
INDIA CLEARS \$2.12 BILLION PURCHASE OF HELLFIRE-EQUIPPED NAVAL HELICOPTERS

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By Vivek Raghuvanshi

India on Wednesday cleared the purchase of 24 Sikorsky MH-60R naval multirole helicopters through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales program, according to a Ministry of Defence official.

The acquisition, which is worth about \$2.12 billion, was approved by Indias top defense clearance body, the Cabinet Committee on Security, which is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The MoD had approved funds for the purchase in August 2018.

The clearance comes ahead of a two-day visit to India by U.S. President Donald Trump beginning Feb. 24.

The MoD official said a formal government-to-government contract for the MH-60R helicopters will be signed once cost negotiations are finalized. No timeline has been set, but delivery will take place three years after the contract is inked, he added.

A previous attempt to buy naval multirole helos failed when the MoD canceled the planned purchase of 16 S-70B Seahawks from Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin subsidiary, in June 2017 following expiry of the \$1 billion price tag offer.

Read more at: <https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2020/02/20/india-clears-212-billion-purchase-of-hellfire-equipped-naval-helicopters/>

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