



Facts on the Bilateral Cooperation Program between Thailand and Sweden by the Swedish Government

Preamble

In January 2004 Swedish Prime Minister and Swedish delegates paid a visit to Thailand. During the audience with the Thai Prime Minister, the Swedish Prime Minister raised an issue of Thai – Sweden relationship which led to the development of long-lasting cooperation through equal partnership (Bilateral Cooperation Program)

Since then the Swedish Government, by the Swedish Defense Material Administration (FMV) in co-operation with the Swedish Aerospace Industry has been in constant contact with the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense and the Royal Thai Air Force and has submitted various documents in conjunction with such cooperation program to those organizations. On 3rd November 2005, the Royal Thai Air Force by the Aircraft Selection Committee issued an invitation to the Swedish Government to propose Fighter Aircraft Gripen C/D Project with details covering all propositions in the program. The Swedish Government submitted the proposal on 15th November 2005 based on the Royal Thai Air Force requirements.

Special Offers

The Swedish Government proposed 12 state-of-the-art multi-role fighter aircraft type Gripen C/D complete with ground support equipment and logistic support package and most importantly the special offers that is crucial to the Royal Thai Air Force with regards to equipment that interoperate to establish the complete Air Defense Network and interface with the Royal Thai Air Defense

Systems (RTADS) of Royal Thai Air Force. Furthermore, personnel development is enhanced so that the Royal Thai Air Force will become self-dependent for the future which calls for high technology and well-executed technology transfer. Such special offers comprise:

- Two Ericsson ERIEYE Airborne Early Warning Systems (AEW) mounted on Saab 340 regional aircraft.
- Command and Control System including Data Link
- A Saab 340 aircraft which can be used for air / ground crew training and transport purposes.
- Air-to-Surface missile.
- 100 man-years of advanced aerospace technology transfer.
- Access to source code to the core software of the Gripen so that Royal Thai Air Force could develop, upgrade, modify or add equipment, sensors and weapon system in the future by themselves.
- Transfer of technology and Industrial Cooperation.
- Master of Science Scholarship Program for 200 Thai students in Sweden.
- Long-lasting Bilateral Cooperation Program, the “Joint Plan of Action”

Our commitments will take effect immediately with no hidden conditions.

The Gripen fighter aircraft package

Gripen is a highly agile true swing role/multi-role supersonic fighter, embodying state-of-the-art sensors, data link, sensor fusion and mission computation giving pilots unrivalled situational awareness in a modern network centric warfare environment. These features coupled with the ability to carry and release a wide range of modern precision weapons, ensures that the Gripen has an advantage over most other fighters in operational service today. Gripen is able to carry weapons from many sources such as the US, Europe, South Africa, Israel etc as well as weapons already existing in the RTAF inventory.

Gripen is currently delivered to the Swedish Air Force, the South African Air Force, the Czech Air Force and is also currently being delivered to the Hungarian Air Force. The Empire Test Pilots' School (ETPS) in the UK is also using Gripen as its platform for fast jet training. Since 2002 Gripen is participating in NATO exercises on a regular basis and in 2006 the Swedish Air Force participated with Gripen aircraft in the Red Flag exercise in Alaska, USA.

The Swedish proposal includes the delivery of twelve (12) Gripen fighter aircraft in two batches. Also included in the aircraft package is all the necessary:

- In-Country Support
- Technology Transfer
- Training of air and ground crew
- Simulators
- Mission Support Equipment
- Ground Support Equipment

Two ERIEYE Airborne Early Warning radar systems on Saab 340 aircraft

The state-of-the-art technology, that the ERIEYE advanced AEW system uses, has been developed for operations in a defense network environment. The ERIEYE is able to form a surveillance sentinel over Thailand and its territorial waters with possibilities of monitoring both an extensive air and sea area by long range detection or survey in close detail and specific areas. By combining the low operating costs of the Saab 340 commercial aircraft with the low weight and low drag of the antenna and radar system, the ERIEYE system provides guaranteed affordability and low life cycle costs.

The ERIEYE will act as a force multiplier supporting the Royal Thai Air Force. The ERIEYE is currently in operation in Sweden, Brazil, Greece and Mexico. The system has also been purchased by the Pakistani Air Force.



ERIEYE Airborne Early Warning Radar System on Saab 340 Aircraft

Command and Control

The package includes a Command and Control system that will be integrated to the existing Royal Thai Air Defense System (RTADS). The ERIEYE systems will be connected via data link to the ground based Command and Control and to the Gripen Fighters. With the combination of new command and control functions included in the package and existing ground based radars, the airborne ERIEYE radars and the latest generation of fighters will form a powerful air defense solution for Thailand.



Sweden proposes Modern Air Defense Network Centric Warfare Environment

Saab 340 for air/ground crew training and transport

Another Saab 340 aircraft is also included in the package for air/ground crew training purposes as well as transport.

Technology Transfer – Cutting Edge Technology for Thailand

The Benefits of Technology Transfer

As part of the Swedish proposal, Sweden will transfer 100 man-years of advanced aerospace technologies to Thailand. The aim of this transfer of technology is, through long-term partnerships, designed to sustain and positively enhance the aerospace and defense industry in Thailand. The transfer will also provide partnership for local Thai industry in future development programs including the Gripen program.

The Swedish Government is committed to operate and to further enhance the Gripen system in order to keep it on the technology forefront for at least 30 – 40 years and very recently a contract was signed with Saab to develop a demonstrator program for Gripen with the objective of showing the future possibilities of the

system. The Swedish government through Swedish defense industry is also participating in many aerospace development projects like e.g. the French-Swedish UAV-project.

Sustaining National Self Sufficiency

Sweden has as a neutral and non-aligned nation developed and manufactured leading fighter aircraft for more than 60 years in order to stay independent from foreign suppliers. The Swedish doctrine has always been to protect its own national borders and airspace and the development on fighter aircraft has been focused on self-defense.

As self-dependent and self-sufficient nation, Sweden has progressively developed its technology up to now and is well-advanced in many industries, guaranteeing that Thailand will benefit from such technology and to use the technology to develop aerospace industry and defense system and become self-dependent. Such technology includes Gripen weapon system which Sweden commits to cooperate with Thailand as equal partners.

Key Technology Transfer Areas

Access to source codes, software and documentation for the Thai Gripen.

Transfer of key engineering capabilities to allow joint integration of future systems, for example new sensors and weapon systems.

Thai engineers will be co-located with Saab in Sweden and these personnel will eventually form a “core team” in Thailand providing indigenous Thai development capabilities. On completion of the co-location period in Sweden the engineers will act as facilitators to other personnel within Thai industries, thus improving the overall technical base in this field. The proposed Technology Transfer Program cover a period of one (1) to two (2) years in Sweden providing Thai personnel ‘hands-on’ experience of the Gripen system.

Joint Plan of Action – A Government and Industry Joint Venture

The prime ministers of Thailand and Sweden decided on an ambitious Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) when they met in Stockholm in September of 2004.

The plan, which has been negotiated over the past year, is unusually broad as well as detailed. The finalized plan has been signed by the foreign ministers. It is foreseen that with a RTAF/RTG selection of Gripen, the JPoA will become significantly more important as a tool and a conduit for Thai-Swedish bilateral cooperation as interest in and funding for projects would be greatly enhanced.

Since the JPoA came into effect, a high level Thai-Swedish cooperation committee is promoting an intensified bilateral dialogue between our governments and parliaments, government officials and the private sector. The committee meets regularly to supervise, coordinate and assess progress of programs under the Thai-Swedish JPoA. It also explores further areas of collaboration and attempt to solve any problems that may arise at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

Areas covered by the Joint Plan of Action include:

- Agriculture
- Defense and military related
- Education, research and development
- Energy and the environment
- Information and communication technology
- Tourism and health care
- Early warning
- Development Cooperation
- Global Issues

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Swedish Proposal, the Joint Plan of Action in combination with the transfer of technology, will enable a unique bilateral cooperation between the kingdoms of Thailand and Sweden. The cooperation has a very broad scope including areas such as research and development, social welfare, agriculture, medical care, industrial development as well as defence matters.

The integrated air defence system with Gripen, ERIEYE and data link communication will give the Royal Thai Air Force the foundation for an advanced network based defence system. This system will encompass combat platforms, sensors, command & control, and communication. With the integrated air defence system the Royal Thai Air Force will have an outstanding opportunity to integrate current and future platforms with unrivalled growth potential.

For more information on the Swedish Proposal in general, please contact The Swedish Embassy in Bangkok, phone 02 263-7200, fax 02 263-7266 or visit www.swedenabroad.com/bangkok

Please visit the below websites for more information on the Gripen Fighter:
English: www.gripen.com
Thai: www.gripen.com/th