

UK in talks to buy E-7 Wedgetail aircraft

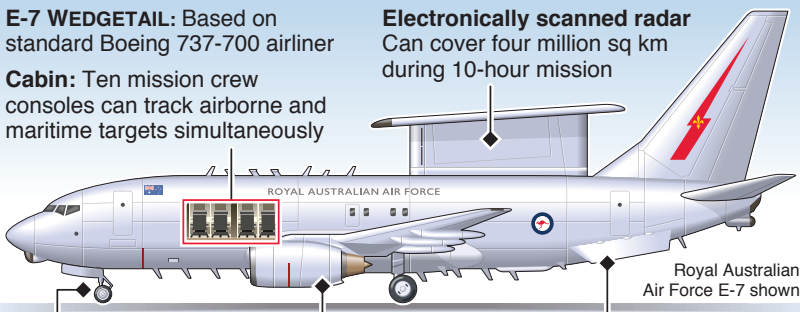
The UK has begun talks with Boeing to replace its fleet of ageing E-3 Sentry surveillance planes with the U.S. aerospace group's more modern E-7 Wedgetail early warning and control aircraft

E-7 WEDGETAIL: Based on standard Boeing 737-700 airliner

Cabin: Ten mission crew consoles can track airborne and maritime targets simultaneously

Electronically scanned radar

Can cover four million sq km during 10-hour mission



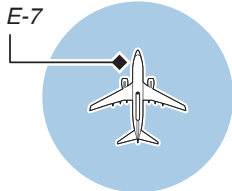
Landing gear: Includes extra structural components due to weight of radar

Powerplant: Two CFM56-7 turbofans, 118kN thrust each

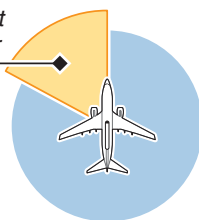
Ventral fins: Provide aerodynamic balance to offset effect of radar

RADAR COVERAGE: E-7 uses more modern electronic scanning, allowing radar energy to be directed, unlike mechanical scanning of older E-3 aircraft (Not to scale)

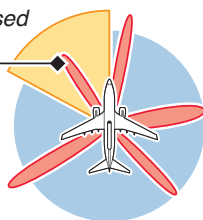
E-7



Threat sector



Focused beam



Uniform 360° coverage
Radar range in excess of 370km

Sector emphasis
Energy channelled for extended range

Radar revisit
Power reprioritised to track targets of interest

COMPARISON	Boeing E-7 Wedgetail	Boeing E-3 Sentry
Length (m)	33.6	46.6
Crew size	2 flight, 10 mission	5 flight, 13 mission
Maximum take-off weight (kg)	77,565	151,636
Cruising speed (km/h)	760	890
Range (km)	7,040	8,046
Operating altitude (m)	12,500	13,106
Entered service	2009	1991