



Captor-E radars for German, Spanish Eurofighters

AIRBUS HAS been contracted to develop and integrate 115 Captor-E electronically scanned array (E-Scan) radars for Germany and Spain's Eurofighter EF-2000 multi-role fighter fleets.

The contract was signed on June 25 after the governments of both nations approved the upgrade earlier in the month. Under the deal, Airbus will deliver 110 Captor-E radars to Germany, along with an initial batch of five for Spain. The system will be employed by Tranche 2/3 Eurofighters and will be installed on all new-build aircraft.

Development and manufacturing of the radar has been subcontracted to a consortium led by German-based sensor specialist Hensoldt and Spain's Indra. It will also be supported by

partner companies on the Eurofighter programme. The integration work will be conducted by Airbus at its facilities in Manching, Germany, and Getafe, Spain, with deliveries expected to be completed by 2023.

Dirk Hoke, CEO of Airbus Defence and Space, said: "The contract for the Captor-E radar is a main achievement to equip Eurofighter with sensors that ensure today's dominance of the aircraft, [as well as] in the threat scenarios of tomorrow... With Eurofighter, Germany and Spain are investing in a strong backbone of European air defence and in the leading project of the European defence industry."

The Captor-E radar provides a full suite of air-to-air and air-to-surface

surveillance modes, with increased detection and tracking ranges and enhanced electronic protection compared with the current Captor-M mechanically scanned array platform. According to Airbus, the Captor-E's "larger antenna surface also allows a wider field of regard than any other platform, pushing the aircraft's performance and guaranteeing its role as a valuable asset within the Future Combat Air System environment."

The company hopes that this integration effort will provide an "additional push" for potential Eurofighter exports. Nations such as Finland and Switzerland are currently in the market for a new multi-role fighter aircraft.

A German Air Force EF-2000, serial 31+00, in flight.
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