

# 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 official cost of each plane is \$79 million but critics claim this could rise 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

## Avionics – British team

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Single seat cockpit

Refuelling boom

Airbrake

Avionics bay

Electronic counter measures pod

## Flying controls – German team

Digital fly-by-wire flight control system gives 'carefree' handling and ensures pilot cannot exceed aircraft's flying limits

## 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)

### Britain

British Aerospace Plc  
**33%**

### Italy

Aeritalia  
**21%**

### Germany

Daimler Benz AG  
**33%**

### Spain

Construcciones Aeronauticas SA  
**13%**

## Teamwork: who's building what

Britain

Italy

Germany

Spain and Italy

Germany

Britain and Italy