

# F-35 programme undergoes cost-cutting drive

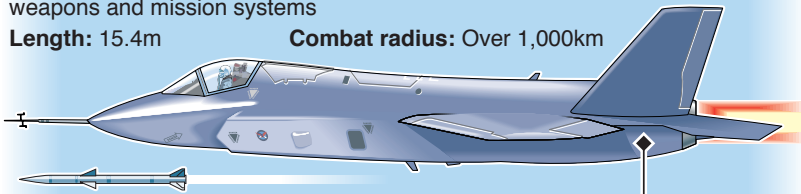
Lockheed Martin is striving to make the F-35 programme more affordable by streamlining and speeding up production of its new warplane. The Joint Strike Fighter is the most expensive weapons project in history, with the average cost per aircraft estimated at \$91 million

**F-35:** Stealth fighter with advanced radar, weapons and mission systems

**Speed:** Mach 1.8 (1,900km/h)

**Length:** 15.4m

**Combat radius:** Over 1,000km



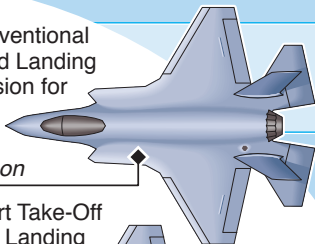
**Weapons:** One 25mm GAU-12 cannon. Four missiles / bombs carried internally plus up to 10 on external stations

**Engine:** One F135 turbofan with 191kN (43,000lbs) thrust. Shaft-driven lift fan (F-35B only)

## VARIANTS

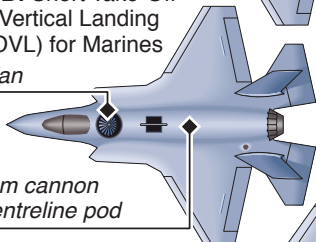
**F-35A:** Conventional Take-Off and Landing (CTOL) version for Air Force

*Internal 25mm cannon*



**F-35B:** Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing (STOVL) for Marines

*Lift fan*



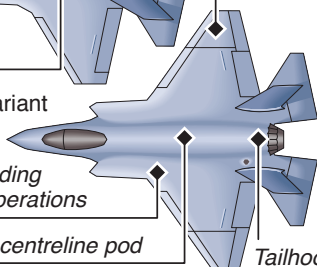
*25mm cannon in centreline pod*

*Larger wing area and folding wingtips*

**F-35C:** Carrier Variant (CV) for Navy

*Strengthened landing gear for carrier operations*

*25mm cannon in centreline pod*



*Tailhook*

## PROCUREMENT

**United States:** 1,763 F-35As for Air Force, 680 F-35Bs and F-35Cs for Marines and Navy. Total aircraft 2,443

**Britain, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Turkey, Italy, Australia:** Spending \$4.8bn on development, buying over 700 planes

**Israel:** Signed \$2.75bn deal for 19 aircraft. Eventual total 75

**Other countries interested:** Singapore, South Korea, Finland, Spain, Greece, Belgium. Lockheed to submit proposal to Japan as part of that country's new fighter competition

**Cost per plane:** Average \$110 million including development