



# C-295 Aircraft Deal

## Why in News

The [Cabinet Committee on Security \(CCS\)](#) has cleared procurement of **56 C-295 MW medium transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force** under the [Make-in-India initiative](#) in the [aerospace sector](#).

- The C-295MW aircraft **will be purchased from Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain.**



## Key Points

- **About:**
  - **Capacity:**
    - The C-295 MW is a transport aircraft of **5-10 tonne capacity** with contemporary technology.
  - **Features:**
    - It has a **rear ramp door** for **quick reaction** and **para-dropping** of troops and cargo.
    - It will be installed with the **indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite**.
  - **Replacement:**
    - It will replace the Indian Air Force's ageing fleet of **Avro-748 planes**.
      - The Avro-748 planes are a **British-origin twin-engine turboprop**,

military transport and freighter with a **6-tonne freight capacity**.

- **Project Execution:**

- **Airbus Defence and Space and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)** will jointly execute the project to equip the air force with the new transport aircraft under the Make-in-India initiative in the aerospace sector.

- Airbus will supply the **first 16 aircraft in fly away condition** while the **remaining 40 will be assembled in India** by TASL.

- **Significance of the Deal:**

- **Private Sector Participation:** This is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by a private company.
  - During the process of manufacturing in India, it is expected that all the suppliers of TATA Consortium who will be involved in special processes will gain and maintain globally recognized **National Aerospace and Defence Contractors Accreditation Program (NADCAP)** accreditation.
- **Boosts Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan:** It offers a unique opportunity for the Indian Private Sector to enter into technology intensive and highly competitive aviation Industry.
  - This programme is a unique initiative to strengthen **indigenous capabilities** and boost **'Make in India'**.
- **Boost MSMEs:** The project will give a boost to the aerospace ecosystem in India wherein several **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** spread over the country will be involved in manufacturing of parts of the aircraft.
- **Reduce Import Dependence:** The project will **augment domestic aviation manufacturing** resulting in **reduced import dependence and expected increase in exports**.
  - A large number of detail parts, sub-assemblies and major component assemblies of aero structure are scheduled to be manufactured in India.
- **Employment Generation:** The programme will act as a catalyst in employment generation in the aerospace ecosystem of the country.
  - It is expected to generate 600 highly skilled jobs directly, over 3000 indirect jobs and an additional 3000 medium skill employment opportunities with more than **42.5 lakh man hours of work** within the aerospace and defence sector of India.
- **Infra Development:** It will involve development of specialized infrastructure in the form of hangars, buildings, aprons and taxiways.
  - Before completion of deliveries, **'D' Level servicing facility (MRO)** for C-295MW aircraft are scheduled to be set up in India.
  - It is expected that this facility will act as a regional **MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul)** hub for various variants of C-295 aircraft.
- **Offset Obligations:** Airbus will discharge its **offset obligations** through direct purchase of eligible products and services from Indian offset partners giving further boost to the economy.
  - In simplest terms, the offset is **an obligation by an international player to boost India's domestic defence industry** if India is buying defence equipment from it.

## Note

- **National Aerospace and Defense Contractors Accreditation Program (NADCAP)** is a worldwide cooperative program of major companies designed to manage a cost-effective consensus approach to special processes and products and provide continual improvement within the aerospace and defense industries.

**Source: PIB**

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