



Russian Next-Gen T-14 Tank Makes Ukraine Debut

Description

RUSSIA: While Western nations are working to upgrade Ukraine's ground game with US M-1 Abrams and German Leopard 2 tanks, Russia has now introduced its latest-generation tank into the war in Ukraine, according to Russia's state-owned *RIA*.

The new Russian tank is the **T-14 Armata**, which features an **unmanned turret**, with a three-man crew operating the vehicle from what *RIA* describes as an "isolated armored capsule located at the front of the hull." The tank has a maximum highway speed of 50 miles per hour.



A T-14 Armata on Tverskaya Street in Moscow before a Victory Day parade (TASS via [Daily Mail](#))

It's equipped with a **125mm smoothbore main gun** with a reported range of 8 kilometers. The gun is fed by an automated loader with a 45-round capacity, and can also fire laser-guided missiles.

On defense, it has both **reactive armor** that explodes outward upon a projectile's impact, and an **"active protection system" (APS)**, which *BBC* has described as "essentially an anti-missile system for tanks, with radars capable of tracking the incoming anti-tank missile, and projectiles that are launched to disrupt or destroy it." The T-14 is additionally distinguished from predecessor T-90 tanks by having higher ground clearance.

A developer also claimed the tank would have technology to hide it from radar- and heat-seeking targeting systems: **"We essentially made the tank invisible."** *RIA* reports the deployed T-14s have received "additional side protection from anti-tank ammunition."

Until now, **T-14 appearances have been largely limited to a series of Moscow Victory Day parades** stretching all the way back to 2015, though *RIA* says they have been "tested in Syria."



T-14 Armata tanks traverse Moscow's Red Square at the 2020 Victory Day parade
(Host Photo/Evgeny Biyatov via [Reuters](#))

Why has it taken so long for this supposed cutting-edge weapon to appear in Ukraine?

Especially where military procurement is concerned, it turns out the Russians aren't so different from the United States.

"Eleven years in development, the [T-14 Armata] programme has been dogged with delays, reduction in planned fleet size, and reports of manufacturing problems," the British military [said](#) in January.

Tank T-14 platform "Armata" pic.twitter.com/91TPWP2Rth

— Spriter (@Spriter99880) [April 25, 2023](#)

The initial order called for 2,300 of them to be delivered by 2020. However, the UK claims "**production is probably only in the low tens, while commanders are unlikely to trust the vehicle** in combat," and suggested its introduction in Ukraine may largely be for propaganda purposes. Of course, that jab may itself be propaganda.

Lending some credence to the claim of commander hesitancy, *RIA's* source says Russia is proceeding gradually with using the T-14 in Ukraine: "Russian troops have begun to use the latest Armata tanks to fire on Ukrainian positions. **They have not yet participated in direct assault operations.**"

Meanwhile, **Ukrainians are slated to begin 10 weeks of training on US M-1 tanks** at Grafenwoehr Training Area in the next few weeks. That means **we could see M-1 vs T-14 bouts by early fall** —

assuming the West continues thwarting attempts to reach a negotiated peace.

by Tyler Durden

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