

Japan likely to choose F-35 fighter

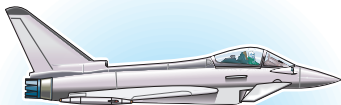
Lockheed Martin's F-35 fighter jet is favourite to replace Japan's ageing F-4 Phantoms, from a shortlist of three contenders

F-35 Lightning II
(Lockheed Martin Aeronautics)

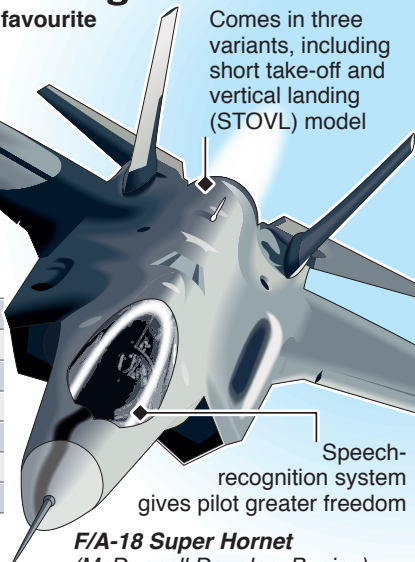


Length:	15.67m	
Wing span:	10.70m	
Powerplant:	1 x Pratt & Whitney F135	
Top speed:	1,930km/h	
Range:	2,220km	
Crew:	1	
Unit cost:	\$122-\$150 million	

Eurofighter Typhoon
(Eurofighter GmbH)



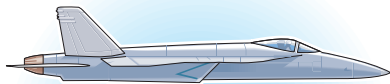
Length:	15.96m	
Wing span:	10.95m	
Powerplant:	2 x Eurojet EJ200	
Top speed:	2,495km/h	
Range:	2,900km	
Crew:	1	
Unit cost:	\$117 million	




Comes in three variants, including short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) model

Speech-recognition system gives pilot greater freedom

F/A-18 Super Hornet
(McDonnell Douglas, Boeing)



Length:	18.31m	
Wing span:	13.62m	
Powerplant:	2 x General Electric F414-GE-400	
Top speed:	1,900km/h	
Range:	2,346km	
Crew:	1 or 2 (depending on configuration)	
Unit cost:	\$55 million	