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## **Update: Indian MoD approves procurements for the army worth USD716.6 million**

*By Rahul Bedi*

New Delhi: India's Ministry of Defence (MoD) approved on 21 January the procurement of indigenously developed equipment worth INR51 billion (USD716.6 million) for the Indian Army (IA).

The MoD's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), which is headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, gave the green light for the acquisition of an undisclosed number of electronic warfare (EW) systems that will be designed by the state-owned Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured locally.

The IA will deploy these systems in the country's plains and desert regions to "provide comprehensive electronic support and counter-measure capabilities to field formations", according to a statement by the Indian government's Press Information Bureau (PIB).

The DAC also approved prototype testing of DRDO-designed trawl systems for the IA's T-72 and T-90 main battle tanks to give them a mine-clearance capability.

The council also cleared a shortlist of local 'Strategic Partners' (SPs) to progress Project 75I (India), which is aimed at locally building six diesel-electric submarines for the Indian Navy (IN) for an estimated INR450 billion in collaboration with a foreign original equipment manufacturer (OEM).

Although neither the shortlisted SPs nor the OEMs were identified in the PIB statement, industry sources told *Jane's* that the shortlisted SPs include state-owned Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and private-sector Larsen & Toubro (L&T), adding that the inclusion of a third SP is being considered by the MoD.

The selected OEMs include Naval Group (France), ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (Germany), Rubin Design Bureau via Rosoboronexport (Russia), Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (South Korea), and Navantia (Spain), added the sources.

*(This story, first published on 21 January 2020, has been updated with additional information.)*

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