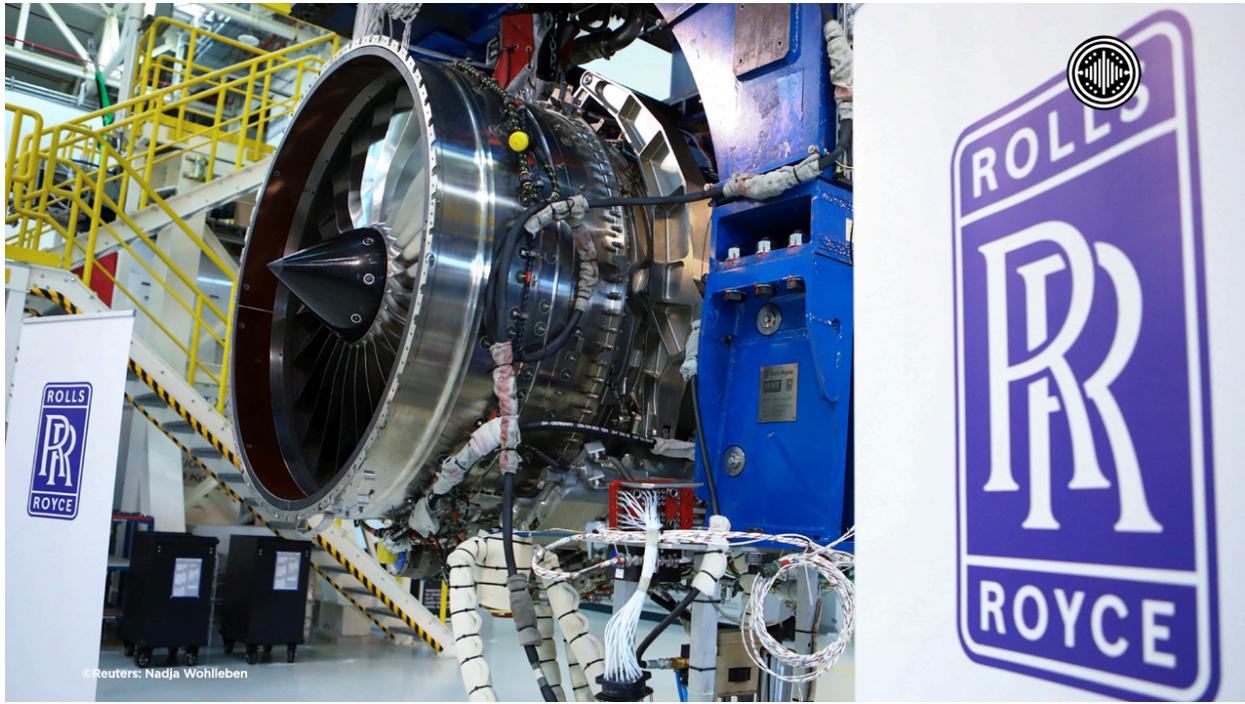


Rolls-Royce Pushes for AMCA Engine Deal Amid French Rivalry



British aerospace giant Rolls-Royce has declared it is “very much in the game” for India’s ambitious Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) engine deal, despite recent reports suggesting that France’s Safran has emerged as the preferred partner. The statement from Rolls-Royce comes as India’s Ministry of Defence considers proposals from both European heavyweights for the co-development of a high-thrust jet engine for its next-generation stealth fighter. The final decision is a critical step in India’s pursuit of defense self-reliance.

The AMCA is India’s flagship program to field a fifth-generation stealth fighter, with the initial Mk-1 variant set to use General Electric’s F414 engines. However, the more advanced Mk-2 variant requires a more powerful, indigenous engine in the 110-130 kN thrust class to meet performance and stealth requirements. This engine deal is valued at approximately \$6.7 billion and is seen as a defining moment for India’s aero-engine manufacturing capabilities.

Safran has reportedly gained traction by offering a shorter development timeline of 10 years, which aligns with the Indian Air Force’s goal of commencing AMCA Mk-2 production by 2035. The French company’s proposal also includes a comprehensive transfer of core hot-section technology, a critical and closely guarded component of jet engines that no country has previously transferred to India. Safran has also committed to setting up full-scale design and manufacturing facilities in India, reinforcing its alignment with the “Make in India” framework.

In contrast, Rolls-Royce has proposed a new, clean-sheet engine design tailored specifically for the AMCA, to be developed jointly with India's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE). The British firm's offer, while potentially having a longer development cycle of 13 years, emphasizes a complete Transfer of Technology (ToT), full Indian ownership of intellectual property (IP), and a scalable architecture that could be used for future sixth-generation aircraft. A senior Rolls-Royce executive, Alex Zino, reaffirmed the company's position, stating, "We're still in talks; we're still putting an offer on the table through the UK government." This high-stakes competition could redefine India's strategic partnerships and its future in advanced aviation technology.