

Hanwha's Chunmoo MRLS builds following in Europe



Three European nations have so far adopted the K239 Chunmoo multiple rocket launcher system (MRLS) from South Korea's Hanwha Aerospace.

The latest Chunmoo customer is Norway, which ordered the Chunmoo MRLS in January this year to fulfil a land-based long-range precision fires requirement of the Norwegian Armed Forces. The US\$922 million (AUD\$1.28 billion) contract will provide 16 Chunmoo launcher vehicles, a precision guided munitions package, training and logistics support.

Through a combination of various Hanwha-supplied rocket and missile types, the Norwegian Chunmoo MRLS will supplement tube artillery while also providing the ability to engage targets out to 500km. The standard guided 239mm rocket fired by Chunmoo, from twin six-round pods, has an effective range of 80km.

The selection of the Chunmoo system follows nearly a decade of successful co-operation between Hanwha and the Norwegian Armed Forces, which has seen contracts entered into for 52 K9 VIDAR (Versatile InDirect ARtillery) 155mm self-propelled howitzers and 14 K10 armoured ammunition resupply vehicles. The

ABOVE: Norway is the sixth nation to select the Chunmoo MRLS and the third in Europe.
Image: Hanwha

established performance and logistics framework of the K9 fleet served as a primary technical reference for the introduction of the Chunmoo system, Hanwha stated in a February 2026 release.

Chunmoo deliveries to Norway will commence in 2028, with the system fielded by a new rocket artillery battalion to be established by the Norwegian Army.

"Based on the bids we received, our assessment is that Hanwha's Chunmoo system provides the Norwegian Armed Forces with the best combination of performance, cost and ability to deliver. We greatly appreciate the transparency and competence Hanwha Aerospace has demonstrated throughout this process," said Gro Jære, Director General of the Norwegian Defence Materiel Agency.

The Norwegian contract sees the Chunmoo user group expand to six: the Republic of Korea, Norway, Poland, Estonia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Some 350 Chunmoo launchers are currently in service, with

orders received now totalling close to 580 systems collectively. Hanwha expects enhanced interoperability and the creation of synergies in integrated logistics support to result from the enlarged user group.

Norway's preference for the South Korean system also mirrors two other European nations, both NATO members, which have selected the Chunmoo MRLS. Like Norway, Poland and Estonia selected Chunmoo over the combat-proven M142 HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) from Lockheed Martin. In each case, cost and protracted delivery timelines were reportedly key reasons behind the preference for Chunmoo over HIMARS.

Poland will introduce 288 Chunmoo MRLS, with these to be mounted on a Jelcz 8x8 truck chassis and [designated the Homar-K](#). The deal also includes production of Hanwha's CGR-080 rocket in Poland. Estonia is purchasing six Chunmoo MRLS, with deliveries to begin in 2027.

- Ian Bostock