

**MiG vies to win India fighter plane contract**

Russian Aircraft Corporation MiG was chosen by India's Air Force to bid for the 126 multi-role fighter-plane contract. Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Dassault, Saab and the pan-European manufacturer of Eurofighter Typhoon were also invited to tender for the \$10 billion dollar contract.

There are grounds to say that Eurofighter Typhoon will not to make any serious rival to the major defense contractors, Russia's MiG and the US companies who have all the odds to win India's military order. Most likely, there will be more than one winning bidder due to a specific nature of armament transactions. Defense importers are highly dependant on suppliers who can refuse to deliver component parts for some reason. Therefore, it's better to have several contractors, preferably geopolitical rivals, for a sizeable order like this.

That may help the US' companies is India's seeking to diversify defense imports. The Russian Aircraft Corporation's is also found in a good position, as the two countries are partnering in the defense industry and MiG has unveiled a new product, super-maneuverable MiG-29 (FVT) OVT thrust vector fighter plane. Moreover, last August the Russian Aircraft Corp. and Indo-Russian Aerospace joint venture signed a contract binding them to build a warehouse in India to house component parts for MiG aircraft.

By Kirill Lebedev