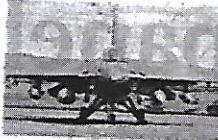


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Lockheed Martin, Tata to hold suppliers' meet in India



Lockheed Martin and Tata will jointly host a suppliers' meet in India to provide unmatched opportunities for Indian companies to establish new business ties with the F-16 fighter jets' maker and other industry leaders, the

American aerospace giant announced on Tuesday. Such a move from Maryland-based Lockheed Martin comes as part of its broader proposed F-16 partnership with India to produce F-16s exclusively in India for the Indian Air Force and export customers. Last year, Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems Limited announced their intention to join hands to produce the F-16 Block 70 in India if the aircraft is selected by the Indian Air Force. Last month, it entered into an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) for the production of the wings of Lockheed Martin's F-16 fighter jets. The current F-16 suppliers and prospective Indian industry partners are gathering at the event in Bengaluru to discuss opportunities on the F-16 programme — the world's largest fighter aircraft ecosystem, a media release said.

PTI