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**UKRAINE'S ANSWER TO THE PATRIOT PROBLEM: BUILD SOMETHING CHEAPER, AND BUILD IT FAST**

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The US-Israeli war against Iran has exposed a vulnerability in Europe that had previously received little attention: air defence systems.

Countries on Natos eastern flank depend on the US Patriot system for defence against enemy ballistic missiles.

But as the US and its allies in the Middle East expended a historic number of Patriot missiles repelling Iranian attacks, the situation sparked concerns about whether ordered supplies for European allies would be fulfilled on time. Washington has also shifted some of its Patriot batteries to the Middle East from Europe.

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