

OSINT Snapshot: Procurement files detail plans for new Russian SIGINT system

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Jane's OSINT snapshots are brief analyses of recent national security-related news using lesser-visited online sources. *Bart Hendrickx* uses Russian-language procurement documents and academic papers to trace the outlines of a new Russian signals intelligence system

Russia is constructing four signals intelligence (SIGINT) sites that will be used to collect and analyse radio signals emitted by foreign satellites flying over Russian territory. These data will complement the information on foreign satellites obtained by the optical and radar facilities that constitute the country's Space Surveillance System (Sistema kontrolya kosmicheskogo prostranstva: SKKP).



DigitalGlobe imagery showing a likely signals intelligence site under construction near Dubrovo, east of Moscow, including mountings and pads likely to be for three antennae complexes (IPK-V, -N, and -S) identified in online documentation related to the site.

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DigitalGlobe imagery showing a likely SIGINT site under construction near Dubrovo, east of Moscow, including mountings and pads likely to be for three antennae complexes (IPK-V, -N, and -S) identified in online documentation related to the site. (Satellite imagery © 2018 DigitalGlobe, Inc. / © 2018 IHS Markit: 1725526)

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The SIGINT facilities are being built under a project known as Sledopyt ('Pathfinder'). Its existence was publicly revealed in March 2015 by Colonel Vasiliy Kuznetsov, head of the 145th Space Surveillance Centre in Noginsk-9, which is also home to the 821st Main Space Intelligence Centre, the headquarters of the SKKP network.

Speaking in an interview with the *Krasnaya Zvezda* newspaper, Kuznetsov disclosed that construction of these sites was under way in the Altai, Kaliningrad, Moscow, and Primorsk regions, and that they would replace a mobile satellite SIGINT system called Moment. In a Russian government document available online, Moment is associated with the index code 14G6. Only one Moment system is believed to have been deployed, several kilometres to the south of Noginsk-9.

No further official information on Sledopyt emerged after the 2015 interview, but procurement documents published online and reviewed by *Jane's* in late November 2018 provide further details of the project. These documents reveal that the SIGINT sites have the general code number 1511 and are also referred to as 14Ts032. Their names and locations are: 1511/1, Dubrovo/Noginsk-9 (about 65 km northeast of Moscow); 1511/2, Pionerskiy (about 30 km northwest of Kaliningrad); 1511/3, Sudokhol (just north of Bolshoi Kamen in the Primorsk region); and 1511/4, Shakhi (about 30 km west of Barnaul in the Altai region).

Available procurement documentation suggests that the sites have a similar layout and cover an area of roughly 0.4 sq km each. Key facilities are a "technical building" (identified as 501) to gather and relay the obtained information, and separately located antenna complexes designed to pick up satellite signals with low frequencies (502 or IPK-N), medium frequencies (503 or IPK-S), and high frequencies (504 or IPK-V).

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