



Defense Security Cooperation Agency
NEWS RELEASE

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France - Upgrade E-3F AWACS Aircraft with Block 40/45 Mission Computing

WASHINGTON, September 26, 2008 – The Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale to France of upgrades to E-3F AWACS Aircraft with Block 40/45 Mission Computing as well as associated equipment and services. The total value, if all options are exercised, could be as high as \$400 million.

The Government of France has requested a possible sale to upgrade four E-3F Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) Aircraft with Block 40/45 Mission Computing, Electronic Support Measures (ESM) and Radar System Improvement Program (RSIP) Interface, and Mode 5/S Identification Friend or Foe (IFF). In addition, this proposed sale will include related spare and repair parts, support equipment, publications and technical documentation, integration, personnel training and equipment, contractor engineering and technical support services, and other related elements of program support. The estimated cost is \$400 million.

France is one of the major political and economic powers in Europe and NATO and an ally of the United States in ensuring peace and stability in that region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist France to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability.

France previously purchased four sets of AWACS mission equipment and needs this upgrade to maintain interoperability and interchangeability with U.S. and other NATO coalition partners. Also, this upgrade will greatly improve the Air Force's capability to contribute to the Global War on Terrorism and NATO operations. France will have no difficulty absorbing the additional AWACS aircraft into its armed forces.

The prime contractor will be Boeing Integrated Defense Systems in Seattle, Washington.

There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. Government and contractor representatives to France.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

This notice of a potential sale is required by law; it does not mean that the sale has been concluded.