



Tue, 06 March, 2018

India scraps mega Israeli deal for anti-tank missiles in favor of DRDO product

By Trisha Thomas

The government of India has canceled Rs 3,300 cr order for 8,356 Spike anti-tank missiles that was to be produced in India by Bharat Dynamics Ltd, a government of India enterprise, in association with an Israeli company.

The anti-tank missiles were supposed to be have been produced with transfer of technology from Israel-based Spike. Preliminary approval for the deal was given in June 2009 and a ‘request for proposal’ (akin to a tender) was issued in April 2010.

However, said defence minister Nirmala Seetharaman, the government has ‘retracted’ the request for proposal for the missiles as on Dec 20, 2017.

This, she said, was done after the Defence Research and Development Organization was successful in creating an indigenous anti-tank missile that can be manufactured without the aid of any technology licensing from foreign companies.

“On account of indigenous development of 3rd Generation Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) system by Defence Research & Development Organization, it was, inter alia, decided that there is no need to acquire ToT with the ATGM system,” Seetharam said.

The MPATGM, which weighs around 20 kg, can be used by Infantry Battalions against Armoured vehicles up to 2.5km in range and will replace the Soviet-era anti-tank missiles used by Indian army. It will compete with units such as the US’ Javelin missiles (picture above).

India is estimated to require about 80,000 anti-tank missiles. The DRDO variant, meanwhile, is expected to complete final testing this year.

<https://ultra.news/t-t/38601/india-scraps-mega-israeli-deal-anti-tank-missiles-favor-drdo-product>



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India Saves Its Foreign Reserves over \$5 Billion with home-grown Akash Missiles

The Indian defense ministry has said that by introducing the Akash surface to air missile (SRSAM) system, developed by the state-owned Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO), the country has saved billions of dollars and hopes to save more as many orders from the army and the air force are in the pipeline.

“As a result of successful development, the production and induction of the Akash missile system, at Rs. 345 bln (\$5.3 bln), may be saved by existing production orders and many orders are in pipeline from the army and IAF,” Nirmala Sitharaman, India’s Minister of Defense, said in the nation’s parliament on Monday.

DRDO has designed and developed the Akash surface-to-air missile system within the last two years; five Akash squadrons were delivered to the Indian Army and two squadrons of Akash missile systems were delivered to the air force. The Akash is made with 96 percent domestically-produced content.

Last year, the Indian defense ministry scrapped a global tender for additional SRSAMs and approved the procurement of an improved version of Akash, with a domestically-produced sensor. Earlier, the Indian Army and Air Force were not much interested in the earlier version of the missile system, and wanted to have a system which would have a sensor to track and target incoming missiles accurately. DRDO has claimed that the advanced Akash system has done away with the shortcomings.

“Further, production orders are to be placed by the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army for the Akash missile system,” Nirmala Sitharaman added.

The Indian government also favored another indigenous missile project, NAG, last December, which will replace an Israeli anti-tank guided missile worth over \$500 million. NAG is a third generation fire & forget anti-tank guided missile (ATGM).

<https://defenceaviationpost.com/india-saves-foreign-reserves-5-billion-homegrown-akash-missiles/>



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Indian missile trial jeopardizes Rafael's \$500m Spike deal

By Yuval Azulai

Israeli sources say India's NAG 190 anti-tank missile will not be operational for five years despite claims it will be ready by 2019.

The fate of the \$500 million Spike missile deal that **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd.** hopes to sign with the Indian government remains clouded in doubt.

India is meanwhile continuing to develop its own anti-tank missile, which will compete with the Israeli missile. India’s Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) tested its anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) NAG 190 in desert conditions against two tank targets last week.

Israeli defense experts believe that it will take another five years at least until India's NAG 190 is fully operational. However, in India itself, experts believe that the NAG 190 will be full developed by the end of the year.

Over the past two months there has been a major dispute between DRDO and the Indian army, which wants to buy 8,000 Spike anti-tank missiles from Rafael and hundreds of launchers, which will be made in cooperation with an Indian company. Agreements were already reached on the matter last month and this would be one of Rafael's most important deals over the coming few years.

DRDO is demanding that the NAG 190 should be favored by the Indian army, which insists that unlike the Indian missile, the Spike is already operational.

Since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited India in January together with Rafael CEO Yoav Har Even and announced that the deal would go ahead, talks have been renewed between the Indian army and Rafael with the hopes of concluding a final agreement.

A defense ministry source told "Globes" that "The dialogue with the Indians is continuing all the time and lately it seems that institutions in the country are falling in line behind doing the deal with Rafael because it will be a long time before the Indian missile is operational. Clearly the Indians want to develop and manufacture everything they need and the idea that until they will have full capabilities on this subject, they will buy Israeli missiles."

the source added, "We weren't particularly impressed by the latest trial in India because there is a long way to go and the Indians need to work until they will have an operational missile to keep on the shelf."

In order to move ahead with the Spike deal, Rafael has formed a joint venture with Kalyani to manufacture the missiles in India using knowhow brought over from Israel. A new plant for the Spike missiles was inaugurated near Hyderabad last summer.

Rafael has already sold Spike missiles to over 30 countries.

<http://www.globes.co.il/en/article-indian-missile-trial-jeopardizes-rafaels-500m-spike-deal-1001226643>