

Defense Security Cooperation Agency

NEWS RELEASE

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OMAN – Reconnaissance Systems

On 18 July 2002, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency notified Congress of a possible Foreign Military Sale to Oman of podded reconnaissance systems as well as associated equipment and services. The total value, if all options are exercised, could be as high as \$49 million.

The Government of Oman has requested a possible sale of two Goodrich DB-110 or two BAE Systems F-9120 Podded reconnaissance systems, one Goodrich or one BAE Systems Exploitation Ground Station, support equipment, spares and repair parts, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics personnel services, and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated cost is \$49 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will strengthen the military ties between the U.S. and the Sultanate of Oman. Strategically located at the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, Oman has been a coalition partner for over thirty years. Oman's active participation during the Gulf crisis and their willingness to allow access to port facilities and air bases make them vital to any coalition success in the region. This proposed sale would strengthen Oman as a coalition partner by providing greater interoperability with U.S. and other coalition forces in the region.

The reconnaissance systems will be utilized on their newly purchased F-16 aircraft. Oman desires these articles to fulfill their strategic commitments for self-defense, with coalition support, in the region.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not affect the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be: Goodrich Corporation of Charlotte, North Carolina or BAE Systems, North America of Syosset, New York. There are no offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of one U.S. Government and two contractor representatives for one-week intervals, twice annually, to participate in program management and technical reviews. Contractor representatives specializing in various skills and disciplines will be required to provide incountry support for a short period of time. The specific requirements for this support will be established during program definition between representatives of the U.S. Government and Oman.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

This notice of a potential sale is required by law; it does not mean that the sale has been concluded.