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<b>Section</b>	Home	<b>Pageviews</b>	N/A
<b>Headline</b>	[SINARH] Russia will not participate in the DSA exhibition, NATSEC 2024		
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### **[SINARH] Russia will not participate in the DSA exhibition, NATSEC 2024**

KUALA LUMPUR - Russia will not participate in the Defense Services Asia (DSA) and National Security Exhibition (NATSEC) Asia 2024 which will take place from 6 to 9 May next at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Center (MITEC).

The Executive Director of DSA 2024, Nadzeem Abdul Rahman confirmed the matter, saying that those who want to participate in the biennial defense and security exhibition must do so on a voluntary basis because the organizers have not issued any invitations.

"We take a non-inviting approach. They have to be voluntary. That means if they want to participate (DSA and NATSEC Asia 2024 Exhibition), those who request to participate. We will not force or beg them to participate."

"In terms of the participation of Russia, there is none at this (edition). We did not invite, but we accepted," he told Bernama in an exclusive interview in conjunction with the organization of the largest defense and security exhibition in Southeast Asia, recently. Nadzeem said, as a result of discussions with Russian companies, it was found that they needed an invitation to participate in the biennial defense and security exhibition, but the organizers took the approach of not issuing invitations.

Although Russia will not participate in the defense and security exhibition next May, the country's defense products are likely to be exhibited through the representatives of their companies in this country.

"I'm sure it's possible that their (Russian) products will also be exhibited (at DSA and NATSEC Asia 2024) through their (company) agents or representatives (in Malaysia)," he said. Russian companies were among the biggest exhibitors at the previous edition of the biennial defense exhibition.

According to Nadzeem, until now 30 countries have confirmed participation in the biennial defense and security exhibition, including the United States, China, Australia, Brazil, Germany, India, France, Italy, South Korea, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United Kingdom.

"Overall, the 2024 DSA and NATSEC Asia Exhibition will record the participation of more than 1,200 companies from 45 countries with a focus on local industry development and international cooperation," he said.

He said, the participation of exhibitors for this year has surpassed the record of DSA and NATSEC Asia 2022. Turkiye according to him once again appeared as the largest contingent at the DSA and NATSEC 2024 Exhibition with almost 70 companies from the Mediterranean country having confirmed their participation including Aselsan, Canik, Dearsan Shipyard and Turkish Aerospace Industries.