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(Online)

India's Homemade Specialty Alloy to Drastically Cut BrahMos Cost

Indian defense scientists consider it a major achievement, as the BrahMos missile utilizes five different grades of wrought aluminum alloys in eight different semi-product forms, which are developed in nine different heat treatment conditions.

New Delhi (Sputnik) — India has developed its own specialty aluminum alloy that is being used to construct critical parts of the BrahMos missile — the world's first and only supersonic cruise missile. The state-owned Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) locally developed the alloy that was earlier imported from Russia.

This is crucial to the development and capacity enhancement of the BrahMos missile, as the manufacturers hope to make substantial cost savings with the locally developed alloy that is being used for the construction of the fuel tank and airframe of the missile.

"The series production of aluminum alloy intensive F3 section, i.e., the major load bearing section of the BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile, using indigenous materials has begun at a fabrication plant in Mumbai. The indigenous production of aluminum alloys has resulted in substantial cost savings," a DRDO official said.

"A majority of these different grades of alloys are located in the F3 section, which comprises fuel tanks and airframe," DRDO added.

The indigenous material was developed through collaboration between the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a DRDO wing and BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL), Hyderabad. The Russian team of NPOM, a joint venture partner for BrahMos, has approved the production processes and the quality control procedures of the alloy.

Earlier this month, DRDO had also announced the development of a solid propellant booster used to achieve supersonic speeds in the cruise stage of the BrahMos.

The BrahMos missile has been jointly developed by Russian and Indian scientists and is the world's first and only supersonic cruise missile. It is a precision strike weapon for the Indian armed forces that can be fitted in ships, mobile launchers, submarines and aircraft against land and sea targets.

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B P Sharma appointed chairman of RAC in DRDO

New Delhi: Retired IAS officer B P Sharma was today appointed the chairman of Recruitment and Assessment Centre (RAC) in the DRDO by Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by the prime minister, a government order said.

Sharma, a 1981-batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, held the position of Union health secretary before he was moved to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) as its secretary.

He retired from the position on June 30, 2017.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of B P Sharma, IAS, to the post of chairman, Recruitment and Assessment Centre in DRDO, on contract basis, as per usual terms and conditions applicable to re-employed Central government officers in the rank and status of secretary to Government of India, for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the order said.

The RAC undertakes recruitment programmes to induct and promote scientists in variety of scientific and engineering disciplines relevant to Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Laboratories.



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