

# ARCHIVED REPORT

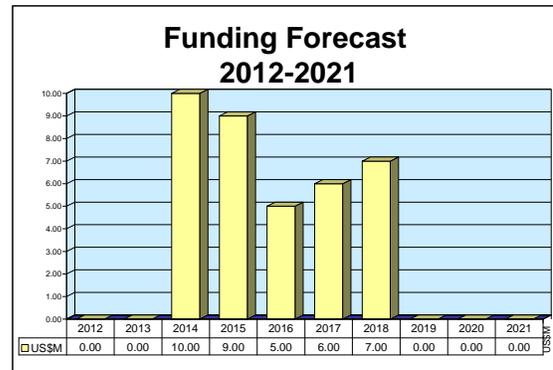
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## Tactical Data Link - Fighters

### Outlook

- FI projects that the USAF will spend about \$37 million on its Fighter Tactical Data Link project over the next decade (this forecast is highly speculative)
- The USAF's need to provide critical capabilities and enhancements to tactical datalinks used on USAF fighter aircraft is driving this forecast
- The Fighter Tactical Data Link project may be winding down, or, alternatively, the work associated with the project may be reassigned to another U.S.



### Orientation

**Description.** The U.S. Air Force's Fighter Tactical Data Link project researches and develops tactical datalink technologies for all U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft.

**Status.** Ongoing research and development.

**Application.** Communications and information exchange.

#### Sponsor

United States Air Force  
 Pentagon  
 Washington, DC

### Contractors

Contractor(s) not selected or not disclosed.

Comprehensive information on Contractors can be found in Forecast International's "International Contractors" series. For a detailed description, go to [www.forecastinternational.com](http://www.forecastinternational.com) (see Products & Samples/Governments & Industries) or call + 1 (203) 426-0800.

Contractors are invited to submit updated information to Editor, International Contractors, Forecast International, 22 Commerce Road, Newtown, CT 06470, USA; [rich.pettibone@forecast1.com](mailto:rich.pettibone@forecast1.com)

### Technical Data

According to the U.S. Air Force, tactical datalinks (TDLs) provide a jam-resistant, secure, digital data transfer network capability utilizing new and standardized waveforms and data formats for line-of-sight (LOS) and beyond line-of-sight (BLOS) intra- and inter-flight communications. Tactical

datalinks are used in a combat environment to exchange information such as messages, data, radar tracks, target information, platform status, imagery, and command assignments.

## Tactical Data Link - Fighters

Tactical datalinks include, but are not limited to, Link 16, Link 11, the Situational Awareness Data Link (SADL), the Variable Message Format (VMF), the Integrated Broadcast Service (IBS), the Intra-Flight Data Link (IFDL), Tactical Targeting Network Technology (TTNT), and the Multifunction Advanced Data Link (MADL).

The Fighter Tactical Data Link project seeks to provide critical capability and enhancements to tactical datalinks used on all U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft.

The Fighter Tactical Data Link project (Project 675043) is part of Program Element #0207445F. The project consists of the following subprojects:

**Tactical Data Link (TDL) Enterprise.** TDL Enterprise develops an interoperable datalink capability for low-observable aircraft.

**Direct Support.** Direct Support conducts Fighter Tactical Data Link system engineering analysis, development, testing, and integration of, and provides technical support for, of common fighter datalink technology and capabilities for various fighter tactical datalink systems.

## Program Review

Below are summaries of the recent activity under the subprojects of the Fighter Tactical Data Link project:

**Tactical Data Link (TDL) Enterprise.** In FY09, TDL Enterprise began developing a waveform specification based on the in-process development of the initial MADL capability on the Joint Strike Fighter. In FY10, the subproject continued developing a MADL message standard to capture message content, formats, and protocols.

In FY11, Major Thrust Two of the project worked toward finalizing the waveform specification for the MADL Increment 1 capability. Also, the thrust began

developing a new MADL message standard revision of future MADL increments and/or capabilities.

According to an FY13 U.S. Air Force budget document, no work was scheduled for FY12 or FY13.

**Direct Support.** From FY09 through FY11, Direct Support (Major Thrust Three) provided program management administration (management and oversight activities) in direct support of F-22 Advanced Tactical Data Link (TDL) development.

According to an FY13 U.S. Air Force budget document, no work was scheduled for FY12 or FY13.

## Funding

		U.S. FUNDING					
		FY11	FY11	FY12	FY12	FY13	FY13
		<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>
<b>RDT&amp;E (U.S. Air Force)</b>							
PE#0207445F							
Project 675043		-	22.75	-	-	-	TBD
		FY14	FY14	FY15	FY15	FY16	FY16
		<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>AMT</u>
<b>RDT&amp;E (U.S. Air Force)</b>							
PE#0207445F							
Project 675043		-	TBD	-	TBD	-	TBD

All \$ are in millions.

Source: U.S. Air Force FY13 RDT&E budget document

TBD = To Be Determined (planned spending).

## Contracts/Orders & Options

No contract information regarding the Fighter Tactical Data Link project has been made public.

## Tactical Data Link - Fighters

## Timetable

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<b>Year</b>	<b>Major Development</b>
FY09	Major Thrust One works on developing radio, data processor, and crypto processor modules for the Multifunction Advanced Data Link on the F-22
FY10	Major Thrust Two continues developing a MADL message standard to capture message content, formats, and protocols
FY11	Major Thrust Three provides program management and oversight in support of F-22 advanced TDL development

## Worldwide Distribution/Inventories

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The Fighter Tactical Data Link is a project of the **United States Air Force**.

### Forecast Rationale

The U.S. Air Force's Fighter Tactical Data Link project researches and develops tactical datalink technologies for all U.S. Air Force fighter aircraft.

Forecast International projects that the U.S. Air Force will spend about \$37 million on its Fighter Tactical Data Link project over the next decade (this forecast is highly speculative). The Air Force's need to provide critical capabilities and enhancements to tactical datalinks used on Air Force fighter aircraft is driving this funding stream.

According to an FY13 U.S. Air Force budget document, no work was scheduled for the Fighter Tactical Data Link project in FY12 or FY13. That said, the same budget document indicates that funding for the project will be continue to be requested at least through FY17.

The Fighter Tactical Data Link project may be winding down, or, alternatively, the work associated with the project may be reassigned to another U.S. DoD program. FI will continue to monitor this situation.

## Ten-Year Outlook

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ESTIMATED CALENDAR YEAR RDT&E FUNDING (in millions \$)												
Designation or Program	High Confidence					Good Confidence			Speculative			Total
	Thru 2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
<b>MFR Varies</b>												
<b>FIGHTER TACTICAL DATA LINK Military &lt;&gt; United States &lt;&gt; Air Force</b>												
	290.22	.00	.00	10.00	9.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	.00	.00	.00	37.00
<b>Total</b>	290.22	.00	.00	10.00	9.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	.00	.00	.00	37.00