

India & U.S. May Make Fourth-Generation Javelins

The Indian Army's initial requirement is about 24,000 ATGMs to arm its 356 Infantry Units, adding that this procurement will be completed by the end of the 12th Plan Period in 2017. India has also been negotiating with the United States for the purchase of Javelin ATGMs and with Israel for Spike ATGMs. The negotiations with the U.S. have been stalled over technology transfer, while negotiations with Israel on the Spike are also on hold. Indian Army's requirements are gigantic, so both the deals seem likely to get the go ahead. The purchase of New-Generation of ATGMs worth US\$ 3 billion could further be re-floated as a separate programme by the end of the year.

Moving slowly out of shadows of mistrust, which had earlier caused major restrictions on Defence Technology Transfers, the U.S. now wants to jointly produce with India its Fourth-Generation of Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs). Washington has also upgraded its initial offer of a part transfer to a full Transfer of Technology (ToT) for Third-Generation Javelins. The technology transfer will now include the 'seeker' software - which helps 'home in' on the target. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister A. K. Antony has asked the Indian Army to consider the US-made Javelin, along with the Israeli Spike missiles. The Javelin purchase had also featured in meetings during Army Chief General Bikram Singh's visit to the US.

Earlier in September, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence Ash Carter had even offered a joint project to manufacture the Next-Generation of Javelin Missiles during his visit to India. But the DAC had to take a call on the Spike project, which was earlier



Lockheed Martin-Raytheon JV's Javelin ATGM referred for a "technology scan" to ascertain whether such ATGMs were available from elsewhere. The MoD also has had to contend with the "leak" of classified documents about the ATGM project.