

Indian Navy Grows its Boeing P-8I Fleet with Delivery of 9th Patrol Aircraft



A Boeing P-8I. The country has now taken delivery of its ninth such aircraft. Boeing

SEATTLE – Boeing is continuing to expand the Indian navy's long-range maritime reconnaissance anti-submarine warfare capabilities with today's delivery of the country's ninth P-8I, Boeing said in a Nov. 18 release. The patrol aircraft is an integral part of the Indian navy's fleet and has surpassed 25,000 flight hours since it was inducted in 2013.

The ninth P-8I is the first aircraft to be delivered under an option contract for four additional aircraft that the Indian Ministry of Defence placed in 2016. The Indian navy was the first and is the largest international customer for the P-8 and recently completed seven years of operating the fleet. In addition to maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities, P-8I have been deployed to assist during disaster relief and humanitarian missions.

"Our focus has been, and will be, on delivering the world's best maritime patrol aircraft to the Indian navy," said Surendra Ahuja, managing director of Boeing Defence India. "The P-8I, with its exceptional maritime surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, versatility and operational readiness, has proven to be an important asset to the Indian navy. We remain committed to supporting the modernization and mission readiness of India's defense forces."

Boeing supports India's growing P-8I fleet by providing training of Indian Navy flight crews, spares, ground support equipment and field service representative support. Boeing's integrated logistics support has enabled the highest state of

fleet readiness at the lowest possible cost.

Boeing is currently completing construction of the Training Support & Data Handling Centre at INS Rajali, Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu, and a secondary center at the Naval Institute of Aeronautical Technology, Kochi, as part of a training and support package contract signed in 2019. The indigenous, ground-based training will allow the Indian navy crew to increase mission proficiency in a shorter time while reducing the on-aircraft training time resulting in increased aircraft availability for mission tasking.

Boeing's advanced aircraft and services focus play an important role in mission-readiness for the Indian Air Force and Indian navy. Boeing is focused on delivering value to Indian customers with advanced technologies and is committed to creating sustainable value in the Indian aerospace sector – developing local suppliers, and shaping academic and research collaborations with Indian institutions.