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Israel tests U.S.-backed missile shield as Iran nuclear talks churn

A new Israeli air defense system being developed in partnership with the United States met all its objectives in a series of recent live interception tests, U.S. and Israeli officials said Wednesday, putting it on course for deployment by next year. According to Reuters, the system, David's Sling, shot down targets simulating longer-range missiles like Scuds that could be fired at Israel from Syria and by Lebanon's Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas. Moshe Yaalon, Israel's defense minister cited David's Sling as a mark of the continued vigor of the Israeli-U.S. alliance. "We believe that next year it (David's Sling) is going to be operational," Yaalon told visiting U.S. House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner, and added thanks for Washington's funding. "This ... is a major milestone in the development of the David's Sling weapon and provides confidence in future Israeli capabilities to defend against the developing threat," he said.