



Martin-Baker

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MARTIN-BAKER AIRCRAFT COMPANY WINS POTENTIAL \$200 MILLION ORDER TO SUPPLY UP TO 1018 SEATS TO RETROFIT US AIR FORCE T-38 ADVANCED TRAINER FLEET, 4 JULY 2005

Martin-Baker Aircraft Co. Ltd., located in Denham, Bucks, has been selected competitively to manufacture a new ejection seat, two of which will be retrofitted into each of 509 T-38 Talon advanced jet trainers in service with the US Air Force Air Education and Training Command. The programme which is expected to see the entire fleet retrofitted over the next 9 years is potentially worth in excess of \$200 million. The new seat will significantly improve the life saving capability of the T-38 escape system, accommodate the greatly expanded male and female pilot population size range and guarantee technical and logistic support for the next 40 years.



The ejection seat, the US16T, is similar to that used in the Eurofighter Typhoon now entering service with the RAF and is virtually identical to that which Martin-Baker supplied to NASA to re-equip all of the Space Agency's T-38s that are used for astronaut training. Joint Managing Director, James Martin said, "NASA is a very discerning customer and the experience that we gained on that program undoubtedly helped position the Company to be able to offer a winning proposal to the Air Force".

During an initial period, minor changes will be made to meet Air Force special requirements, such as a modified inter-seat sequence system to enable the instructor to eject the pupil and him or herself. The escape system will then undergo a rigorous test program that includes fully representative ejections (with instrumented dummies) from a T-38 fuselage travelling at 700 mph along a special track. Production is scheduled to commence at Denham in late 2006. Depending on quantities ordered, work will begin to be transferred to the Martin-Baker America plant in Johnstown, Pennsylvania – a wholly owned subsidiary of the UK parent Company. It is intended that eventually the work will be shared between the UK and US plants.