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US Army inks \$193 million deal to buy Israeli tank defense system

The US Army on Tuesday awarded a contract worth nearly \$200 million for Israel's TROPHY defense system to shield its Abrams tanks, according to the Rafael Advanced Defense Systems contractor, as reported by the Times of Israel. The systems, which block incoming anti-tank missiles, will be supplied to the US Army by the American defense contractor Leonardo DRS, Inc., which partnered with Rafael to manufacture them. The TROPHY, known in Hebrew as me'il ruach, or windbreaker, is an active defense system manufactured by Rafael that is designed to protect tanks and other armored vehicles from missiles and rockets. It was first developed by Rafael and the Israel Aircraft Industries' Elta Group and was declared operational in 2009. The system is made up of a radar detection system that spots incoming missiles and predicts their trajectories, and launchers that fire buckshot-like metal pellets, which cause the incoming missile or rocket to detonate away from the tank.