

State Dept. Approves \$1.8B Sale of P-8A Patrol Aircraft to Germany



A P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft assigned to the “Grey Knights” of Patrol Squadron (VP) 46, sits on the flight line, Jan. 7, 2021. Germany is seeking a foreign military sale of five such aircraft worth nearly \$1.8 billion. *U.S. Navy / Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Austin Ingram*

WASHINGTON – The State Department has approved a possible foreign military sale to Germany of P-8A aircraft and associated support and related equipment, for an estimated cost of \$1.77 billion, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a March 12 release.

Germany has requested five P-8As aircraft and their associated

mission systems and avionics. The sale also would include "aircraft spares; spare engine; support equipment; operational support systems; training; training devices; maintenance trainer/classrooms; publications; software; engineering technical assistance; logistics technical assistance; country liaison officer support; contractor engineering technical services; repair and return; transportation; aircraft ferry; and other associated training and support; and other related elements of logistics and program support," the release said.

The proposed sale will improve Germany's capability to meet current and future threats by providing critical capabilities to coalition maritime operations. Germany currently operates the Lockheed P-3C Orion, but that aircraft is reaching end-of-life and will retire in 2024. Germany plans to replace it with the P-8A Poseidon. The proposed sale will allow Germany to modernize and sustain its maritime surveillance aircraft capability for the next 30 years.

The prime contractor will be the Boeing Co., Seattle, Washington.