



Defense Security Cooperation Agency  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Austria – F16 Fighter Aircraft**

On 18 March, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale to Austria of F-16 fighters and associated equipment and services. This sale of 30 F-16A/B aircraft follows the USG offer of new C/D aircraft notified on 29 November 2001. This is an alternative proposal. The total value of this proposal, if all options are exercised, could be as high as \$1 Billion.

The Government of Austria has requested a possible sale of 30 F-16A/B aircraft upgraded with the Falcon Up structural modification and the Mid-Life Update (MLU) capability modification. The aircraft includes: F-100-PW-220 alternate fighter engines, AN/APG-66(V)2 radar sets, LAU-129 launchers, M61A1 20mm cannons, provisions for AN/ALQ-131 Electronic Counter Measure pods, PANTERA (LANTIRN derivative) or LITENING II targeting pods, and the capability to employ a wide variety of munitions. This possible sale includes: four F-16A Block 10 operational capabilities upgrade aircraft for cannibalization, four spare F-100-PW-220 engines, 4,000 rounds of 20mm cannon ammunition, eight AN/ALQ-131 Electronic Counter Measure pods, 16 PANTERA (LANTIRN derivative) or 16 LITENING II targeting pods, 30 M61A1 20mm cannons, associated support equipment, software development/integration, ammunition, radar, modem, receivers, installation, avionics, spare and repair parts, flight test instrumentation, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics personnel services, and other related requirements to ensure full program supportability. The estimated cost is \$1 billion.

The MLU modification is an outgrowth of the development program notified to the Congress in August 1990. This multi-national effort has included the countries of Belgium, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway, and Portugal who have participated with the United States Air Force in the full scale MLU engineering development and integration effort. The MLU is an avionics retrofit program for F-16 aircraft consisting of: Heads-Up Display Pilot's Display Unit, AN/APX-113 Advanced Identification Friend or Foe, Common Color Multi-Function Displays, Common Programmable Display Generator, Modular Mission Computer, Voice Message Unit, Common Data Entry Electronics Unit, Global Positioning System antennas, Interference Blanking Unit, and configuration of the APG-66(V)2 radar.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The Austrian Air Force currently operates SAAB JAS-35 Draken and SAAB-105 aircraft. These aging fighters are expensive to operate and maintain. This proposed sale will provide operational capabilities as the SAAB aircraft eventually are retired. It will also allow AAF to meet training requirements starting in early 2003. This proposed sale will not impact the regional military balance of power.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Fort Worth, Texas; Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford, Connecticut; SABCA in Gosselies, Belgium; and Fokker Services in The Netherlands. One or more proposed offset agreements may be related to this proposed sale.

Implementation of this sale will require the assignment of approximately 12 each U.S. Government and contractor representatives for a period of up to four years to provide program support commencing with delivery of the aircraft to Austria.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale. This notification is required by law; it does not necessarily mean that a sale has been concluded.