



Defense Security Cooperation Agency
NEWS RELEASE

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Date 24 April 2001

Transmittal No. 01-05

Switzerland - F/A-18 Upgrade 21 Program

The Government of Switzerland has requested a possible upgrade of their Swiss Air Force (SAF) F/A-18 aircraft. The F/A-18 "Upgrade 21 Program" consists of Fleet Retrofit Kits of the following systems: 34 AN/APX-111 Combined Interrogator Transponder, 34 Tactical Aircraft Moving Map Capability, 50 Multi-functional Information Distribution System/Low Volume Terminal (Airborne Link-16). Also, Validation and Verification Kits of the following systems: three Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System, three Enhanced Interface Blanking Unit and three Digital Communications to Wingtips. The proposed program support includes spare and repair parts, support and test equipment, publications and technical data, personnel training and equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and other related elements of logistics and program management support. The estimated cost is \$225 million.

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 SAF intends to purchase the Upgrade 21 Program equipment to enhance survivability, communications connectivity, and extend the useful life of its F-18 fighter aircraft. It has extensive experience operating the F/A-18 aircraft and should have no difficulties incorporating the upgraded capabilities into its forces. The SAF needs this upgrade to keep pace with high tech advances in sensors, weaponry, and communications.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not affect the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Boeing Military Aircraft and Missile Systems of St. Louis, Missouri. There are no offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any contractor representatives in-country; however, it is estimated that U.S. Government representatives will be required in Switzerland for approximately four months during the preparation, equipment installation, and equipment test and checkout of the equipment.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.