

Chinese jet may boost Iran's air defences

Iran is reported to have signed a deal with China to take delivery of two squadrons of advanced J-10 fighter aircraft, which would significantly improve the Islamic Republic's air force capability

CHENGDU J-10: Iran will receive 24 aircraft between 2008 and 2010

Speed: Mach 1.9 **Altitude:** 18,000m **Combat radius:** 550km

Armament: 1 x 23mm cannon, up to 11 missiles or bombs

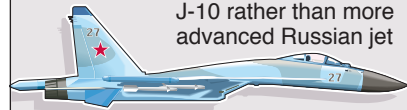


Russian-built engine

Future models may have thrust vector technology to increase manoeuvrability

Cockpit: Digital fly-by-wire controls, multi-functional LCD displays and helmet-mounted weapon sight

Sukhoi Su-30: Iran opted for cheaper J-10 rather than more advanced Russian jet



Speed: Mach 2.35 **Altitude:** 17,500m

Combat radius: 925km

Armament: 1 x 30mm cannon, up to 12 missiles or bombs

F-16 Falcon: Most numerous Western fighter, used by U.S. and 24 other air forces



Speed: Mach 2.0 **Altitude:** 15,240m

Combat radius: 550km

Armament: 1 x 20mm cannon, up to 9 missiles or bombs