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## Erdogan underscores need for indigenous air defense capabilities



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Ankara, August 27 (AA)– President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has underscored the critical importance of developing homegrown air defense systems, citing current global security challenges as a driving factor for Türkiye’ s defense strategy.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of defense firm Aselsan in Ankara, President Erdogan

said, “No country that cannot develop its own air defense system can look to the future with confidence in the face of current challenges.”

He announced that the introduction of the Steel Dome air defense system would place Türkiye “in a different league” and significantly enhance its defensive capabilities. The President highlighted the planned integration of three HISAR medium-range air defense systems and 21 additional vehicles, measures aimed at bolstering Türkiye’s medium-range deterrence.

Erdogan further stressed that Türkiye’s advancements in the defense sector not only strengthen national security but also enhance its role as a reliable partner for allies. “We are making our defense industry systems available to our friends and allies while increasing our diplomatic effectiveness,” he stated.

The President reaffirmed Türkiye’s determination to achieve full defense self-sufficiency, signaling that indigenous systems will remain at the core of its security and strategic planning in the coming years.