



Defense Security Cooperation Agency
NEWS RELEASE

On the web: <http://www.dsca.mil>

Media/Public Contact: (703) 601-3670

Date: 24 September 2003

Transmittal No. 03-35

FINLAND – F/A-18 Mid-Life Upgrade (MLU) Program

On 24 September 2003, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale to Finland of the F/A-18 Mid-Life Upgrade (MLU) Program as well as associated equipment and services. The total value, if all options are exercised, could be as high as \$130 million.

The Government of Finland has requested a proposed sale for the second phase of the F/A-18 Mid-Life Upgrade (MLU) Program consisting of 64 F/A-18C/D Fleet Retrofit Kits of the following systems: 64 Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems, 64 Tactical Aircraft Moving Map Capability systems, 64 Digital Communications to Wingtips wiring systems, 144 AIM-9X Compatible Launchers and 36 AN/APX-111 Combined Interrogator Transponders systems. 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 \$130 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 Finnish Air Force (FAF) intends to purchase the MLU Program equipment to enhance survivability, communications connectivity, and extend the useful life of its F/A-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 FAF 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 The Boeing Company 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 U.S. Government representatives in-country; however, it is estimated that approximately four months of contractor technical support will be required in Finland during the preparation, equipment installation, and equipment testing and checkout of the equipment.

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

This notice of a potential sale is required by law; it does not mean that the sale has been concluded.