

Lockheed Martin's F-35 Joint Strike Fighter

F-35 Lightning II is being built in three versions

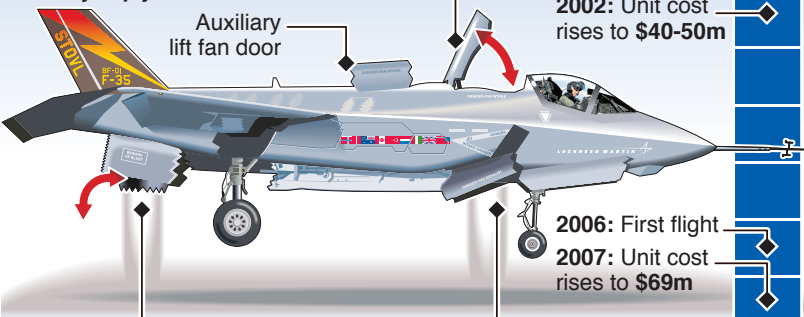


F-35A: Conventional takeoff and landing (CTOL) variant

F-35B: Short takeoff and vertical landing (STOVL). Third of fuel capacity lost for vertical flight system

F-35C: Carrier version (CV) with tailhook for navy use

F-35B jump jet



Thrust vectoring nozzle:
Directs full thrust of turbofan engine down for vertical takeoff and landing

Lift fan: Powered by driveshaft from jet engine – balances lift generated at tail

Current status of F-35 customers (aircraft)

U.S.	2,456	Canada	65
Britain	138	Netherlands	65
Turkey	120	Norway	52
Italy	90	Japan	42
Australia	72	Israel	40

1997: U.S. launches JSF programme. Average cost per plane: **\$28-30 million**

2001: UK becomes first international partner

2002: Unit cost rises to **\$40-50m**

2006: First flight

2007: Unit cost rises to **\$69m**

2010: First F-35B flight. Unit cost **\$110m**

2011: F-35B put on "probation" – too heavy for operations

2012: F-35B reinstalled. Unit cost: **\$154.4m***

*All aircraft unit costs in constant 2002 dollars except 2012 cost which is in 2010 dollars

Source: Congressional Research Service report February 2012

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