry News Agency 'Planned for 2014'

By The Moscow Times

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The Defense Ministry plans to create its own news agency next year, an unidentified ministry official said Thursday.

The agency will focus mainly on military news but will also address social and political issues, plus high-profile events in Russia and around the world, the official said.

Slated to start broadcasting in 2014, the agency will supposedly be controlled by the Defense Ministry and aimed at an online audience.

Earlier this year, amid a Kremlin drive to encourage national pride, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu also announced plans for the ministry to start producing compilation albums of patriotic songs, create a film studio dedicated to making patriotic movies, and construct a military-themed park in Kubinka, a city in the southwest of the Moscow region.

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