

Meet UXOR, A DRDO robot which defuses bombs up to 1,000 Kg

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a robot which can defuse bombs up to 1,000 kg. The name of the robot is Unexploded Ordnance Handling Robot (UXOR) and it has been developed to deal with Unexploded bombs.

The Indian Air Force will soon procure these robots. The need of this robot was felt during Balakot strike. After Balakot strike, Pakistan retaliated and targeted Indian Army installations. Pakistani Air Force dropped bombs which remained unexploded.

After the several trials, Indian Air Force is now in the process of acquiring these robots. This robot removes the need of humans to defuse bombs and it is monitored from a mobile centre.



DRDO scientist Alok Mukherjee said, “These robots are controlled remotely from a distance of 2 km. The operator can locate and defuse the explosive by using high pressure water jets.” Alok Mukherjee has been part of the developing team of this Unexploded Ordnance Handling Robot (UXOR).

During the ongoing Defence expo in Lucknow, DRDO displayed this indigenously designed robot.

<https://indiandefencenews.info/meet-uxor-a-drdo-robot-which-defuses-bombs-up-to-1000-kg/>

India’s Defense ministry, HAL conclude price negotiations for 83 MK1A light combat aircraft

The estimated price tag for the 83 light combat aircraft is \$5.45 billion

By Franz-Stefan Gady

India’s Ministry of Defense (MoD) and state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) have reportedly concluded negotiations to procure 83 indigenously designed and developed Tejas Light combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark (Mk) IA for the Indian Air Force (IAF) for \$5.45 billion (390 billion or 39,000 crore Indian rupees), according to local media reports.

“With the contract price now settled at Rs 39,000 crore, the procurement file is being sent to the Cabinet Committee on Security for final nod. It should be cleared before this fiscal ends on March 31. Once the contract is inked, HAL promises to begin deliveries of the Mark-IA jets in three years,” a source familiar with the matter was quoted as saying by the *Economic Times* on February 17.

The Indian MoD placed an order for 40 Tejas LCA Mk I with HAL, including eight tandem two-seat LCA trainer aircraft, divided into two batches of 20 aircraft each in 2006 and 2010 respectively.

To date, the IAF has taken delivery of 17 Tejas LCA in initial operational configuration or capability (IOC), which means the fighter jet meets the minimum requirements for operational deployment by the IAF.

The Tejas LCAs are operated by No 45 Squadron (Flying Daggers) at Sulur in southern India. The squadron is expected to receive three more Mk I aircraft in the summer months of 2020. The remaining 20 Mk Is are scheduled for delivery by 2022 in final operational clearance (FOC) configuration. The Tejas Mark I LCA was awarded FOC status by the Indian Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) in February 2019.

As I reported elsewhere, according to the IAF, the Tejas Mk I variant does not meet the service's specifications and operational requirements:

“The IAF has listed several technical deficiencies found on the Tejas LCA Mark-I variant in 2017. These flaws will purportedly will be addressed in later variants of the aircraft, which will include 43 improvements over the existing version.

Upgrades will include an advanced active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar system, a new electronic warfare sensor suite, and a new externally refueling capability.”

HAL and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) subsidiary Elta Systems signed a contract for the purchase of 83 ELM-2052 active electronically scanned array (AESA) radars and ELL-8222WB electronic warfare (EW) suites to be integrated with the Mark-IA in October 2018.

The Mk IA variant, powered by a General Electric F404-GE-IN20 turbofan engine, will be around 1,000 kg lighter than the Mk I. The newer variant will purportedly also have less maintenance requirements.

The IAF plans to induct a total of 123 Tejas Mark IA aircraft, next to the 40 first-generation Mark-Is. The IAF's current combat strength is around 28 squadrons.

<https://thediplomat.com/2020/02/indias-defense-ministry-hal-conclude-price-negotiations-for-83-mk1a-light-combat-aircraft/>

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Seized Chinese ship isn't just a cargo vessel: Sources

Rajkot: 'Da Cui Yun', the Chinese ship which was seized by the customs department a few days ago based on intel reports, has been found to be more than just a cargo vessel. According to sources, the ship which was found to be carrying suspected equipment used in missile manufacturing had visited Deendayal port nearly 15 times in last one year to discharge consignments here and thereafter leave for Karachi to deliver cargo. In all earlier shipments, the vessel had declared the same cargo as 'machinery'.

According to sources the vessel belonging to Hong Kong flag of China Ocean Shipping company limited (COSCO) visited Deendayal port at least twice in a month in the past one year. It carried windmill tower as its deck cargo, while it declared the under-deck cargo as machinery or project cargo. After unloading the windmill tower at Kandla, the vessel left for Karachi.

The sources further said that in the last one and half years, a few other multi-port vessels too have gone to the UAE, Gulf and Bahrain after unloading cargo at Kandla. “The loading port — Jiangyin port in China — has always always remained the same for the earlier ships, while the destination of most of the ships was Qasim,” the sources said.

The Defence Research and Development organization (DRDO) which is probing the seized cargo is also investigating into how many times the ship had been carrying such type of cargo.

According to sources the suspected cargo is discharged and taken to a warehouse of Deendayal port. After this, the vessel is released from berth and shifted to outer tuna buoy (OTB). The DRDO is investigating inside the warehouse.

Da Cui Yun started its journey from Jiangyin port in China in January. Around 10 days ago customs department seized the vessel suspecting it to be carrying equipment that is used in missile manufacturing which was meant for unloading at Karachi. The custom officials are tight-lipped on the investigation so far, terming it an issue of national security.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/rajkot/seized-chinese-ship-isnt-just-a-cargo-vessel-sources/articleshow/74216444.cms>