

# Weekly Intelligence Brief

A Chanticleer Intelligence Brief Project



## United States and Venezuela Nearing Deal on Sanction Relief and Fair and Free Elections

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As of 10 OCT, the United States and Venezuela are close to agreeing on a new deal that would lift some US sanctions against Venezuela to ensure a fair and free election in the upcoming Venezuelan presidential elections. The US would lift some oil and banking sanctions. In return, Venezuela would remove all bans that restrict opposing candidates from running in elections. Two hurdles that Venezuela and the US are currently facing are what constitutes a “ban” and whether Juan Guaidó, the

former acting president of Venezuela, will be running for election.

Currently, Venezuela has measures in place that either heavily restrict or completely ban opposing political parties and candidates from running against the current President Nicolás Maduro. The Venezuelan presidential primary elections are currently set for 22 OCT. This is the unofficial deadline for the deal to ensure other candidates can campaign. These sanctions were put in place after President Maduro’s re-election in 2018, because the US saw the election as undemocratic and believed that Juan Guaidó was the true winner. Guaidó recently had a warrant

out for his arrest in Venezuela, despite residing in the US since 2021. Guaidó and his administration are still recognized as the legitimate President of Venezuela by the US. Guaidó has not commented on whether or not he has any plans to run, if this deal is agreed to.

We can assess with moderate confidence that it is likely this deal will be agreed to before the 22 OCT unofficial deadline. However, we can state with high confidence that it is likely that Venezuela will not hold up its end of the deal and will not lift all bans, especially if Guaidó decides to and is allowed to run.

# NASA Funding a Low Orbit Manufacturing Experiment to Develop a Production Economy in Space

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The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has provided Maxar Technologies, a space technology company, with a \$142 million contract with the intent to demonstrate the possibility of manufacturing in space. The demonstration will equip NASA's Restore-L spacecraft with a 16-foot robotic arm referred to as the Space Infrastructure Dexterous Robot (SPIDER). SPIDER will then construct a 9-foot functional comms antenna which will be capable of transmitting to a ground station. This mission is intended to

show the capabilities of small-level manufacturing in space.

Manufacturing in space provides opportunities for advancement in several industries, including pharmaceuticals, alloys, and semiconductors. Private companies plan to build on this concept, with Space Forge (Wales) developing a send-and-return manufacturing plant which would enter orbit, produce the desired product, and then return to Earth. The International Space Station (ISS) has confirmed the benefits of low orbit manufacturing through its experiments, concluding that low gravity environments reduce the cost of manufacturing in several industries, and NASA has

stated its intention to develop a low orbit economy by working with private companies.

With high confidence, it is likely that developments in low orbit manufacturing in several industries will continue to expand in the coming years.



## Japanese Defense Companies' Stocks Increase After Hamas Attack

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Between 06 OCT and 10 OCT, Japan's Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. stock prices saw an average increase of 6.2% or \$1.47 (¥220) per share. 06 OCT was the day before the initial Hamas-led attack in Israel and 10 OCT was the next open day for the Japanese stock

market. Over the thirty days prior to the Hamas attack, these Japanese defense companies had seen an overall decrease in stock prices of an average of 14.6% or \$6.20 (¥925.15) per share. The companies produce aircraft, naval vessels, and missiles for the Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF).

While both companies have had a decrease in stock prices over the last month, they have increased by an average of 60.5% or \$16.31 (¥2,253.50)

per share over the last year. This is likely due to the military spending plan announced in July 2023. This plan includes an increase in military spending of 152.9% or \$187.27 billion from the 2019-2023 budget to the 2024-2028 budget.

We can assess with moderate confidence that it is likely that these Japanese defense companies' stocks increased as a direct result of the Hamas attack.

### Weekly Intelligence Brief

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