

# Procurement News

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## BAe systems

### Indian Hawk deal

**After 20 years of patient and convoluted negotiation, India says it will buy Hawk**

In a \$1.7bn deal needed to end a string of accidents in its Air Force, India has announced that it will buy British Hawk Trainers

The deal for 66 aircraft, training, development and infrastructure, was worth 80bn rupees (\$1.7bn), according to Indian Defence Ministry officials.

This is the third selection of Hawk this year (India, UK and Bahrain). The proposal for 66 aircraft will cover not only the aircraft but also support. The first batch of 24 aircraft will be built in the UK and the

remaining 42 manufactured in India through a partnership with India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

The aircraft will be manufactured at the company's Brough site in East Yorkshire, with flight testing taking place at Warton in Lancashire. The Indian Air Force are to receive an advanced version of the Hawk 100 series featuring a glass cockpit with hands-on-throttle-and-stick (HOTAS) controls, head down multi-function displays (MFD) and a head up display (HUD).

India, which has the world's fourth-largest air force, badly needs trainer jets. Pilots now go straight from a basic low speed jet to ageing Russian MiG-21 fighters, dubbed 'flying coffins' because of frequent crashes.

The Hawk has long been the frontrunner for the deal since the Indian Air Force formally proposed a trainer plane in 1985. Last year, just as the government was nearing a decision, state-run Czech firm Aero Vodochody, in which BAE's US rival Boeing holds a 35% stake, entered the fray offering what it said was a cheaper trainer.

More than 800 Hawk aircraft are currently in service with some 17 customers.



Above: The Hawk is already in RAF Service

## BAe systems

### BAe buys in

**BAe Systems agrees to purchase 29% of issued share capital, in Alvis plc (and Alvis8) from GKN plc for £73m in cash**

Alvis has operations in the UK, Scandinavia and South Africa. Its vehicles combine advanced software and electronic systems with leading-edge vehicle, weapon and protection technology.

Commenting on the transaction, Mike Turner, Chief Executive of BAE SYSTEMS (pictured below), said:

"Alvis is an excellent company. We believe that this investment will result in new opportunities to work together, in a combination that is good for UK Land Systems capability, and will further enhance Alvis's strong growth potential."

Completion of the acquisition remains conditional upon BAE Systems receiving regulatory clearance in Germany.



**BAe systems**

# MoD choose Hawk

**In a separate deal, the MoD intends to purchase 20 Hawks, with options to buy up to 24 more**

The value of a full order for 44 aircraft is expected to be about £800m. The aircraft, due to enter service in 2008, will be used to train the future pilots for the Tornado GR4, Harrier GR7, Typhoon and later the Joint Strike Fighter, taking over from the current fleet of Hawk T1 aircraft of 208 Squadron and 19 Squadron at RAF Valley in Anglesey.

**INSYS**

# Light Forces given bigger punch

**The MoD investigates ways of providing UK with new lightweight artillery system, capable of firing powerful missiles with pinpoint accuracy at up to twice the range of existing rockets**

The system, known as the Lightweight Mobile Artillery System (Rocket) (LIMAWS(R)), will give the UK's light forces a major advantage on the battlefield. It is light enough to be transported by Chinook or Hercules, but powerful enough to launch precision global positioning system (GPS) guided rockets to ranges of more than 60km.

The lightweight LIMAWS(R) vehicles will each carry six rockets, ten times more accurate than existing rocket systems. These can be fitted with a variety of different warheads depending on the target.

An assessment phase contract has been awarded to Bedfordshire-based INSYS Ltd. This will see the design, build and trial of a systems demonstrator, before work begins on final development in the next two years. The system is expected to enter

service in late 2007. The entire programme is expected to cost approximately £100m.

Two systems will fit into a Hercules C130J. One can be carried slung underneath a Chinook CH47 and the system can be driven over a range of 500km. The assessment phase contract with INSYS covers building a representative launcher, test firing rockets from the platform, proving its mobility 'cross-country', testing compatibility with the Chinook and Hercules and testing with the Royal Marines amphibious trials unit.

**BAe/MoD Partnership**

# Networked Battlelabs

**MoD to set up industry partnership with BAE and other leading defence companies to explore networked warfare**

The project, valued at some £50m, will be based at Farnborough and will bring together manpower and

resources from MoD and industry. BAE Systems will provide the overall industry leadership for the partnership, under a three-year assessment phase contract. BAE Systems will be supported by defence research company QinetiQ, as well as a wide range of other key firms.

Under the Network Integration Test and Experimentation programme - known as 'NITEworks' - MoD and industry synthetic 'e laboratories' will conduct work on network-enabled capability over the next three years. NITEworks will seek to identify and resolve key system integration and interoperability issues through practical test and experimentation within this synthetic environment.

During the initial assessment phase, NITEworks will focus on achieving improved delivery of joint effects through integrated systems. UK Forces typically operate within a coalition environment and NITEworks will explore UK/US and UK/NATO interoperability issues.

The first experimental results are expected to be available in the second quarter of 2004. BAE Systems' Battlespace Management Evaluation Centre (BMEC) at Farnborough will be the hub for linking other MoD and industry 'battlelabs'. The Joint Command and Battlespace Management Applied Research Technology Demonstrator at DSTL Portsdown West will be the first facility to be linked for experimentation and visualisation purposes.



**Above:** What the battlelabs will look like