



Thursday, 31st March 2016

Lockheed offers to make F-16 in India

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GOA

US defence contractor Lockheed Martin Corp. has offered to build its flagship F-16 fighter jets, C130J Super Hercules military transport planes and helicopters in India.

Lockheed Martin is keen to make F-16V, the advanced fourth-generation fighter jet in India, provided positive results emerge out of India-US talks next month, company executives said.

India and the US are set to hold bilateral discussions on potential defence deals in April.

"We are bullish about the prospects," said Randy Howard, director F16, business development at Lockheed Martin.

Abhay Paranjpe, director, business development at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, said the quality of talent, maintaining time schedule and low cost are the key driving factors for the company to consider moving the manufacturing to India.