

MH-60R a formidable asset

The MH-60R “Romeo” is widely considered as one of the most capable and mature Anti-Submarine/Anti-Surface Warfare multi-mission helicopter available in the world today. The MH-60R is deployed globally with the U.S. Navy fleet and a growing number of allied international navies and could prove to be a viable option for India’s Naval Multirole Helicopter requirement.

The helicopter is manufactured by Sikorsky Aircraft Corp, and equipped with advanced mission systems and sensors by Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Training (MST), is capable of detecting and prosecuting modern submarines in littoral and open ocean scenarios. In addition, it is capable of conducting stand-alone or joint anti-surface warfare missions with other Romeo or MH-60S “Sierra” aircraft. It can also conduct secondary missions which include electronic support measures, search and rescue, vertical replenishment, and medical evacuation.

“We’re waiting to see how the requirements come out for India’s NMRH programme and once they are known we feel that the aircraft



could fulfill those”, said Mike Fralen, Business Development Director of Lockheed Martin for Airborne Mission Systems, which includes the MH-60R.

Currently there are 204 MH-60s that have been delivered to the US Navy and 33 have been procured through the foreign military sales (FMS) - 24 of

those are for Australia and 9 are for Denmark. The Australians already have 8 and are taking delivery of their 9th one.

“There are several other countries that are very interested in the platform. Regarding the competitiveness of the aircraft, while price is one factor, the other factors are capability of the

craft. The MH-60R is proven –it’s already operating off US Navy platforms, including aircraft carriers. We think that it’s the right aircraft and looking at that value proposition and work very hard to make the price right for the customer and give them the capability they deserve to have”, said Fralen. ■

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