

# KF-21

## Next-Generation Fighter



The KF-21 is a fighter aircraft developed to retain the operational capability of the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) and satisfy the future operation concept of force battlefield as a multi-role fighter jet which features enhanced survivability, combined/joint operations, sustainment and logistics support system, air superiority and ground precision strike.



The KF-21 is the project which aims to replace the aged fighters in operation, F-4, and F-5 of the Republic of Korea Air Force and develop the indigenous Korean fighter aircraft which is equipped with performances suitable for the future battlefield of the country's air force. Korea's largest-scaled KF-21 project is the national R&D project with a development span of 10 years and 6 months and is driven with Indonesia under international joint development. Based on its development experience and infrastructure of a homegrown airplane, such as the KT-1 basic trainer, T-50 Advanced Jet Trainer, TA-50 Lead-in-Fighter-Trainer, and FA-50 Light Combat Aircraft, KAI is under development of the KF-21 project successfully.

Through this project, KAI plans to develop the aerospace technology of Korea and contribute to national peace and security as well as economic development

## Overview

### Development Purpose

- Development of alternative fighter for the Republic of Korean Air Force (ROKAF) to replace the aging fighter fleet (F-4/F-5) - 4.5th generation aircraft with capabilities higher than the KF-16 class fighter (equipped with cutting-edge avionics including AESA radars)

### Development Period

- Dec. 2015 ~ Jun. 2026 (10.5 years)

### Development Purpose

- Aircraft System (Prototype for flight and ground test)
- Training system (Flight control/Maintenance training equipment)
- Integrated Logistics Support System

### Development Scheme

- International joint R&D program led by Korean Prime Company



## Features

- AESA Radar & Advanced Avionics
- Advanced Precision Weapons
- 10 Weapon Hard Points
- High Maneuverability
- Enhanced Survivability
- Advanced Support Features
- High operational efficiency
- Single & Tandem Seat Aircraft

## Specifications ※ Single Seat Aircraft

Max. Thrust **44,000 lb**

Ferry Range **1,550nm**

Max. Speed **1,400mph**

Max. Payload **17,000lb**

MTOW **56,400lb**



## History and Milestone

- 2001 President Kim Dae-Jung declared the development of indigenous fighter jet and its deployment in 2015
- 2010 Approved the basic strategy of the KF-X Project (by Defense Acquisition Program Promotion Committee)
- 2011 ~ 2012 Conducted Technology Development
- 2013 ~ 2014 EMD Program Feasibility Analysis (KISTEP/KIDA)
- 2015 Selection of the prime company
- 2016 Program Kick-off meeting and SRR/SFR
- 2017 Designation of defense good and defense company for KF-X program
- 2018 Completed PDR (Preliminary Design Review)
- 2019 Completed CDR (Critical Design Review)
- 2020 Started the Final Assembly of the First Prototype
- 2021 Roll-Out of the First Prototype
- 2022 First flight (07.19), KF-21 First flight Ceremony (09.28)
- 2023 Supersonic Flight (02.23), Weapons separation test (METEOR: 03.28, AIM-2000: 04.04), Provisional combat suitability evaluation (05.15), 6<sup>th</sup> Prototype of KF-21, 1<sup>st</sup> Flight (06.28)
- 2026 EMD Completion