## Anduril Industries to supply advanced attack drones to Ukraine as it builds Ohio facility

By Staff Columbus Dispatch

The British arm of a drone manufacturer planning a nearly \$1 billion weapons facility near Rickenbacker International Airport has reached an agreement to provide drones to Ukraine for its war with Russia.

The British government said on Thursday it had struck a deal with defense tech company Anduril UK to allow Ukrainian armed forces to use more advanced attack drones in the Black Sea. Anduril UK is part of <u>Anduril Industries</u>, based an hour south of <u>Los Angeles in Costa Mesa</u>, California.

The British government said in a statement the contracts, totaling nearly \$38.68 million, will result in Anduril UK supplying to Ukraine drones designed to monitor an area before striking targets that enter it.

Locally, Anduril plans to add <u>4,000 new jobs at a \$900 million facility in Pickaway County at Rickenbacker International Airport by 2035</u>. Those hired will work in a 5 million square foot manufacturing facility named "Arsenal 1," according to a previous company announcement.

Anduril engineers work on everything from artificial intelligence to robotics, software, sensors, secure networking, aerospace and virtual reality technology, according to the company's website.

The first product Anduril plans to start building in Ohio is its Fury unmanned aircraft system, Christian Brose, chief strategy officer, previously said. The company plans to follow up production of its Fury drone with its Barracuda and Roadrunner drones.

No explosives for any of the drones will will be made at the company's Ohio facility, Brose said.

British Defense Secretary John Healey MP visited Anduril in Washington D.C. this week ahead of a meeting with his U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth at the Pentagon, according to a UK government press release.

"We are determined to achieve a secure, lasting peace in Ukraine, which means putting Ukraine in the strongest possible position to prevent any return to Russian aggression," Healey said in a release.

The deal comes as the Trump Administration has <u>stopped military aid</u> and <u>intelligence sharing with Ukraine</u> after a <u>public spat between the</u> <u>president and Ukrainian President Volodymy Zelenskyy last week.</u>