

Russia Test-Fires Tsirkon Hypersonic Missile in Arctic

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Russian Defense Ministry

Russia has fired its Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile from a warship in the north of the country, the military [said](#) Thursday.

The Admiral Gorshkov frigate has test-launched the Tsirkon several times in recent years.

President Vladimir Putin has dubbed the Tsirkon and other cutting-edge weapons “invincible” as Moscow hopes to gain an edge in any arms race with the United States amid growing tensions.

Related article: [With Cutting-Edge Hypersonics, Russia Leads in New Arms Race](#)

Hypersonic weapons are much harder to track and intercept than traditional projectiles because they can travel more than five times the speed of sound and maneuver in mid-flight.

The latest launch hit a target in the White Sea, the state-run TASS news agency cited the

Russian Defense Ministry as saying.

“The target was struck with a direct hit,” the Defense Ministry said.

“Northern Fleet surface ships and naval aviation helped ensure the firing and the area’s closure,” it added.

According to TASS, Russia plans to test-fire five Tsirkon missiles.

The Tsirkon will join Avangard glide vehicles and the air-launched Kinzhal (Dagger) missiles in Russia’s hypersonic arsenal.

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