

OFB, DRDO working on futuristic Infantry combat vehicle

Kolkata: The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), in collaboration with DRDO, is developing a futuristic infantry combat vehicle (FICV) for the Army, which may see the light of day in three to five years.

The Army at present has the infantry personnel carrier with a 30 mm gun - the BMP II.

The FICV will have advanced features that were in the drawing board stage a few years back, OFB Chairman Hari Mohan told reporters at a press conference here.

Mohan said the OFB and Defence Research and Development Organisation, which were earlier working separately on the FICV, are now joining hands to develop it.

"It is an evolving product; features will keep developing for the FICV," he said.

"Depending upon interaction with Army officials... when the product comes to an acceptable stage and the Army gives its nod, production will start. It will be tentatively named Mark I," Mohan said.

While Mark I of FICV is expected in three to five years, Mark II may be visible in the horizon in five to 10 years, the OFB chairman said.

He said the biggest advantage of the FICV is almost everything is being developed within the country.

"There may be some very small sub-systems which we will be importing now...," Mohan said.

An OFB official said the new FICV will have enhanced firepower, including an auto grenade launcher with a range of 1,500 metres and anti-tank guided missile capability, which launches missiles at a range of 4,000 metres with automated command.

It will also have a gun control system integrated with a thermal imager fire control system, the official said.

Mohan said with the Union government focusing on export of defence products, the OFB is aiming at Rs 500-crore worth of exports in the next two to three years.

"Defence exports stood at Rs 15 crore-20 crore two to three years back. It rose to Rs 240 crore last year," he added.

(Disclaimer: This story has not been edited by Outlook staff and is auto-generated from news agency feeds. Source: PTI)

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/ofb-drdo-working-on-futuristic-infantry-combat-vehicle/1771293>



Battle-grade LCA makes first flight in Bengaluru

The first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in the "FOC" or a level fit for battle flew for the first time here on Tuesday.

The 40-minute sortie took off at the HAL airport at 12.30 p.m. and was flown by Chief Test Pilot (fixed wing) Air Cmde K. A. Muthanna (retd).

State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which manufactures the indigenous fighters for the Indian Air Force (IAF), said, “This would pave the way for the production of the remaining 15 fighters from the FOC block which are planned to be delivered during the next financial year [that is, 2020-21.]”

The fighter received the FOC or the final operational clearance in February 2019, signifying that the Indian designer — the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) — has developed it to the level where the plane is good to be used in a combat.

FOC-standard LCAs have advanced capabilities such as air-to-air refuelling and a missile system that is beyond visual range (BVR), among others.



HAL said it achieved the feat in a record 12 months at its two LCA assembly lines in Bengaluru after receiving the drawings and protocols from the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification under the DRDO.

HAL’s Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) R. Madhavan was cited as saying, “This flight signifies exemplary team work among various stakeholders of the LCA Tejas programme such as HAL, the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance, CEMILAC, IAF and ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency).”

ADA is the DRDO’s special purpose arm, which has designed and developed the LCA as a modern generation-4 fighter for the IAF.

HAL is making the planes in two batches of 16 each — FOC standard and the previous version called the IOC (initial operational clearance). It is also due to produce eight more of the LCAs — four two-seater trainers in each version.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/battle-grade-lca-makes-first-flight-in-bengaluru/article31092986.ece>

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Advanced version of Tejas light combat aircraft makes its debut flight

The IAF has already inducted Tejas fighters in the initial operational clearance (IOC) standard and is now gearing up to operate fighters in the more advanced FOC configuration

New Delhi: A more advanced version of the Tejas light combat aircraft made its debut flight from a Hindustan Aeronautics Limited facility in Bengaluru on Tuesday, bringing it closer to induction in the Indian Air Force.

The first LCA in final operational clearance (FOC) standard, piloted by Air Commodore KA Muthana (retd), took to the skies for its maiden flight and was airborne for 40 minutes, a spokesperson for state-run military planemaker Hindustan Aeronautics Limited said.

The IAF has already inducted Tejas fighters in the initial operational clearance (IOC) standard and is now gearing up to operate fighters in the more advanced FOC configuration.

“This (the maiden flight) would pave the way for production of remaining 15 fighters from the FOC block which are planned to be delivered (to the IAF) during the next financial year,” the spokesperson said.

He added that the FOC aircraft were equipped with advanced capabilities such as air-to-air refueling, beyond visual range missile systems and come with several improvements over the IOC aircraft in the IAF fleet.

The IAF has so far ordered 40 LCAs that are in the IOC and FOC configurations. The IAF plans to buy another 83 LCA Mk-1A jets, taking the total number of Tejas variants ordered to 123. The LCA Mk-1A will come with additional improvements over the FOC aircraft, making it the most advanced Tejas variant.

HAL is hoping to hammer out a Rs 38,000-crore deal with the IAF for the 83 additional jets soon. The order is crucial for the HAL to prevent a complete halt of production at its facilities. HT reported on January 11 that HAL's order books are empty beyond 2021-22 and new orders from the armed forces are critical for continuity in production.

The Mk-1A variant is expected to come with digital radar warning receivers, external self-protection jammer pods, active electronically scanned array radar and significantly improved maintainability.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/advanced-version-of-lca-tejas-makes-its-debut-flight/story-eJxOpJ6hba3tCvZdNyYz4M.html>

बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड

Wed, 18 March 2020

एफओसी मानक एलसीए तेजस ने पहली उड़ान भरी

बेंगलुरु: पहले हल्के लड़ाकू विमान तेजस ने अंतिम संचालन मंजूरी-मानक (एसपी- 21) के तहत मंगलवार को पहली उड़ान भरी।

हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड ने बयान में कहा कि एयर कमोडोर के ए मुथाना (सेवानिवृत्त), चीफ टेस्ट फ्लाइटिंग (फिक्सड विंग) ने विमान को एचएएल के हवाई अड्डे से करीब साढ़े 12 बजे उड़ाया।

यह करीब 40 मिनट तक हवा में रहा।

एचएएल के सीमएडी आर. माधवन ने बताया कि एलसीए तेजस के कार्यक्रमों से जुड़े विभिन्न हितधारक मसलन एचएएल, एयरोनॉटिकल क्वालिटी एश्योरेंस महानिदेशालय, सेंटर फॉर मिलिट्री एयरवर्दीनेस एंड सर्टिफिकेशन, भारतीय वायुसेना और एयरोनॉटिकल डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी ने सराहनीय टीम कार्य किए।

बयान में कहा गया है, “एचएएल ने 12 महीने के रिकॉर्ड समय में इस चमत्कार को हासिल किया।”

इसने कहा, “इससे शेष 15 विमानों के एफओसी (अंतिम संचालन मंजूरी) से उत्पादन का रास्ता साफ होगा जिसे अगले वित्त वर्ष के दौरान आपूर्ति किए जाने की योजना है।”

https://hindi.business-standard.com/storypage_hin.php?autono=1860780