

U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission



Press Release

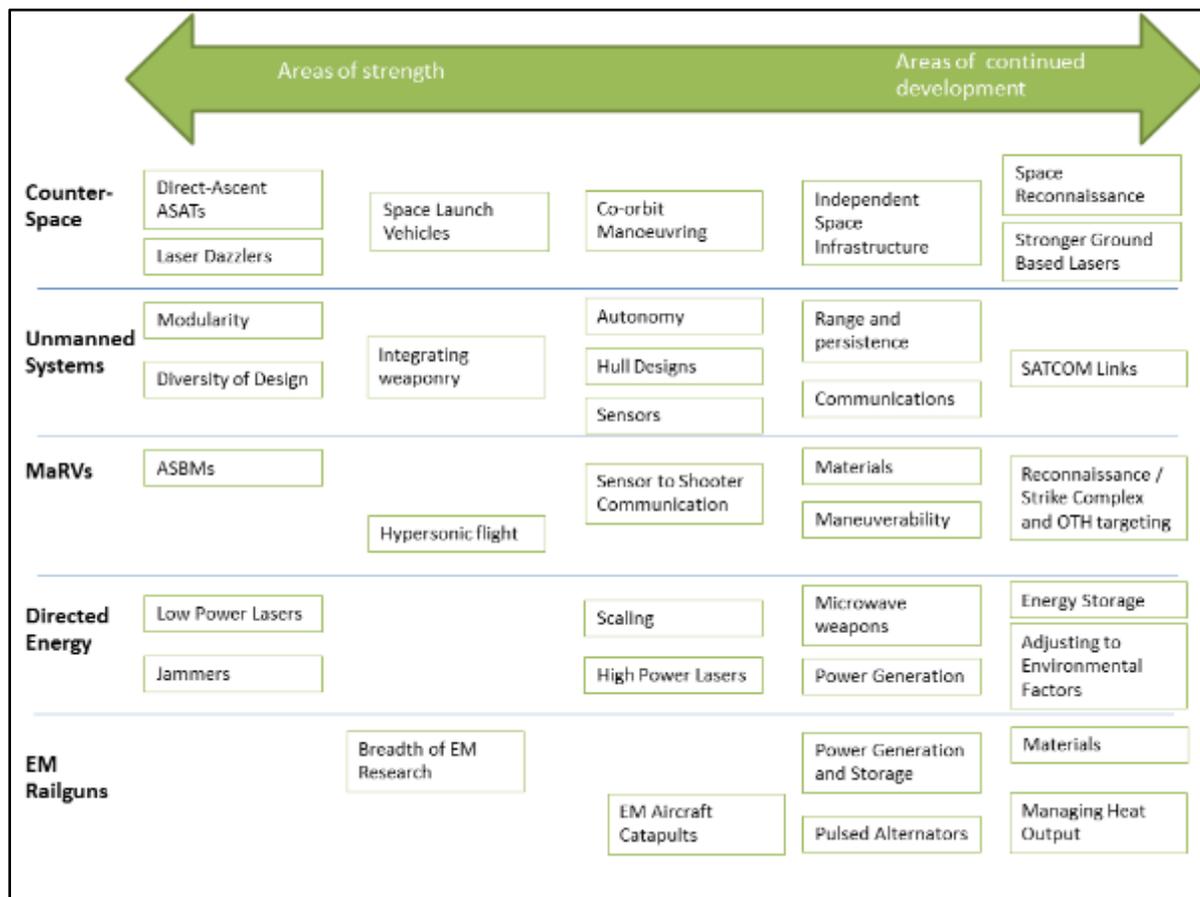
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NEW REPORT: China's Advanced Weapons Systems

Washington, DC— Today, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission released a report entitled *China's Advanced Weapons Systems*, prepared for the Commission by Jane's by IHS Markit. The report examines five categories of China's advanced weapons systems (counter-space, unmanned systems, maneuverable reentry vehicles, directed energy and electromagnetic railguns) and artificial intelligence applications for national defense. The report also assesses the implications of China's advanced weapons programs for the United States and its allies and provides recommendations.

Figure 1: Strengths and Weaknesses in China's Advanced Weapons Development



Key Findings:

- Given the maturity of some of these systems, Jane's estimates that the United States has a small window, only a decade at most, to develop new capabilities and concepts for countering China's advanced weapons programs.
- Of the five systems evaluated (plus artificial intelligence), Jane's assesses that for China the counter-space program is highest priority. The depth and breadth of China's counter-space capability could over the next decade degrade the effectiveness of U.S. space architecture or diminish or deny access to the architecture critical to exercising most U.S. military capabilities.
- In the short term, China will focus on building power projection capabilities and enhancing its anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities by developing counterspace, unmanned systems, maneuverable re-entry vehicles and hypersonic glide vehicles, directed energy weapons, and electromagnetic railguns. In the long-run, autonomous unmanned systems and artificial intelligence will become China's main priority in advanced weapons development.
- The United States maintains an overall advantage, but Chinese industry's ability to develop and refine capabilities that target U.S. and allied vulnerabilities pose credible threats to U.S. military superiority absent sufficient (and frequently costly) responses.

The report was authored by Tate Nurkin, with contributions from Kelly Bedard, James Clad, Cameron Scott, and Jon Grevatt.

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The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission was created by Congress to report on the national security implications of the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China. For more information, visit www.uscc.gov.

DISCLAIMER: This report was prepared at the request of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission to support its deliberations. Posting of the report to the Commission's website is intended to promote greater public understanding of the issues addressed by the Commission in its ongoing assessment of U.S.-China economic relations and their implications for U.S. security, as mandated by Public Law 110-161 and Public Law 113-291. However, it does not necessarily imply an endorsement by the Commission or any individual Commissioner of the views or conclusions expressed in this commissioned research report.