

UK Awards £4 Million Contract to Colt Canada for C8 Rifle Spares

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— Categories: Defence & Security



The UK Ministry of Defence has awarded a £4 million contract to Colt Canada Corporation to supply spare parts for the C8 rifle platform. The contract begins in August 2025, runs for two years, and includes options to extend for up to three years.

This deal covers components and accessories vital for maintaining the C8 carbine, a weapon widely used by UK Special Forces and other specialist military units. The contract ensures that operational readiness remains high by securing a continuous supply of technical spares.

The award bypasses competitive tendering because Colt Canada holds exclusive rights to the necessary technical data. Colt's US parent company has designated Colt Canada as the sole authorised supplier of C8 spares in the UK, granting it exclusive access to the specifications required for manufacture, testing, and supply.

Babcock Land Defence Limited is acting as the Ministry's procurement agent under this agreement, which was awarded based solely on price under post-Brexit public procurement rules.

The C8 rifle, also designated L119A1 or L119A2, plays a crucial role in the arsenal of Britain's elite forces. Maintaining its support infrastructure is key to ensuring these units retain their edge in operational theatres.

Previous contracts with Colt Canada have supported upgrades and routine maintenance of the rifle system, highlighting the Ministry's commitment to reliable supplier relationships for specialised military equipment.

By securing this contract, the UK government prioritises continuity and efficiency in defence logistics, recognising the importance of proven supply chains for critical military assets.

This procurement aligns with wider efforts to strengthen the UK's defence capabilities through strategic partnerships with trusted providers,

particularly in specialised areas where competition is limited by technical exclusivity.

The contract underlines the balance between operational necessity and procurement regulations, ensuring that vital equipment remains serviceable without compromising transparency or value for money.

Through this contract, the Ministry of Defence maintains the readiness of frontline units dependent on the C8 platform, supporting national security objectives and the effectiveness of specialist forces.

Further details or expert insights may follow to clarify the contract's potential impact on UK military preparedness.