



F-35 Lightning II Fast Facts

Australian F-35A Project – AIR6000 Phase 2A/B

- The Australian Government has approved the acquisition of 72 F-35A Lightning II aircraft along with associated weapons, spares, support equipment and infrastructure.
- The F-35 Joint Program Office (JPO) contracts with industry for elements of the F-35 capability on Australia's behalf. To date, Lockheed Martin has delivered 24 Australian F-35A aircraft.
- Australia's first two Lot 6 F-35A aircraft were delivered to the international F-35A Pilot Training Centre (PTC) at Luke Air Force Base (AFB) in Arizona in December 2014 for pilot and maintainer training.
- Australia has accepted 24 aircraft. Five Australian F-35A aircraft are at the PTC, with another 17 being operated by No 3 Squadron and No 2 Operational Conversion Unit at RAAF Base Williamtown in NSW. As of 14 Apr 20, two more aircraft are anticipated to ferry to Australia around July 2020.
- Fifteen Australian Lot 12 aircraft are under contract for delivery in 2020. Six have been accepted to date.
- The Australian F-35A Project remains on schedule to meet Initial Operating Capability in December 2020.
- Australia has 31 pilots qualified on the F-35A, including eight instructing in the US and 23 flying in Australia. In addition, five pilots are training in the US, while three are training in Australia.
- Australia has 183 F-35A maintainers trained and working in Australia.
- Australia's aircraft have collectively achieved over 6,300 hours and more than 4,500 sorties since 2014.
- The F-35A acquisition costs continue to reduce. The average price for Australia's 72 approved aircraft will be less than AUD\$126 million¹ (US\$90 million). Contracted prices for our F-35A aircraft include: Lot 12 – USD\$82.4 million; Lot 13 – USD\$79.2 million; and Lot 14 – USD\$77.9 million.
- Over 50 Australian companies have directly shared in more than AUD\$1.695 billion¹ in production contracts to date, with many more indirectly benefiting through supply chain work.

F-35 Program

- The F-35 Global Support Solution is being implemented with Australia progressively becoming a regional F-35 support hub, through US Government regional assignments for Airframe, Engine and Component Maintenance, Repair, Overhaul and Upgrade (MRO&U), plus regional warehousing.
- Lockheed Martin and Pratt & Whitney have delivered more than 510 F-35 aircraft with the production rate continuing to increase, peaking at production of more than 150 aircraft per year during 2021-24.
- The F-35 is in service with the US Air Force, Navy and Marines as well as the UK, Italy, Norway, Israel, Japan, South Korea, the Netherlands and Australia. It is operating from 20 different locations across the US, Italy, Norway, Israel, Japan, UK, United Arab Emirates, Germany, South Korea, the Netherlands and Australia. Collectively, the F-35 has flown more than 275,000 flight hours.
- Initial Operating Capability has been declared by: the US - Marine Corps (2015), Air Force (2016) and Navy (2018); Israel (2017); Italy (2018); UK (land-based fleet – 2019) and Norway (2019).
- To date, more than 1,000 F-35 pilots and over 9,025 aircraft maintainers have been trained.
- The F-35 Partner Nations are the US (Project Lead), UK, Italy, Netherlands, Australia, Turkey, Canada, Denmark and Norway. Turkey is being removed from the Partnership, after accepting delivery of the Russian S-400 air defence missile system. The F-35 is also being acquired under the US Foreign Military Sales system by Israel, South Korea, Japan, Belgium and Poland, with Singapore acquiring four aircraft initially for evaluation purposes.

¹ 2019-20 PBS Out-turned Price Basis

