

Greece looks for ways to join F-35 program

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Greece has sent a letter of request to the US to purchase 20 F-35 fighter jets.

According to DefenseNews, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visited the White House and Congress this week to acquire F-35 fighter jets and lobbied against Türkiye's attempts of upgrading its fleet of F-16s and acquiring additional aircraft.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Nikos Panayiotopoulos tested the waters for Greece to be included in the joint F-35 fighter jet program during his meetings with his counterpart Lloyd Austin and the director of the Pentagon's F-35 Joint Program Office, Sean Burke.

DefenseNews also pointed out that for Greece to be included in the joint production program, which includes 8 countries other than the U.S., it must buy shares first.

The cost of 20 F-35 fighter jets, which will start to be delivered from 2028, is over 3 billion dollars.

During Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' visit to the United States in May, including Greece in the co-production program was brought to the agenda.

However, the Greek press said that the Greek Air Force did not have sufficient infrastructure for production.

Türkiye requested to supply F-16s from the U.S. after it was expelled from the joint F-35 fighter jet program on the grounds of deployment of S-400 air defense systems from Russia.

The Biden administration endorsed the demand, stressing that it would be required to keep [NATO](#)'s southern flank militarily intact and strong.