

## The MRFA Competition



# Gripen E's missile edge for the Indian Air Force

**T**he Gripen E offer for the Indian Air Force builds upon the Gripen E family of aircraft. Gripen E is the most modern fighter in the competition and together with its weaponry, including the Meteor Beyond Visual Range missile, Gripen E will give the IAF an edge against its adversaries. The latest high performance sensors such as AESA radar,IRST system, advanced datalinks and AI-enabled decision support gives the pilot superior situational awareness and ability to see first-act first.

With its combat performance and power projection capability, Gripen E will provide the IAF with deterrence power in the region. Even more important, Gripen E can be armed with Indian-developed missiles or missiles of any provenance, unlike any other aircraft.

“Any weapon of Indian choice can be integrated with the Gripen fighter,” said Mats Palmberg, Head of Gripen India Campaign. “Gripen can also be equipped with Israeli, European, American weapons, giving it an edge in the ongoing MRFA

(Multirole Fighter Aircraft) competition. We are of course also prepared to integrate Indian weapons” he added.

Gripen E can carry nine missiles and 16 bombs as well as a large suite of other weapons and payloads. In addition, its inherent design enables easy integration of new weapon systems and stores for all types of missions, from air-to-air missiles to reconnaissance and heavy air-to ground armament. A specific feature of the aircraft is that it is programmed to deploy systems with different weights, centre of gravity and shapes with different aerodynamic features. Furthermore, its split avionics allows weapon integration and tactical system software updates or changes which can be made without the need to re-certify the flight critical software. These unique features, together with standardised interfaces and open architecture orientation, results in faster and easier integration of new weapons on the fighter.

In its offering to India, Saab maintains an all-inclusive fighter package that will meet the IAF's requirements at a

fraction of competitor costs. “Besides the Meteor, IRIS-T, A-Darter, and AIM-120 AMRAAM (Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile), other missiles like the Astra, Python 4/5, Derby, AIM-9X Sidewinder, ASRAAM and others can also be easily integrated to Gripen,” stated Palmberg. A wide range of guided/unguided bombs, reconnaissance pods, cruise missiles and anti-ship armaments are, of course also offered.

### The Meteor BVR edge

Beyond Visual Range (BVR) combat with ‘See First–Shoot First’ capability is one of the most important features of modern fighter aircraft. The Meteor has changed the dynamics of BVR combat and taken it to a new level, providing unmatched air-to-air capability.

With an operational range of over 100 km, a BVRAAM Meteor missile can travel at speeds of over Mach 4, over four times the speed of sound. The missile can accelerate mid-way, leaving very little chance of the target to escape.