

Press release:

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New FAC simulator for the Gripen fighter

IFAD has successfully integrated its IFACTS simulator for forward air controllers with the Gripen fighter simulator enabling pilots and forward air controllers to train in a shared computer generated environment. IFAD expects the solution to have great potential in the ever more promising world market for the latest generation of the Gripen fighter.

Pilots and forward air controllers (FAC) can now train more realistically and intensively together. The successful integration of the IFAD Forward Air Controller Training Solution (IFACTS) with the Gripen fighter flight simulator creates a shared 3D virtual training environment.

The solution enables the pilot and the FAC to rehearse the mission in the same planned terrain while facing the same expected enemy threat.

- *The military planner creates a realistic scenario with real terrain data. When the pilot and the FAC can actually see each other in the same battle space the training result increases dramatically. And so does the chances of destroying the target without collateral damage during the real mission, says IFAD CEO Benny Graff Mortensen.*

The computer generated battle space presents the pilot and the FAC with the same terrain, the same enemy threat and the same support from own troops. The only difference is that the pilot sees it all from great altitude or with great speed. From his position on the ground the FAC is able to identify the target with infrared night vision equipment or a laser rangefinder and transfer the data directly to the pilot's cockpit display while speaking on the radio.



Jonas Fröberg, Vice president, SAAB IC and Benny Graff Mortensen, IFAD CEO in front of the IFACTS simulator.

IFADs FAC simulator (IFACTS) integrated with the Gripen flight simulator in Linköping when the system was presented to the Danish Chief of Defense.





Export potential

The integration process was fairly easy because both IFACTS and the Gripen fighter make use of standard technology to the widest possible extent, such as NATO-agreed standards and information technological standards (COTS).

IFAD and Saab, the manufacturer of the Gripen fighter, have recently presented the solution to the Danish Defence which is currently in the process of evaluating the latest model Gripen Next Generation as the nation's new multi-role fighter. From December 1 to 4, IFAD and Saab participate in the I/ITSEC Training, Simulation and Education Conference in Orlando, Florida.

- *We are the leading supplier of simulation systems to the Danish Defence. Through the cooperation with Saab we expect new markets to open, says Benny Graff Mortensen.*

IFAD expects the training solution to be of interest to countries operating the Gripen fighter. Different versions of Gripen are in service with Swedish, Czech, Hungarian, Thai and South African air forces. The fighter is currently being evaluated by a large number of nations: Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Croatia, Bulgaria, Rumania, India and Brazil.

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