

India to Buy Over 450 Russian Tanks Worth \$2BIn – Reports

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Tank T-90MC Wikicommons

The Indian government has agreed to buy 464 Russian battle tanks worth \$1.93 billion, a defense and intelligence magazine reported Monday, citing unnamed official sources.

India is the largest <u>buyer</u> of Russian military hardware, with the latest purchase being a quietly signed \$5 billion <u>deal</u> for Russian S-400 surface to air missile systems last fall. The two countries also signed eight agreements covering space, nuclear energy and railways in October.

Related article: India Signs \$5Bln Deal to Buy Russia's S-400 Missile System, Despite U.S. <u>Pressure</u>

India's Cabinet Committee on Security, the country's defense policy and spending decisionmaking body, approved the acquisition of T-90MS tanks in early April, according to Jane's. The Indian defense ministry and Russia's state arms exporter Rosoboron export are reportedly expected to sign the \$1.93 billion contract in "the next few months."

The Indian defense ministry's acquisition body <u>approved</u> the purchase in November 2016.

Russia's Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation said it is ready to extend India's 2001 production license on 1,000 T-90S tanks, the state-run RIA Novosti news outlet <u>reported</u> on Tuesday.

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