

Sonobuoy Launcher Industry: Key Trends, Regional Analysis, and Forecast

Sonobuoy

Launcher Market outlook:

The Sonobuoy Launcher Market, anti-submarine warfare (ASW) has become a critical component of national security strategies. At the core of modern ASW capabilities lies a relatively compact but technologically sophisticated tool the sonobuoy launcher. According to a new market research report, the global Sonobuoy Launcher Market is expected to grow from USD 254 million in 2023 to USD 374 million by 2031, at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 5%. This growth is driven by increased naval threats, expanding maritime surveillance programs, and rising investments in unmanned systems.

What is a Sonobuoy Launcher?

A [sonobuoy launcher](#)

is a specialized mechanism used to deploy sonobuoys — sonar-equipped buoys that are dropped into the ocean to detect underwater threats like submarines or torpedoes. These launchers are mounted on aircraft, ships, and increasingly, unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) and drones. Once launched, the sonobuoys transmit acoustic data back to command centers or onboard systems, enabling real-time threat detection.

There are two major types of sonobuoy launchers:

- Pneumatic launchers – which use compressed air to deploy the sonobuoys
- Mechanical or cartridge-based systems – which use explosive cartridges or springs for deployment

Each type plays a vital role depending on the mission and platform configuration, with modern systems increasingly favoring modular, lightweight, and multi-mode launch solutions.

Market Drivers: Why is the Sonobuoy Launcher Market Growing

Rising

Global Submarine Threats

With increasing investments in submarine fleets across China, Russia, India, and NATO allies, navies are doubling down on undersea detection systems. The stealth capabilities of modern submarines — including nuclear-powered and air-independent propulsion (AIP) vessels — demand enhanced acoustic surveillance, which sonobuoy systems provide.

Expansion

of Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Programs Countries like the United States, Japan, and Australia

