

Is Russia developing space-based nuclear weapon? What we know of US claim

MOSCOW/WASHINGTON, Feb 15 (Reuters) - What is the space-based nuclear weapon that the United States has warned Congress and allies in Europe that Russia could use against the West's satellites?

The exact nature of the weapon - and whether it actually exists - is unclear. But threatening satellites could cause all sorts of mischief - undermining communications, surveillance, intelligence and command and control around the world, including in the nuclear sphere.

It is unclear why Russia would need to use nuclear weapons to destroy a satellite. The New York Times said the United States does not have the ability to counter such a weapon.

Following is what is known and not known.

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