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## **BULGARIA TO INITIATE FIGHTER JET, ARMORED VEHICLE PROCUREMENTS THIS MARCH**

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Defense News (21 February 2018)

Bulgarias Ministry of Defence will submit its proposals to procure new fighter jets and armored vehicles to the Council of Ministers this March, according to Defence Minister Krasimir Karakachanov.

The minister told public broadcaster BNT that Bulgaria will seek offers for new and secondhand aircraft to find the best prices and the best options.

In November, Karakachanov said the ministry aimed to request offers from a number of aircraft manufacturers. The considered fighter jets were to include Lockheed Martins F-16, Saabs JAS 39 Gripen, the Eurofighter Typhoon and Boeings F/A-18 Super Hornet.

The aircraft are to replace Bulgarias Soviet-designed Mikoyan MiG-29 aircraft with Western-made fighters. The deal is expected to be worth about 1.5 billion leva (U.S. \$946 million).

Karakachanov says the ministry aims to spend 20 percent of the countrys military expenditure on new weapons and equipment for the Bulgarian Armed Forces. By 2024, Sofia is to raise its annual defense expenditure to 2 percent of the countrys gross domestic product, according to the minister.

Under the plan, the new wheeled vehicles are to replace Bulgarias Soviet-made BTR-60 armored personnel carriers.

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2018/02/21/bulgaria-to-initiate-fighter-jet-armored-vehicle-procurements-this-march/>

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