

# WHAT ARE KILLER ROBOTS/LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS?



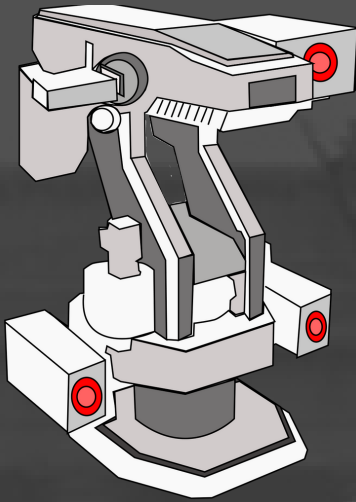
**KILLER ROBOTS OR LETHAL AUTONOMOUS WEAPON SYSTEMS (LAWS) ARE COMPLETELY AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS THAT CAN SELECT AND ATTACK TARGETS WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT HUMAN CONTROL.**

**THIS MEANS THAT THE DECISION TO DEPLOY LETHAL FORCE WOULD BE DELEGATED TO A MACHINE. THIS FAR-REACHING DEVELOPMENT WOULD FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE THE WAY WAR IS CONDUCTED.**

**THE FUNCTION OF SELECTING AND ATTACKING TARGETS AUTONOMOUSLY COULD BE APPLIED TO SEVERAL PLATFORMS, FOR EXAMPLE IN A BATTLE TANK, A FIGHTER PLANE OR A SHIP.**

**IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI), IS THE RESULT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND WIDE ADVANCES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE LEVELS OF PROGRAMMING AND COMPUTATIONAL ABSTRACTION, ARE ASPECTS THAT ARE LEADING THE NEW FORMS OF WAR IN THE CURRENT ERA, SO MUCH SO THAT THE AUTONOMY TO MAKE DECISIONS OF LIFE AND DEATH IS BEING LEFT TO THE MACHINES.**

**BELOW ARE SOME OF THE AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS BEING DEVELOPED BY SEVEN COUNTRIES THAT ARE SEEKING TO BECOME LEADERS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HAVE INVESTED THE MOST IN THEIR MILITARY APPLICATIONS: THE UNITED STATES, CHINA, RUSSIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, ISRAEL AND SOUTH KOREA.**



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**MADE BY: HANWHA (SOUTH KOREA).  
SOLD TO: SOUTH KOREA.**

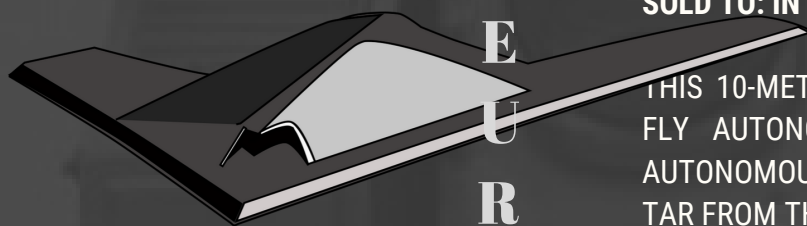
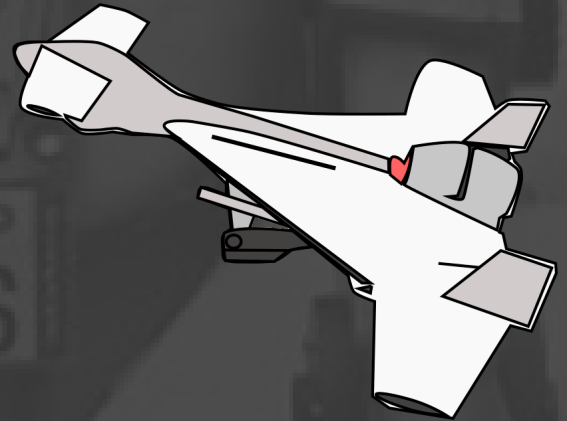
THIS STATIONARY ROBOT, ARMED WITH A MACHINE GUN AND A GRENADE LAUNCHER, OPERATED ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. IT CAN DETECT HUMANS USING INFRARED SENSORS AND PATTERN RECOGNITION SOFTWARE. THE ROBOT HAS A SUPERVISED AND AN UNSUPERVISED MODE. IT CAN IDENTIFY AND TRACK INTRUDERS, WITH THE ABILITY TO SHOOT THEM.

**MADE BY: ISRAELI AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES (ISRAEL).**

**SOLD TO: CHINA, INDIA, ISRAEL, SOUTH KOREA AND TURKEY.**

THIS 2.1 M LONG MISSILE IS LAUNCHED FROM A LAND VEHICLE. IT IS ARMED WITH A 15 KG EXPLOSIVE WARHEAD. THE HARPY CAN PROWL FOR UP TO NINE HOURS STRAIGHT, LOOKING FOR ENEMY RADAR SIGNALS. IT AUTOMATICALLY DETECTS, ATTACKS AND DESTROYS ENEMY RADAR EMITTERS FLYING TOWARDS THE TARGET AND DETONATING.

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**MADE BY: DASSAULT AVIATION (FRANCE).  
SOLD TO: IN DEVELOPMENT**

THIS 10-METER-LONG UNMANNED COMBAT AIRCRAFT CAN FLY AUTONOMOUSLY FOR MORE THAN 3 HOURS FOR AUTONOMOUS DETECTION, LOCATION AND RECOGNITION OF TAR FROM THE GROUND.

THE NEURON HAS FULLY AUTOMATED TURNING CAPABILITIES, TARGET ADJUSTMENT AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SYSTEMS.

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**MADE BY: THE PENTAGON - UNITED STATES.**

**SOLD TO: IN DEVELOPMENT.**

THIS 40M LONG SELF-NAVIGATING WARSHIP IS DESIGNED TO HUNT ENEMY SUBMARINES AND CAN OPERATE WITHOUT CONTACT WITH A HUMAN OPERATOR FOR 2-3 MONTHS AT A TIME. IT IS CURRENTLY UNARMED. U.S. REPRESENTATIVES HAVE SAID THAT THE GOAL IS TO ARM THE SEA HUNTERS AND BUILD UNMANNED FLEETS WITHIN A FEW YEARS. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT ANY DECISION TO USE OFFENSIVE LETHAL FORCE WOULD BE MADE BY HUMANS.

# WHAT ARE **NOT THE KILLER** **ROBOTS?**

CURRENTLY, ARMED DRONES ARE STILL UNDER THE CONTROL OF A HUMAN OPERATOR WHO OPERATES THE WEAPON SYSTEMS FROM A DISTANCE AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SELECTING AND IDENTIFYING TARGETS, AS WELL AS PULLING THE TRIGGER AT THE TIME OF FIRING. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE TERMINATOR'S CONCEPT OF SCIENCE FICTION. THIS IS UNLIKELY TO BECOME A REALITY IN THE NEXT FEW DECADES, IF AT ALL. THE ISSUE OF KILLER ROBOTS, OR AUTONOMOUS LETHAL WEAPON SYSTEMS, IS THE ELIMINATION OF SIGNIFICANT HUMAN CONTROL OF CRITICAL TARGET SELECTION AND ATTACK FUNCTIONS, BEARING IN MIND THAT SOME OF THESE SYSTEMS MAY BE CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND COULD BE DEPLOYED IN THE YEARS TO COME.

## Perform the activity:

Watch the video below and follow the instructions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlO2gcs1YvM&t=42s>

How can you do it?

-Killer Robots and / or Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, are the result of technological advances and science, although we are not against the development of human ease and usefulness, it is vital to create an awareness of the use of technology and science to weapons, which generates a strong and serious problem in the international system. For this reason, we want you to creatively create a film forum or debate with your family or closest friends.

-Remember that you must share the photographic evidence and a small report of the success of your meeting in order to obtain your diploma corresponding to this module.

