

## Israeli, Romanian defense contractors sign cooperation deal for Iron Dome

By Stuart Winer

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**Rafael joins up with Romaero to produce air defense and anti-tanks systems with an eye to providing Romania's army with weaponry**



Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems signed a cooperation agreement with the Romanian's Romaero to produce air defense and other weapons systems the two companies hope to offer to the Romanian armed forces.

The deal, signed in Bucharest, will include development of the sea-borne version of the Iron Dome short-range missile defense system, as well as Samson remote control weapons systems, and Spike tactical missiles, Rafael said in a statement Thursday.

Rafael director general Yoav Har-Even inked the agreement with Remus Vulpescu, director general Romaero, at the lack Sea Defense & Aerospace 2018 exhibition in Bucharest.

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“The new cooperation will provide a solution to the operational needs of the Romanian army in upcoming procurement plans that were already approved by the Romanian government,” Rafael said.

The statement did not give an estimate for how much the cooperation might be worth to the companies.



Israeli soldiers stand guard next to an Iron Dome defense system in central Israel on November 14, 2017. (AFP/Jack Guez)

In April 40 US lawmakers signed a letter urging appropriators [to consider purchasing Iron Dome](#), which Israel has used to intercept missiles fired from the Gaza Strip and from Syria, for US Army use.

Adoption of Iron Dome by the US Army would mean increasing the support for sustaining the missile defense system, developed by Rafael and Israel Aerospace Industries, which Israel regards as critical in protecting its communities near its southern border with the Gaza Strip and its northern border with Lebanon.

In February Israel Aerospace Industries, which manufactures radar for the Iron Dome system, said it has sold 100 units of the radar to nine countries for a total of about \$2 billion.

*Times of Israel staff and agencies contributed to this report.*