

# AVIASTAR-SP TO UPGRADE THREE AN-124 RUSLAN TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT

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Russian aircraft manufacturer Aviastar-SP, based in Ulyanovsk, will upgrade three Antonov An-124 Ruslan (NATO reporting name: Condor) heavy transport planes, the manufacturer's press office told TASS on Tuesday in a message.

*"Under a government contract, Aviastar-SP JSC will modernize three An-124 planes - one in 2016 and two in 2017,"* the message says.

According to the press office, individual elements of the planes will be upgraded to improve their characteristics and reliability and extend their service life.

*"The An-124s will be upgraded to An-124-100 standard,"* the manufacturer said.

The An-124 heavy airlifter is designed for carrying large-size cargo as well as large groups of troops and their materiel. It has a maximum lifting capacity of 120 tons, a maximum speed of 865 km/h and a full-load range of 4,800 km. According to US publication Military Balance, the Russian Aerospace Force operates a fleet of nine An-124s, with the Volga-Dnepr air carrier flying 10 more.

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**SOURCE: RUAVIATION**

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