

Is there a future for the Eurofighter?

Rising costs and the collapse of the Soviet Union could ground the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) currently being built by Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain. The cost of each plane could almost double to \$132 million by the time the first prototype takes to the air in September

Avionics – British team

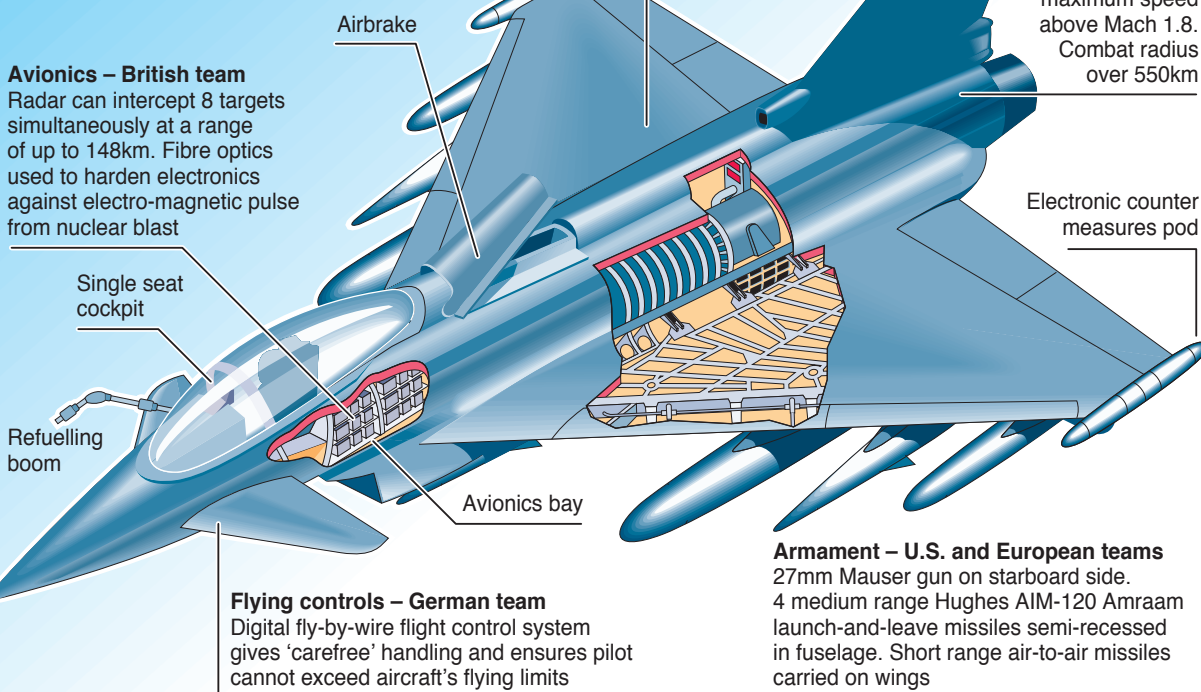
Radar can intercept 8 targets simultaneously at a range of up to 148km. Fibre optics used to harden electronics against electro-magnetic pulse from nuclear blast

Structure – Spanish team

Mostly carbonfibre composites using advanced techniques in superplastic forming and diffusion bonding

Powerplant – Italian, British, German teams

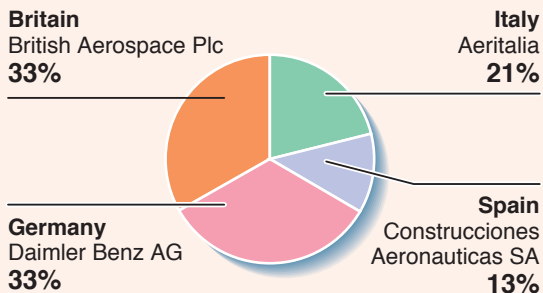
Two Eurojet-200 afterburning turbofans giving maximum speed above Mach 1.8. Combat radius over 550km



Armament – U.S. and European teams

27mm Mauser gun on starboard side. 4 medium range Hughes AIM-120 Amraam launch-and-leave missiles semi-recessed in fuselage. Short range air-to-air missiles carried on wings

The Eurofighter consortium (Jagdflyzeug GmbH)



Teamwork: who's building what

