

# Weekly Intelligence Brief

A Chanticleer Intelligence Brief Project



## Ukrainian Drone Warfare Inside Russia

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On 04 OCT, Ukraine conducted its largest cross-border drone strike in the border region of Belgorod, Russia. This overnight drone operation struck a Russian anti-aircraft system. The Russian Defense Ministry reported that 31 Ukrainian drones were intercepted in the regions of Belgorod, Bryansk, and Kursk following the operation. Belgorod is approximately 49 miles northeast of the city of Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Over the last four to five months, the Ukrainians have been utilizing drone warfare to bring the war to continental Russia. Between November 2022 and May 2023, the Ukrainians began training 10,000 drone pilots. An additional 10,000 pilots are currently training. These drones have been targeting military airfields, air defense systems, and oil refineries across Western Russia. The first recorded incident of suspected Ukrainian drone use inside Russia occurred in June 2022 in the city of Rostov-on-Don. Since then, there has been at least 190 suspected drone attacks inside Russia. The United Kingdom has also been vocal about its drone support to

Ukraine since May 2023. British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, is also urging the West to continue equipping Ukraine with military aid to “finish the job.”

We assess with high confidence that the Ukrainians are using drone warfare to attack inside Russia. Since June 2022 there has been consistent reporting of both Russian and Ukrainian drone warfare leading us to believe that drones are likely to take a priority over physical combat. We also assess with high confidence that the Russo-Ukrainian War is likely to be docked the first “full-scale” drone war in history

# “Chips for America” Continues the Diversification of Semiconductor Supply Chains.

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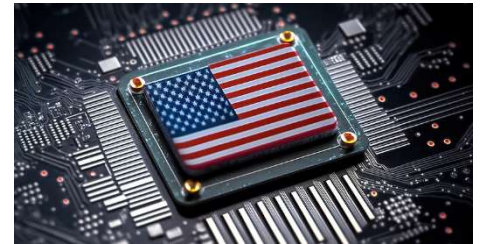
The Biden Administration has announced the “CHIPS for America” Fund, which will provide funding for U.S. projects with capital funding under \$300 Million. The projects focus on producing the materials required to manufacture chips in the United States. Applicants are required to submit a concept plan for the funding’s use. This comes after the global market faced a microchip shortage from the COVID-19 pandemic and Congress’ passing of the Chips and Science Act in August 2022. The Chips and Science Act caused an additional \$50 Billion in

investments into U.S. American semiconductor manufacturing.

The United States’ investment in semiconductor manufacturing helps release a dependence on foreign semiconductor producers. Taiwan has been a primary manufacturer of semiconductors on the global market, but statements from the Chinese government on Taiwan’s independence have raised concerns about Taiwan’s long-term stability as the main manufacturer. European nations have also begun to take steps to develop semiconductor manufacturing plants. Germany has begun working with the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing

Company (TSMC) to develop a chip plant in Dresden, marking the beginning of a diversified microchip manufacturing industry.

With high confidence, it is highly likely the United States and Europe will continue to expand semiconductor manufacturing operations with the intent to protect microchip supply chains.



# Tensions Rising Amid Talks of Peace between Houthi Rebels and Saudi Arabia

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For the first time since 2015, Iran-backed Houthi rebels left Saudi Arabia on 19 SEPT after five days of talks pertaining to a potential ceasefire deal. These talks were between Houthi negotiators and Saudi officials and were overlooked by Omani mediators. Deadlines for Saudi Arabia to remove their troops from Yemen, and mechanisms for paying public wages were among the topics discussed. These talks are the first step toward

the United Nations implementing a broader political peace process.

The Yemen Civil War has taken place for the last nine years, caused over 350,000 deaths, and put eighty percent of the country in need of humanitarian aid. The war started as a rebel coup attempting to overthrow a government they saw as corrupt. However, it has evolved into a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia that has stretched into a current stalemate. Although talks of peace may allude to an optimistic future for Yemen, Houthi rebels have been continuously testing the limits and

patience of Saudi Arabia amid these talks. Reports of Houthi drone strikes killing three Bahraini soldiers, close allies of Saudi Arabia, came only a week after the talks of peace had ended. Many Yemen analysts are predicting ulterior motives for these talks of peace as Saudi Arabia pulling their troops out of Yemen would create less resistance for Houthi rebels to attack other Yemeni provinces.

We can assess with moderate confidence that it is likely small skirmishes will continue to erupt from the Houthi, dampening chances for peace and an end to the war

## Weekly Intelligence Brief

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