

<p>Babcock to appeal directly to VT investors<br />The battle for control of VT Group escalated after Babcock International said it would take its £1.2bn-plus proposal to buy its support services rival directly to shareholders.<br />Financial Times<br /><br />Thales shares tumble over losses<br />Thales saw almost 13 percent wiped off the value of its shares on Friday it plunged into the red and warned of a "marathon" turnaround from loss-making deals.<br />Reuters</p> <p>Russia asks Bulgaria to explain US missile shield plans<br />Russia says it is asking Bulgaria to explain its plans to deploy US air defence missiles on its soil. The move follows reports that talks between Sofia and Washington on hosting elements of the US missile shield in Bulgaria have already begun.<br />BBC News<br /><br />A400M talks hone in on inflation, military gadgets<br />A thorny inflation clause and a shopping list of military gadgets dominated the final round of talks to rescue the delayed A400M troop plane on Thursday as the main backer of Airbus parent EADS said a deal was in sight.<br />Reuters<br /><br />U.S. Joins Effort To Set Global Arms Sale Controls<br />The United States is working with other countries and the United Nations to impose uniform controls on international sales of conventional arms. But the U.S. State Department said it is likely to be years before an Arms Trade Treaty takes effect.<br />Defense News</p>