



## Solid fuel, a long-range precision missiles threat

Several state and non-state actors (plan to) develop solid-fueled medium and long-range precision missiles.

Market circumstances influence the production of solid fuel and the availability of crushing and mixing machines commonly used in the mining industry — a powerful industrial planetary mixer used in the creation of solid-state fuel. Solid fuel - Synthesis via attrition mill with magnesium oxide or any TALC variation (talcum powder).

### Talcum powder and planetary mixers

Two incidents changed the market circumstances drastically:



1. *The American bombing in the Nangarhar Province of eastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan.* On April 13, 2017, the United States conducted an airstrike. It used the giant non-nuclear bomb in its arsenal, the Massive Ordnance Air Blast (**MOAB**), to destroy tunnel complexes used by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – Khorasan Province, a branch of **ISIL – ISIS**. As a result, materials that generally need intensive mining operations are lying around on the surface for free. The Taliban immediately claimed that mining of talc in that area and production of talc powder was theirs to keep.

2. *in 2018, Johnson & Johnson was ordered to pay \$4.7bn damages in the talc cancer case, followed by the biggest buyers of talc powder, the health, and the beauty industry, first recalling products with talc powder and then stopped using it in their consumer products.*

The demand for talc powder plunged, production of mixers, and crushing machines became less profitable. And today, the global market for these special mixers and crushers is for a significant part controlled by low-cost Chinese companies.

### Beirut strike will delay Hezbollah missile program by at least a year

*“Powerful planetary mixer used for the creation of solid-state fuel is said to have been destroyed in a drone explosion; was reportedly flown in from Iran.”* That might be, but we know it was made and sold by a Chinese company.