

India Bans Military Drone Manufacturers from Using Chinese Parts

A group of Indian defense officials and industry representatives told Reuters on Tuesday that India quietly banned military drone manufacturers from using Chinese parts several months ago, due to concerns about security vulnerabilities that could compromise the equipment.

India is spending a great deal of money to modernize its military, and the government has decided Chinese parts cannot be trusted because they could include deliberate security vulnerabilities in systems such as “communication functions, cameras, radio transmission, and operating software.”

The decision was evidently made in February when Indian defense officials held a meeting with the growing domestic drone industry and told them components from “countries sharing land borders with India will not be acceptable for security reasons” because they might have “security loopholes.” Bids for government contracts are now required to include sourcing for all components employed in the drones.

The same message was sent to manufacturers at another meeting with military officials in March. In case anyone was wondering if the ban might be directed at some previously obscure electronics supply firm in Nepal or Bangladesh, an Indian defense official confirmed to Reuters that “countries sharing land borders with India” was a euphemism for “China.”

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