

AFP, 3 December 2007

**India may scrap 600-mln-dlr Eurocopter deal: official**

India's army may scrap a 600-million-dollar deal for 197 helicopters from an EADS unit because of complaints about the bidding process and the role of agents, an official said Sunday. India's policy-making Defense Acquisition Committee is expected to issue a fresh tender for the helicopters in the next financial year, said an official with the committee who did not want to be named. An Indian army spokesman declined comment on the deal, awarded in February 2007 as part of an army modernization programme.

Kerala Online, 4 December 2007

**Dakshin Prahar air show by IAF begins in Thiruvananthapuram**

Dakshin Prahar the multi-role exercise of the Indian Air Force, began today morning. The air show that will continue here for three days will see air exercise of multirole combat fighters like Sukhois, Mirages and Jaguars. Organised by the SAC the exercise will cover the Southern Peninsula and Lakshadweep. The second phase of the exercise will be held in Hyderabad.

Reuters, 7 December 2007

**U.S. fighter bids for India hit tech-transfer snag**

A split in the Pentagon over how much cutting-edge technology to share with India is complicating bids by Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#)) and Boeing Co (BA.N: [Quote](#), [Profile](#), [Research](#)) for a potential \$10 billion fighter jet contract. At issue, among other things, is advanced radar know-how India wants as part of any deal for the 126 new fighter jets it plans to buy from one of six global aerospace powerhouses, say current and former Pentagon officials. Detailed offers from all bidders are due to be submitted to the Indian defense ministry by March 3.

Press Information Bureau, 8 December 2007

**IAF FIRE POWER ARSENAL UNLEASHED AT FPD-2007**

Showcasing flying skills and pinpoint marksmanship, Indian Air Force (IAF) air warriors pounded and blasted away an array of assorted targets with impunity that included mock enemy radar sites, troops, ammunition dumps, convoys, petrol, oil and lubricant (POL) dumps with rockets, laser-guided bombs, missiles and front guns at the fire power demonstration (FPD) held at the air-to-ground weapons firing range at Pokhran, near Jaisalmer, today. A similar demonstration was last held at the same venue on March 14, 2004.

Calcutta Telegraph, 8 December 2007

**Lockheed charts India plan**

Representatives of Lockheed Martin Corporations 55 business units will meet in Washington DC next week to discuss their Indian operations. The US-based company is also hopeful that the first-ever Indo-US defence deal, valued at \$1 billion, will be sealed by the end of this fiscal. The governments of the US and India are expected to sign a contract by March 2008 for six C130J Hercules transport cargo aircraft for the Indian Air Force. There will be an option to buy six more such planes.

Daily News and Analysis, 8 December 2007

**Copter deal: India feels heat**

The Ministry of Defence's decision to scrap the ongoing negotiations for the purchase of 197 helicopters from the European firm, EADS (European Aerospace and Defence Systems), has led to a wave of diplomatic protests from Germany and France over the past 24 hours. The two governments hold significant stakes in the European consortium, which also manufactures Airbus and satellites. According to sources in the European diplomatic community here, the national security advisers of both Germany and France called up their Indian counterpart MK Narayanan on Thursday to protest the Indian decision. The Indian ambassador to Paris was summoned by the foreign ministry there to lodge its protest too.

The Hindu, 11 December 2007

**Air Chief calls for indigenisation in defence technology**

India needs to step up efforts to indigenise defence technology to reduce dependency on foreign countries and to achieve self-sufficiency, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal, F H Major, said on Tuesday. "Instead of depending upon foreign countries for defence technology like aerospace, we must step up our efforts towards indigenisation in defence technology," he said, inaugurating the 'silver jubilee International Radar Symposia India-2007' here on Tuesday. "We must become self-sufficient in meeting our defence needs and this requires the defence PSUs to focus on research and development," he said. Long-gestation period in defence projects, which had been a nagging problem in the earlier years, has been overcome to some extent. However, there is urgent need for speedy implementation of the projects with stringent quality control, the Air Chief said.

Daily News and Analysis, 11 December 2007

**Will Arjun stand the desert test?**

The Indian Army has quietly begun rigorous tests of the indigenous Arjun tank in the deserts of Rajasthan. The tests will determine whether the tank will have any significant role in the armoured force of the future. Trials of two Arjuns, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) over three decades, are on in the Mahajan field ranges. The trials were to officially begin on Monday. The DRDO has supplied 14 Arjuns to the Army, of which two are being put to test. These trials are officially supposed to reveal the spare parts requirement to maintain the tanks. DRDO officials are holding their breath.

The Hindu, 12 December 2007

**Dakshin Prahar comes to a close**

Dakshin Prahar, the week-long multi-role exercise conducted by the Indian Air Force (IAF), concluded on Monday. Dozens of combat aircraft belonging to the IAF, including the Sukhoi-30, Mirage 2000 and Jaguar, simulated air strikes and interceptions over long aerial ranges using air-to-air refuelling facilities and off-base operations. The Southern Air Command headquartered here coordinated the operations.

The Hindu, 13 December 2007

**Efforts on for launch of BrahMos from submarines, air platforms**

Efforts were on to develop systems which could be used to launch BrahMos cruise missiles from submarines and air platforms, A Sivathanu Pillai, Chief Executive Officer of BrahMos Aerospace Ltd, said on Wednesday. "We are working with the Indian Navy in this regard", Pillai told reporters on the sidelines of an International Symposium on 'Ocean Electronics' here. Sukhoi-30 would be a platform for air launch of BrahMos missiles, he said adding the technology for launching the missile from an air platform would be completed by 2009. Indian army was the only one in the world having land attack missiles, he said.

Tehelka, 14 December 2007

### **The Eurocopter Chopped**

DEFENCE DEALS in India have rarely passed the litmus test without raising the standard cloud of suspicion but when New Delhi announced plans to seek fresh, global tenders to purchase 200 helicopters worth Rs 4000 crores (\$1 billion), cancelling ongoing negotiations with the European Aerospace and Defence Systems (EADS), many got rattled. The decision split the bidders wide open, raised serious questions about investigations done by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), left top Indian army gasping for breath and pushed plans to replace the bulk of the army's fleet of 500 Soviet-era machines back by at least four to five years. The ageing 1970s-vintage Chetak and Cheetah helicopters need immediate replacement as the army modernises and plans to expand its Army Aviation Corps (AAC) to meet rapid mobility battlefield requirements.

AFP, 18 December 2007

### **Eurocopter denies losing 600-mln-dlr India helicopter deal**

Eurocopter, a unit of European aerospace giant EADS, denied that its deal to supply 197 helicopters to the Indian army had been officially cancelled. The company's comments came after the Indian defence ministry said on December 6 that Eurocopter's successful tender for the helicopters had been scrapped and a new bidding process would be launched soon. "There is no official statement regarding the cancellation. We have no official information," Eurocopter's senior vice president for Asia sales, Norbert Ducrot, told reporters. "I have never received any statement that I have read in the press," he said, insisting that Eurocopter was still "in the price negotiation phase" with the Indian Ministry of Defence.

Reuters, 19 December 2007

### **Eurocopter still hopeful of mega Indian army deal**

Eurocopter, the world's top helicopter firm, mounted a strong defence on Tuesday of a cancelled \$600-million bid to sell military choppers to India, and said it remained optimistic of the deal going through. The deal for 197 military helicopters was aimed at replacing the army's ageing fleet and was expected to be signed as a highlight of French President Nicholas Sarkozy's visit to New Delhi early next year. But earlier this month, the Indian defence ministry said it would request fresh bids in two or three months without giving a reason, even as price negotiations were on with Eurocopter, a subsidiary of European aerospace group EADS.

Press Information Bureau, 29 December 2007

**DEVELOPMENT OF BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM RFP FOR 126 MULTI-ROLE COMBAT AIRCRAFT JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF FIFTH GENERATION FIGHTER AIRCRAFT**

The successful launch of Interceptor Missile (AAD) towards developing a ballistic missile defence system, test flight of Agni-III (A3-02), user trial of Akash Missile by Army and Air Force, Handing over of first batch of land version of BrahMos missile systems to Army and successful conduct of 4th Military World Games were some of the significant events in the Ministry of Defence during the current year. The issue of Request for Proposal (RFP) for the purchase of 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft for Indian Air Force, the arrival of first batch of two Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers from UK, Signing of the Agreement with Russia on the Joint Development of 5th Generation Fighter Aircraft, First meeting of Indo-German High Defence Committee, Meeting of the Indo-French High Committee Meeting and approval of Parliament to the Armed Forces Tribunal Bill were some other major events during the year.