

# Russia Touts S-500's Ability to Destroy Hypersonic Weapons in Space

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Russian defense officials say the S-500 Prometheus could enter service as soon as 2020. [army-news.ru](https://www.army-news.ru)

Russia's advanced S-500 air defense system is capable of destroying hypersonic weapons and satellites in near space, the head of Russia's air and space forces has [said](#).

The S-500 Prometheus, which Russian defense officials [say](#) could enter service as soon as 2020, is touted as being capable of intercepting stealth warplanes. President Vladimir Putin has [said](#) that the S-500 is capable of operating in "ultra-high altitudes including near space."

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Sergei Surovikin, the head of Russia's Aerospace Forces, said this capability will allow the S-500 to destroy low-orbit satellites, as well as hypersonic and space weapons, in addition to its primary targets intermediate-range ballistic missiles.

"The characteristics inherent in the S-500 surface-to-air missile make it possible to

destroy... hypersonic weapons of all modifications, including in near space,” Surovikin told the Defense Ministry’s Red Star publication Friday.

“The S-500 can be classified as the first generation of space defense systems, since in the future it will be able to destroy low-orbit satellites and space weapons,” Surovikin said.

The surface-to-air missile was reported to have carried out the world’s [longest missile test](#) in 2018.

Russia and the United States have developed hypersonic missiles in recent years as the countries trade blame over arms control treaty violations and attempt to restart nuclear talks.

The S-500 was initially scheduled for delivery in 2025 after preliminary tests in 2020. Deputy Defense Minister Alexei Krivoruchko noted in February that air defense troops tested the S-500 using “new and unparalleled missiles” in 2019.

“We’re confident that the new system will be ready for delivery to the armed forces in 2020,” Krivoruchko told the Concern Radio-Electronic Technologies’ (KRET) monthly magazine at the time.

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