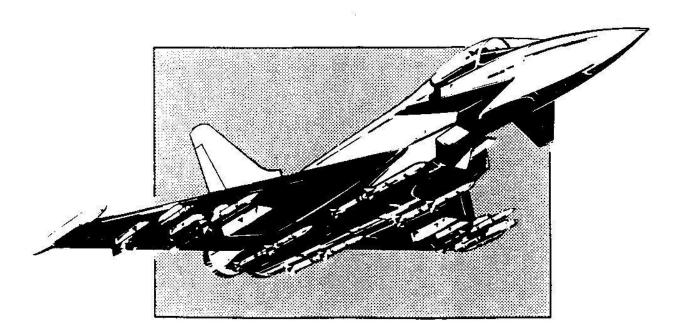


The European Fighter Aircraft From Requirement to Flight Test

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Abstract

The European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) Development is a four nation program (Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom) in response to the European Airstaff Requirement issued December 1985 for an Air Superiority Fighter with a limited Secondary Role Capability for Ground Attack.

The prime contractor for the development is the Eurofighter Jagdflugzeug GmbH comprising Alenia, British Aerospace, Casa and Deutsche Aerospace.

The Aircraft is a single seat, twin engine, unstable delta-canard design embodying latest technology in structures, systems, engine and avionics optimized for the air-to-air role. Design emphasis is placed also on operability, reliability, maintainability and testability as well as low mass and low signature. The radar is optimized for air-to-air with reliable operation in a high density ECM environment.

The Flight Test Program consists of 7 Prototype Aircraft shared between the partner companies to develop the design through initial operational certification to the final standard.

Advanced Flight Test Instrumentation and Analysis Methods will be used for cost effective and economic flight testing.

At present the various systems of the first prototype DA1 are being checked out in preparation for further engine runs and first flight.