

joint missile defense program using short and medium range missiles to destroy ballistic missiles on their way up rather than intercepting the missiles on their way down as the US plan calls for. In theory, this plan would provide for ballistic missile defense from rogue States but would be of little use against the Russian nuclear force.

Deploying a NMD system could have graver implications than the demise of the ABM Treaty. It is feared that a NMD deployment could trigger a new arms race, with significant increases in the number of ballistic missiles in the arsenals of states. Moreover, fielding such a system could cause certain countries to sell missile defense countermeasures to others countries, making it more difficult for the NMD to intercept.