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BEL awarded USD1.28 billion order for LRSAM systems for the Indian Navy

By Rahul Bedi

India's public-sector company Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) announced on 5 September that it has been awarded orders worth INR92 billion (USD1.28 billion) from two Indian shipyards to supply seven Barak-8 (also known as the Barak LR) point-defence missile systems to the Indian Navy (IN). The systems are meant for installation onto seven frigates currently under construction.

It added that the orders, which were placed by Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilder Limited (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), have helped pushed BEL's orderbook beyond INR500 billion for the first time.

The vertically launched Barak-8, which is also known in India as the Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM), has been jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and India's state-owned Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) – in collaboration with Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, IAI/Elta, and various Indian companies.

<https://www.janes.com/article/82820/bel-awarded-usd1-28-billion-order-for-lrsam-systems-for-the-indian-navy>.

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India Conducts First Air-to-Air Refueling of Home-Grown Fighter Jet Tejas

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has committed to purchase 324 Tejas, which means most of the shortfall will be fulfilled by the homegrown fighter jet. The jet is already integrated with Derby beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles, while it will eventually boast advanced electronic warfare systems and the Russian-built GSh-23 autocannon.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully carried out its first air-to-air refueling of the domestically built fighter aircraft Tejas MK1 with an IL-78 MKI tanker. The successful refueling test is being considered a big leap in the developmental stage and brightens the chances of the fighter jets getting an operational clearance certificate sooner.

mid air refueling trials of lca with IL-78 MKI — On 04 Sep 18, IAF successfully carried out the 1st ever Air to Air refueling of the indigenously build fighter aircraft Tejas MK1 with an IL-78 tanker aircraft— Indian Air Force (IAF MCC) .

"The success of these trials is a major leap for the indigenous fighter, thus enhancing its mission capability by increasing its range and payload. The ability to carry out air-to-air refueling is one of the critical requirements for the LCA to achieve 'Final Operational Clearance,'" an Indian Defense Ministry statement reads.

The tanker was launched from a base in Agra while the fighter was launched from the Gwalior base in central India.

The IAF has carried out several tests on specially modified Tejas aircraft including "dry contact" with the tanker that means that no fuel was actually exchanged between the IL-78 tanker and the Tejas fighter through its air-to-air refueling probe. In the coming days, it will conduct "wet tests" when actual fuel is transferred from the tanker to the fighter.

"All flight parameters of Tejas aircraft were transmitted live to a ground control unit set up at Gwalior air base, wherein scientists constantly monitored the technical parameters of the mission," the ministry added.

Against the total order of 123 Tejas aircraft, state-owned manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has so far handed over nine Tejas aircraft to the IAF. The Tejas, currently with the IAF, are, however, not combat-ready002E

Indian defense scientists in cooperation with Israeli defense firm Rafael Advanced Defense Systems had completed the integration of the I-Derby beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile on Tejas in July 2017. Presently, nine Tejas are being equipped with the derby missile with an upgraded seeker. The Tejas will be also equipped with smart bombs developed by the state-owned Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Sources told Sputnik that the jet would also be integrated with the Russian-built GSh-23 autocannon.

Moreover, the fighter is to get an AESA (active electronically scanned array) radar developed by DRDO and an advanced electronic warfare (EW) suite. Earlier this year, the DRDO claimed before a parliamentary panel that the IAF had committed to buying a total of 324 Tejas, including 201 upgraded versions of the jet. HAL claimed that the IAF would receive Mk-1A Tejas in 2019. Currently, HAL is producing six Tejas per year, which needs to be increased to 16 by 2019. HAL is also working on a more sophisticated version of a jet called the Tejas MK-2, which will fly only after 2022.

<https://sputniknews.com/asia/201809061067807275-india-home-grown-fighter-jet>.



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Compensation paid to Nagayalanka families

Land acquired for missile test facility

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday handed over compensation to the tune of ₹5.04 crore to 157 families which parted with 280 acres land for the proposed Missile Test Launch Facility project in Nagayalanka mandal of Krishna district.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has already issued Stage I clearance, enabling the Ministry of Defence to use forest land for the project. The DRDO earlier deposited ₹42 crore with the State government to facilitate payment of compensation to the eligible families and afforestation.

Deputy Speaker Mandali Buddha Prasad, Bandar Revenue Divisional Officer P. Udaya Bhaskar and Nagayalanka Mandal Revenue Officer Mr. Naradamuni handed over the compensation to the families.

“The stretch of 280 acres in the island of Gullalamoda proposed for the missile test launch facility project is owned by the government as it falls in the category of ‘panchayat forest’ in the village. The listed 157 families have been enjoying the land for several years and thus they are entitled to compensation,” said Mr. Udaya Bhaskar.

The State government fixed the compensation at ₹1.8 lakh per acre following several rounds of talks with the villagers.

Satheesh Reddy thanked

Mr. Buddha Prasad said: “The credit for obtaining necessary clearances from the Central government for the defence project goes to DRDO Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy, who has been monitoring the Nagayalanka project.”

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Vijayawada/compensation-paid-to-nagayalanka-families/article24878269.ece>.