



F-35 Enterprise Steps Up Sustainment Efforts With Latest Contract



In a major step forward for F-35 sustainment, the F-35 Joint Program Office (JPO) awarded our Lockheed Martin industry team a \$1.4 billion sustainment contract this week to support operations for the F-35 fleet around the globe.

“This contract is critical to ensuring the transformational F-35s are mission ready to support our men and women in uniform,” said Bridget Lauderdale, Lockheed Martin vice president of F-35 Global Sustainment in our [company news release](#). “We are taking aggressive actions to improve F-35 aircraft availability and reduce sustainment costs. As the sustainment system matures and the size of the operational fleet grows, we are confident we will deliver more capability at less cost than legacy aircraft.”

The annual contract funds sustainment support activities for aircraft currently in the fleet, as well as building enterprise capacity to support the future fleet of more than 3,000 F-35 aircraft. Activities include air system maintenance; pilot and maintainer training; depot activation; sustaining engineering; Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS) support, data analytics and predictive health management; supply chain logistics and more.

Increasing F-35 readiness and reducing sustainment costs are absolutely critical for our program – and it will take all of us working together to deliver for our customers.



Teamwork Improves Parts Availability

Sticking with the sustainment theme, this week I'd like to recognize great work by several of our teammates to improve spare parts availability. Recognizing that the availability of F-35 Onboard Vertical Tail Seal could reduce aircraft readiness, Cory Tallman, an F-35 Engineer, worked with numerous individuals across the organization including Patrina Smith, a buyer on the F-35 supply chain team, to quickly ramp up vertical tail seal production to support increasing sustainment spare requirements.

Cory, Patrina and the team were all in and found a solution to accelerate production and ensure the required parts will be available in the field on time, every time. Their collaboration and focus helped drive priority one mission impaired capability awaiting parts (MICAPS) to closure and improved F-35 flight line readiness.

Thanks to Cory, Patrina and the entire team for their outstanding work. As always, I encourage all of us to look around our areas and challenge the status quo to identify and make improvements in your areas. You can also elevate ideas to my leadership team by sending an email to f35.communications@lmco.com.



Harris Corporation Delivers One Millionth F-35 Part

Last week, F-35 supplier Harris Corporation [celebrated the delivery of their one millionth avionics](#) components for the F-35, while significantly cutting costs and maintaining a near perfect on-time delivery record. Harris has worked with industry partners to provide the components since the program began and has maintained more than 99.95 percent on-time delivery accuracy.

Congratulations to Harris on this impressive accomplishment and for their focus on delivering the right part, time, every time. Our global supply chain continues to advance technology, improve efficiencies and reduce costs to deliver and sustain the transformational F-35 for our men and women in uniform. We look forward to sharing more successes from Harris and all of our suppliers in the future.



Japan FACO Completes Two Acceptance Flights in One Day



As part of all F-35 delivery operations, government pilots fly two acceptance flights to implement all required performance checks. Recently, the combined Japan Final Assembly and Check Out (FACO) team of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI), Lockheed Martin, DCMA and the Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF) successfully completed both government flights in less than a seven-hour period.

Both flights, for F-35 aircraft AX-8, landed Code 1 after the pilot completed all of the required checks, as one of the final steps in the delivery process. This is an outstanding achievement and the Japan FACO team did a fantastic job from start to finish.

Congratulations to the team and we look forward to building upon this success as we work towards our F-35 production and delivery goals.

CHECK US OUT ON:



GREG ULMER
VICE PRESIDENT AND
GENERAL MANAGER OF
THE F-35 PROGRAM

