

North Korea says AI was built into an intermediate-range missile it test-fired

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Source: <https://www.omanobserver.om/article/1197178/world/asia/north-korea-says-test-of-intermediate-range-missile-included-use-of-ai>

Text saved 18 Oct 2026 (the page as published).

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North Korea says test of intermediate-range missile included use of AI

Published: 9:43 PM, Oct 03, 2026

News coverage showing file footage of a North Korean missile launch is seen on a screen at Seoul Station in Seoul. — AFP

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SEOUL: North Korea said it tested an intermediate-range strategic missile on Saturday that involved the use of AI, hours after Seoul said Pyongyang had launched a ballistic missile. The launch took place days after Seoul's military demanded an apology from Pyongyang for a blast that wounded three South Korean soldiers in the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) that it blamed on the North. Pyongyang has denied responsibility for last month's explosion and called South Korea "despicable" on Friday, undercutting overtures by Seoul's civilian leadership seeking a return to dialogue.

Early on Saturday, "our military detected a ballistic missile launched from the Wonsan area of North Korea toward the East Sea," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan. "South Korea, the US, and Japan are maintaining a robust defence posture through close information sharing regarding North Korean ballistic missiles," it said, adding the missile flew more than 700 kilometres.

Hours later, Kim Yo Jong, the sister of Pyongyang's leader Kim Jong Un, said the missile fired in the morning was an "intermediate-range strategic missile". She said the projectile is "capable of changing its flight orbit at a low altitude and AI was introduced into it", without elaborating further on the use of artificial intelligence. She said it meant "there is no way to avoid" the missile's attack, and claimed Kim Jong Un believed "any country in the world could not have access to such technology for at least several years". Her latest statement followed Kim Jong Un's remarks last month stressing the need to raise "the level of artificial intelligence" in the country's weapons systems. — AFP

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