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NATO Sets Sights on Boosting Weapons and Ammunition Production

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NATO is moving to significantly scale up weapons and ammunition production across the alliance, in a bid to strengthen long-term defense readiness and replenish stockpiles strained by the ongoing war in Ukraine. The decision follows a series of high-level meetings among defense ministers and industry leaders, where concerns were raised about the pace and volume of current military output.

The alliance has acknowledged that existing production levels are not keeping pace with demand, particularly when it comes to critical supplies like artillery shells, air defense systems, and guided missiles. With the conflict in Ukraine highlighting the intensity and duration of modern warfare, NATO members are now under increased pressure to not only maintain support for Kyiv but also ensure they can meet their own defense needs.

NATO officials have been clear that this is not just about short-term resupply. The goal is to build a more resilient and responsive defense industrial base that can deliver equipment at scale and speed. As part of this effort, member states are being encouraged to place larger, longer-term orders, providing manufacturers with the confidence and stability needed to invest in new facilities, hire skilled workers, and streamline production lines.

Industry has been called upon to play a central role. At a recent defense industry forum, companies across Europe and North America pledged to expand capacity and cut delivery times. The alliance is also working to reduce bureaucratic delays by encouraging more flexible procurement processes and facilitating cross-border collaboration within the defense sector.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte emphasized that ramping up production is critical to collective security. He noted that while many countries have increased defense spending in recent years, that investment must now be matched with faster and more coordinated action on the ground.

The production push comes as NATO prepares for further geopolitical uncertainty. Leaders are framing this shift not just as a response to current conflict, but as a long-term adjustment to a more contested global environment, where sustained preparedness will be essential to deterrence and defense.