



AP/Wide World Photo

More than 44,000 U.S. aerospace jobs are at stake when the Air Force chooses between Boeing's KC-767 tanker, above, or an Airbus version built by European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS).

Air Force Nears Tanker Decision

The long-running process to choose the next generation of Air Force refueling tankers is ready for final approach as the Air Force will soon decide who will build the new tanker. The Air Force must replace its aging KC-135 and KC-10 fleet and is under pressure by the Defense Department to consider a version built by the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) along with the early front-runner, Boeing's KC-767.

Boeing's KC-767 program could support more than 44,000 U.S. aerospace jobs with 300 contractors in forty states. The EADS version will be built with European components shipped to the U.S. for final assembly, which will create far fewer U.S. jobs.

"Boeing's KC-767 will be built in Everett, WA, finished in Wichita, KS and will fly engines made by Pratt and Whitney in Connecticut, all home to thousands of IAM members. The Boeing

tanker is more fuel efficient, technologically superior and a better buy for the Air Force," said IAM General Vice President Rich Michalski. "It's just common sense to use taxpayer dollars to support good jobs and strong communities here in the United States."

The KC-767 is a proven design already in use by air forces in Italy and Japan. It will save billions in fuel costs and can land at more military bases than the EADS tanker.

Solidarity Wins New Contract at Pratt & Whitney

More than 4,100 IAM members at Pratt & Whitney (P&W) voted overwhelmingly to ratify a three-year contract that contains annual 3.5 percent pay raises and a \$3,000 signing bonus.

The contract also provides improvement in pension benefits and provides job protection for nearly 900 carpenters, electricians, machine repair workers and other support employees not previously covered.

The lack of that job-security language is what led members to reject an earlier offer. "The major gain was job security," said IAM District 26 Assistant Directing

Business Representative and Chief Negotiator Jim Parent, who explained that the agreement also guarantees that work for the military's Joint Strike Fighter and several other major projects will be done in Connecticut. "Now that we protected that work, we can look to grow jobs here."

"The members held firm until they won a contract that reflected the recent surge in jet-engine production," said IAM Eastern Territory General Vice President Lynn Tucker, Jr. "They made it clear to Pratt & Whitney that they wouldn't accept anything less."



The IAM 2008 Coordinated Bargaining Committee is preparing for negotiations covering nearly 7,000 IAM members at Lockheed Martin.

Getting Ready at Lockheed Martin

With three major collective bargaining agreements between the IAM and Lockheed Martin, the world's largest defense contractor, set to expire at midnight on February 29, 2008, preparations for negotiations are underway.

"IAM members gave the 2008 Coordinated Bargaining Committee (CBC) a full agenda," said Aerospace Coordinator and Committee Chair John Crowdis. "Improving pension benefits and containing health-care costs led the list at all locations."

The contracts cover nearly 7,000 IAM members at Lockheed Martin facilities in: Palmdale, Sunnyvale, Santa Cruz and Vandenberg AFB, CA; Cape Canaveral, FL; Marietta, GA; Meridian, MS and Clarksburg, WV (the Ft. Worth contract expires in April 2009, but representatives are also on the CBC).

The entire Committee met in October to formulate proposals. In December, each site met with the company and exchanged initial proposals. Site negotiations for local issues are taking place in January, and the full CBC will meet in February for the opening of coordinated bargaining.



Local 700 members at Pratt & Whitney sent a strong message at this strike authorization vote in November 2007. They won a contract with gains in job security, wages and pension benefits.