

NOV 07

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Aerospace and Defence News from Turkey

Turkey is becoming a hot market for business jets

Turkey is rapidly becoming the new hub for business jets and helicopters in West Asia and Eastern Europe. Turkish air taxi companies are ordering large numbers of new business jets. Having recovered from the economic crisis of 2001, Turkey's business aviation sector has grown significantly since 2004. Experts predict that at least 50 more planes and helicopters will come to Turkey in the next three years.

The country's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (SHGM) says there are 192 aircraft in 57 air taxi companies in Turkey. These include 133 planes, 31 helicopters, 23 light air vehicles and five balloons. Prospects seem bright, as 12 more companies have applied to the SHGM for flight permission.

Turkey's rapidly growing helicopter market is seeing intense competition between giants like Agusta Westland, Bell, Eurocopter and Sikorsky. Medium and wide body helicopters are gaining ground on the smaller models used earlier. But the waiting period of two to three years for delivery of helicopters and business jets leads many businessmen to opt for the second hand or rental option.

Business jet maintenance centres are springing up because of the increasing number of planes. The Ankara-based EmAir company has provided MRO services for Cessna planes for years, but the Palmali



Group based at Istanbul's Atatürk Airport is now establishing a maintenance centre for the French Dassault's Falcon series business jets. It will begin operating in October. The group will continue maintaining Hawker planes in partnership with Jet Aviation from Zurich.

National Main Battle Tank Project in Turkey

SSM (Undersecretariat for Defence Industries) has entered into contract negotiations with the Turkish OTOKAR Corporation. OTOKAR was



selected as main contractor for the new national Main Battle Tank Project in Turkey on April 26, 2007.

The overall estimated cost for the design and prototype phases amounts to USD 500 million. The Main Battle Tanks will be designed, developed and produced in Turkey. In certain areas OTOKAR has entered into a "Technical Assistance Agreement Contract" with ADD-Rotem, a company based in South Korea. This cooperation shall be maintained during the whole implementation phase of the project.

Procurement of Attack and Tactical Reconnaissance Helicopters

According to an announcement of SSM, the Italian-based Agusta Westland Corporation was selected for the procurement of attack and tactical reconnaissance helicopters. The contract negotiation has started on March 30, 2007. The T-129 ATAK-II project will encompass an amount of fifty helicopters with an option for additional forty-one units.

The helicopters will be manufactured at the TAI (Turkish Aerospace Industries) facilities. The overall

estimated cost for the procurement of the helicopters amounts to USD 2.5 billion. After long-term negotiations SSM has decided that TAI will be the main contractor (contract should be signed in December 2007), whereas Agusta Westland and ASELSAN are nominated as subcontractors (contracts signed on September 7, 2007).

New Submarine Project

The main focus of the new Submarine Project is the procurement of six submarines with air independent propulsion (AIP). The objective of this project is to maximize the local content contribution which will be implemented as a joint venture at the Naval Shipyard in Gölcük, Turkey (GNSY).

SSM recently released a RFP (Request for Proposals) to which three bidders have submitted their proposals in November 2007. The delivery of the first submarine is planned for 2015.



HÜRKUŞ Development Project

TAI has initiated the so-called "Basic Training Aircraft Development Project" officially called "HÜRKUŞ". The duration of this project is planned to be 56 months in total, with a preliminary design phase that has already been completed. The technical specifications of the HÜRKUŞ project are: two seats, 270 knots velocity, +7 to -3.5 G manoeuvrability, day and night flight capability, maximum altitude of 30.000 feet, maximum take-off weight of 2900 kg.

HÜRKUŞ shall be equipped with the latest avionic systems technology. TAI is preparing the "Type Flight Certificate" application at the EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency) for HÜRKUŞ.

Peace Falcon II Project

Seventeen F-16 A/B Blok-15 aircrafts of the Jordanian Air Forces are undergoing the Falcon-up and Falcon-star structural modernization program



at TAI. This modernization program is named "Peace Falcon II". The first ground and flight tests for the upgraded aircrafts have been scheduled for November 2007.

Low Altitude Air and Missile Defence System

On December 18, 2006 SSM has issued a RFI (Request for Information) for the procurement of a Low Altitude and Missile Defence System comprising forty-five missiles for the Turkish Land Forces and Navy. Seventeen national and international companies have responded to the RFI. The project model for the procurement process is still pending.

Medium Altitude Air and Missile Defence System

Another RFI for the procurement of a Medium Altitude Air and Missile Defence System was issued on March 21, 2007. In total three Missile Defence Systems will be procured for the TLFC (Turkish Land Forces Command). Fifteen national and international companies have responded to the T-MALADMIS RFI.

Turkish AWACS Procurement Program

TuAF (Turkish Air Forces) will procure four AWACS aircrafts from Boeing. First flight tests for the structurally modified Turkish AWACS version (without mission systems) were assembled at the Boeing facilities in Seattle. The remaining structural modifications and the AWACS aircraft mission systems integrations will be assembled at the TAI facilities. The first Turkish AWACS aircrafts are scheduled for delivery to TuAF for 2010. It is assumed that the total project cost will be around USD 1.1 billion.

Lift Helicopter Procurement

On December 18, 2006 a RFI has been issued for the "Lift Helicopter Project". Until February 19, 2007 Agusta Westland (EH-101), Boeing (CH-47D/F Chinook), Erickson Air Crane (S-64 E) and Sikorsky (CH-53K) have submitted their responses to the RFI. The RFP document is currently prepared and will encompass the procurement of ten helicopters.

Electro-Optical Reconnaissance and Surveillance Satellite System "GÖKTÜRK I"

A satellite system consisting of a high resolution Reconnaissance and Surveillance Satellite and mobile ground stations will be procured by SSM.



The GÖKTÜRK I system shall fulfil the requirements of high resolution imagery for military intelligence purposes without any geographical restrictions. Further specifications for the system include civilian capabilities: forest control, tracking of illegal construction activities, assessment of damages after natural disasters within a short timeframe, zone crop determination and the production of geographical data for maps. Four satellite companies (EADS ASTRIUM-UK, IAI-Israel, OHB-SYSTEM-Germany and TELESPIAZIO-Italy) have submitted their proposals to SSM end of 2006. On December 5, 2007 the companies EADS ASTRIUM, OHB-SYSTEMS and TELESPIAZIO have been selected as candidates for the short list.