

# RUSSIA'S IL-76MD-M PLANE UNDERGOING PRODUCTION FLIGHT TESTS

News / Manufacturer

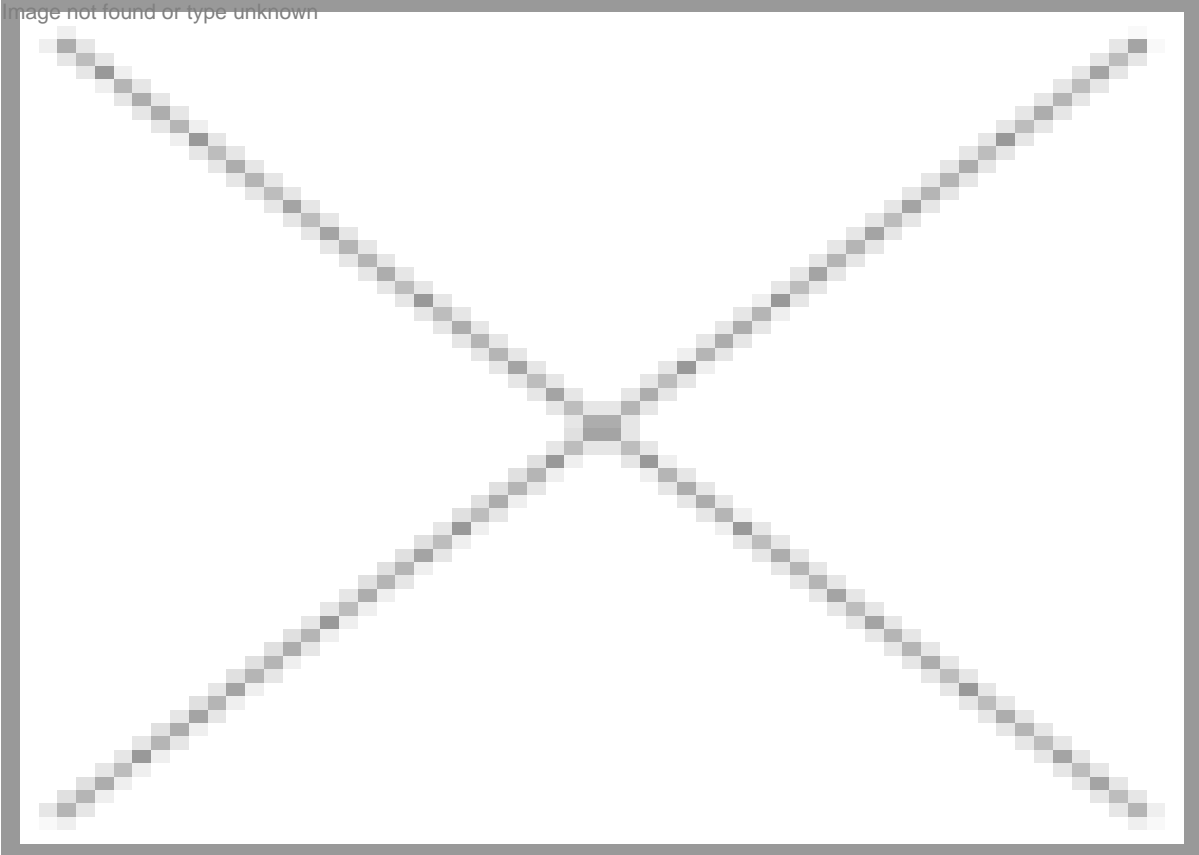


**The Ilyushin Il-76MD-M military transport plane is currently performing test flights as part of its production flight tests, the press office of Russia's Radio-Electronic Technologies Group said.**

**"As of today, the plane has performed ten test flights. During the upgrade, the plane's service life was extended to 40 years. The plane also received a new flight and navigation system and its lighting, airdropping, utility, self-defense and communications equipment has been replaced," the press office said.**

According to the press office, a multipurpose electro-optical sighting system was installed in the Il-76MD-M plane's nose to make airdrops more accurate and safer. The system allows watching the drop zone in all weather conditions as it works in the infrared and optical bands.

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"During the upgrade, the plane received some units interchangeable with parts of the advanced Il-76MD-90A military transport plane," the press office said.

According to Russia's Defense Ministry, the upgrade of the Il-76MD plane to the Il-76MD-M level is expected to cost 30% or less than the cost of advanced aircraft.

In all, 41 Il-76MD planes are planned to be upgraded to the Il-76MD-M level. Work is currently under way to upgrade the Il-78 and Il-78M aerial refueling planes to the Il-78-2 and Il-78M-2 level, respectively.

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