CENTRE FOR JOINT WARFARE STUDIES

CENJOWS

THEFT OF NORWEGIAN SPACE TECHNOLOGY BY CHINA

1. **Norway Claims Chinese Intelligence has Repeatedly Acquired its Space Technology.** A report on Norway's claims that Chinese Intelligence has repeatedly acquired its Space Technology was published by Sputnik on 13 Feb 2019 and also appeared on "Space War" website[1]. The article claims that "Norway plays an important role in space exploration for key military space facilities used by the US, including the Globus II radar in Finnmark County, sometimes referred to as the world's most advanced radar for tracking satellites. In recent years, the Chinese intelligence service has succeeded in obtaining advanced Norwegian technology several times, the Scandinavian country's intelligence service has stressed, warning that China is en route to becoming a military superpower in Norway's neighbourhood." The head of the intelligence service, Lieutenant General Morten Haga Lundeas quoted by national broadcaster NRK believes that China will continue to influence the situation, even in Norway's proximity as its interest in arctic region is growing. It is believed that the Andoya Space Centre at Andenes in Nordland County, which is vying to become the first in Europe to launch satellites, has admittedly noticed increased penetration attempts.

2. According to the article, "Focus 2020, the new threat assessment by the Intelligence Service, also lists Norwegian space research facilities among the main targets for the Chinese intelligence service, which, it claims, has shown a high interest in dual-use technology. According to Focus 2020, Chinese intelligence has on several occasions succeeded in obtaining this type of advanced technology". A report by the US Congress raised suspicions about China hacking US satellites via the Svalsat ground station on the Svalbard archipelago nearly 12 years ago. Norway's Intelligence Service stressed that

[1] ***Norway claims Chinese intelligence has repeatedly acquired its space technology; https://www.spacewar.com/reports/Norway_claims_Chinese_intelligence_has_repeatedly_acquired_its_space_technology_999.html***

only a few of China's satellites are referred to as military, whereas civilian polar satellites are used for both intelligence and military purposes. Last year, China surpassed the US in the number of satellites launched, Focus 2020 stressed.

3. Norway believes that it plays a key role in space exploration owing to important military space facilities used by the US, including the radar Globus II in Finnmark County, which has become the bone of contention in Norway's relations with Russia, who sees it as a spying tool.

4. In 2018, Chinese researchers proposed a deep space exploration roadmap to explore Mars, an asteroid, Jupiter, and further targets, within the 2020–2030 time frame. Proposed and upcoming robotic space missions include: Mars Global Remote Sensing Orbiter and Small Rover (HX-1), planned for launch in July–August 2020 with arrival at Mars in February 2021, (Mission includes an orbiter, a lander and a rover); Asteroid Exploration Mission, initially proposed for launch around 2022–2024, (Mission goals include asteroid flyby observations, global remote sensing, robotic landing, and sample return); Mars Sample Return Mission (HX-2), initially proposed for launch around 2028–2030, (Mission goals include in-situ topography and soil composition analysis, deep interior investigations to probe the planet's origins and geologic evolution, and sample return); Jupiter System Exploration Mission, proposed for launch around 2029–2030, and arriving at Jupiter around 2036, (Mission goals include orbital exploration of Jupiter and its four largest moons, study of the magneto hydrodynamics in the Jupiter system, and investigation of the internal composition of Jupiter's atmosphere and moons); and finally a mission to Uranus, still tentative, has been proposed for implementation after 2030, with a probe arriving in the 2040s[2].

5. China is believed to be taking keen interest in the Indian Space Programme and monitors Indian space launches closely. Technological features of many of the Indian future space launches would be watched by all nations especially China and need to be suitably protected against emerging cyber espionage like the one being witnessed by the Norway’s intelligence community.

[2] ***https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_space_program***