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Russia to Upgrade 'Outdated' Multiple Rocket Launchers

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Russia is undergoing a $340 billion state armament program seeking to overhaul 70% of Soviet-era hardware by 2027. **Sergei Malgavko / TASS**

Russia plans to rearm its outdated multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) with lightweight and more mobile versions by the end of the decade, Lieutenant-General Mikhail Matveyevskyi, the head of the Armed Forces' Missile Troops and Artillery, said.

The next-generation family of Tornado MLRS is a "high-precision complex equipped with guided missiles that can hit individual critical enemy targets at significant ranges," Matveyevskyi told the Defense Ministry's *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star) publication.

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"By the end of 2027, large-caliber Tornado-S MLRS with improved characteristics and extended range missiles will almost completely replace the existing Smerch and outdated Uragan MLRS," he said.

“Medium-caliber Tornado-G with an automated targeting system will replace the outdated Grad MLRS,” Matveyevskyi said Wednesday, on the day marking Russia’s missile forces and artillery.

The head of Russia’s Missile Troops and Artillery estimated that the share of modern weapons systems in his forces' fleet has increased from 25% in 2012 to 60% this year.

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