

India-Russia assault rifle deal

A contract between the Indian government, Russia's Kalashnikov Concern and Rosoboronexport could see a \$766.5 million order for 750,000 AK-203 assault rifles – with most to be produced in India

New Delhi

Korwa ordnance factory: Rifles to be manufactured in Uttar Pradesh

Avtomat Kalashnikova AK-203

Weight: 3.8kg (with empty magazine)

Firing rate:

700 rounds/minute

Muzzle velocity:

715 metres/second

Railed handguard:

To mount thermal imaging and scope sights

New rear sight base

Pune, Maharashtra

Top cover: Hinged to rear sight base

Selector lever: Three positions, safety on, fully automatic, single shot. Indian version loses finger tab

Flash hider-compensator:

Slots direct gases upwards to generate downward force on barrel. Reducing muzzle rise enables faster second shot

Picatinny rail: To mount UBGL*

Magazine: 30 or 50 rounds

Unit cost \$1,022

Ammunition:

7.62×39mm (M43) – can fire Chinese M43 ammunition

39mm

Contoured ergonomic pistol grip. Base contains removable oil bottle

Retractable buttstock: Adjustable length, left-folding. Three-piece cleaning kit stored inside stock. Indian version may replace compact stock with cheaper AK-103 linear (fixed stock)

*UBGL – 40mm Under Barrel Grenade Launcher, manufactured at Khadki factory in Pune