



Evegnee: drones over the arsenal

A European arms maker reported a sharp rise in drones over its Belgian rocket factory. It can detect them but, by law, may not bring them down.

INCIDENT DETAILS • 5WH

Who Operator - unconfirmed and officially unattributed. Casualties - none.

What A significant increase in uncrewed aerial vehicles overflying a defence manufacturer's facilities, reported publicly by the company.

Where Thales Belgium's plant at Evegnee Fort, Liege region, licensed to assemble and store explosives for 70 mm rockets.

When Reported early October 2025; the wider Belgian drone crisis escalated through November.

Why Not established. Overflights of a plant producing air-defence munitions, most output bound for Ukraine.

How Repeated overflights the company can detect but may not jam or shoot down under Belgian law.

IMPACT

- Operational: a live safety and continuity risk to a plant that stores explosives.
- Intelligence: persistent overflights offer imagery and pattern-of-life on a defence-industrial site.
- Reputational: a NATO member's defence industry surveilled from the air while the operator is unknown.
- Adversary gain: a low-cost way to probe, intimidate and map a critical supplier, with deniability intact.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

A A site that matters - rockets, mostly bound for Ukraine

B Detection without authority to act

C Nov 2025: Belgian airport closures draw allied counter-drone help

1 A defence plant licensed for explosives

2 Overflights rise sharply through autumn

3 Company detects but may not intervene

4 Public call for clearer rules

5 Part of a continental wave of overflights

ASSESSMENT, LESSONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detection without authority is not protection - the legal gap is the finding.
- Attribution is absent, and the collection value to whoever is flying them is not.
- Defence suppliers carry state-level exposure without state-level powers.
- It is almost certain that defence-industrial sites remain a target for aerial reconnaissance.