

Russia and Saudi Arabia Agree \$3.5 Bln Arms Deal

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Russia and Saudi Arabia agreed an arms deal Monday valued at \$3.5 billion, general director of Russian state-owned corporation Rostec Sergei Chemezov [said](#) in an interview with Tass news agency.

The deal will be finalized during King Salman's next visit to Russia, which could take place by the end of the year, the Kommersant newspaper [reported](#).

Russia is the world's second largest weapons exporter with total sales exceeding \$15 billion annually.

Russia tried to broker a lucrative arms deal with Saudi Arabia in 2012, when the Gulf kingdom signed a preliminary agreement worth \$20 billion, Chemezov said.

That deal stalled when Saudi attached stipulations contrary to Russian interests, including a demand that Russia not sell C-300 long-range surface-to-air missiles to Iran.

In an act of defiance President Putin removed all legal barriers to the export of the C-300 and sold the system to Iran for an estimated \$1 billion.

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