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Insights from the International Sourcing Program for Stealth Fighter Jets

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Abstract

As of 2024, South Korea is the 14th largest economy by nominal GDP and ranks 5th in military prowess. The Korean Air Force (KAF) maintains air superiority with over 400 tactical aircraft, 50% of which are fighter jets. These assets require significant investment and are amortized over 30-40 years, necessitating periodic replacement. In 2012, to counter North Korea's nuclear threats, the KAF decided to acquire next-generation fighter jets, ensuring readiness against contemporary and future threats. This paper streamlines the acquisition process employed, highlighting challenges faced by both buyer and seller in a capital-intensive international sourcing program.

Conference Track

Operations, Logistics and Supply Chain Management