



Defense Security Cooperation Agency  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Australia – M1A1 AIM Tanks**

On 21 May 2004, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale to Australia of M1A1 Abrams Integrated Management (AIM) tanks as well as associated equipment and services. The total value, if all options are exercised, could be as high as \$475 million.

The Government of Australia has requested a possible sale of 59 M1A1 AIM tanks, 7 M88A1 medium recovery vehicles, 80 AN/VRC-92F dual long-range Single Channel Ground and Air Radio Systems (SINCGARS) radios, 146 AN/PVS-7B night vision goggles, 73 M2 .50 caliber machine guns, 7 M2 .50 caliber heavy barrel machine guns, 1 ROC-V training device, tactical trucks, trailers, training devices, M240 machine guns, spares and repair parts, special tools and test equipment, personnel training and equipment, publications, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and logistics personnel services, and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated cost is \$475 million.

This proposed sale would contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of an ally, which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Western Pacific region. Furthermore, Australia's procurement of these tanks and associated equipment will dramatically improve its interoperability with U.S. Army and Marine Corps units, and will ensure that Australia is on the same path to transformation as is the United States. Australia's decision to buy the Abrams tank represents Australia's commitment to closely align the Australian Defense Force with the U.S. Department of Defense, and signals the strength of the U.S. and Australian security relationship.

Australia will use these tanks to modernize and harden the Australian Army, the land component of the Australian Defense Force. This proposed sale will significantly enhance the interoperability of the U.S. and Australian Defense Forces, and will guarantee U.S. and Australian Army's interoperability for the next twenty-five years.

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

The principal contractors will be: General Dynamics Land Systems of Sterling Heights, Michigan; United Defense Limited Partners of Arlington, Virginia; Oshkosh of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; and Stewart & Stevenson of Houston, Texas. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

At present, it is estimated that two U.S. Government and six contractor representatives will be in Australia for the duration of the program. The final number of U.S. Government and contractor representatives required to support the program will be determined in joint negotiations as the program proceeds through the development, production, and equipment installation phases.

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.