

TASL SET TO PROVIDE LOCKHEED MARTIN'S F-16 WINGS IN HYDERABAD

US aerospace major Lockheed Martin has announced that the wings of the F-16 fighter aircraft will be produced at Hyderabad by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL). This strategic initiative positions TASL to become the provider of wings for all future customers and strengthens their role in the F-16 global supply chain, the company said. TASL is Lockheed Martin's strategic industry partner in India. The planned F-16 wing production move to India is not contingent on the selection of the F-16 for the Indian Air Force, according to a statement issued by Lockheed Martin.

In June 2017, both Lockheed Martin and the company of Tata Group, TASL, signed a Letter of Intent for a collaboration to produce the F-16 Block 70 in India if the aircraft is selected by the Indian Air Force (IAF). The latest announcement goes beyond the requirements of the IAF. TASL already has multiple collaborations with global aerospace companies such as Sikorsky, Boeing and Rolls-Royce besides Lockheed Martin, through various joint venture manufacturing facilities in the city involving the production of aircraft components. "Building F-16 wings in India is a natural next step that builds on our successful partnerships with Tata on the C-130J Super Hercules tactical transport aircraft and the S-92 helicopter," said Vivek Lall, Vice President, Strategy and Business Development, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. The proposed F-16 partnerships with India to produce F-16 warplanes exclusively in India for the IAF and export customers stand firm, according to Lockheed Martin. It has recently submitted a comprehensive, fully compliant response to Request for Information (RFI) to the IAF.



Lockheed Martin's F-16



Sikorsky S-92 Helicopter