

# NEWSALERT

## India Strengthens Air Combat Capabilities



The \$20 billion Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) deal to supply 126 fighters to India is won by the French jet Rafale on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2012. This shall involve Transfer of Technology (ToT) to Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL). Under the MMRCA project, the first 18 jets will come in "fly-away condition" from France in mid-2015. The remaining 108 fighters will later be manufactured in India over six years as per the terms of the TOT. Ministry of Defence declared Rafale to be cheaper (or the lowest bidder , L-1 ) than Typhoon after extensive mathematical calculations and data verification of the unit cost of the two jets, lifecycle costs of operating them over a 40-year period, with 6,000 hours of flying , as well as cost of the ToT.

The Indian government would now negotiate with the French Company to arrive at the best possible price for 126 fighters. The deal is expected to be signed before the end of March this year.

Eurofighter Typhon, Boeing (F-18E), Lockheed Martin (F-16E), Dassault Aviation (Rafale F3+), EADS (Eurofighter Typhoon), were the other contender in the race for the country's biggest defence deal.

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