MORE THAN A FIGHTER
A NATIONAL ASSET

GRIPEN
THE SMART FIGHTER
IF THERE IS ONE FIGHTER AIRCRAFT DESIGNED FOR THE MODERN WORLD, IT IS GRIPEN.
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Gripen understands the need for operational flexibility and reliability. So, as a true multi-role and swing-role fighter, it can accomplish three different missions in one sortie. It integrates with existing technology, but accommodates new developments without costly refits. It spends more time in the air - and less time on the ground.

Gripen understands that "money no object" defence spending is a thing of the past. So, unlike any other fighter, its costs are agreed at the outset, and predictable over the entire life-cycle. It delivers economic benefits too.

Gripen holds a nation's needs in perfect balance

Gripen brings skills, technology and shared intellectual property. It creates industrial partnerships and long-term relationships. Power, efficiency, flexibility. Only one modern fighter holds them all in perfect balance. Fueled by Saab's thinking edge at every stage of its development, Gripen is more than a fighter; it's a national asset that protects sovereignty, independence and empowers a nation towards a more secure future. That's why we call it: The Smart Fighter.

Gripen defends a nation's people; but also understands the need to defend the nation's freedom to act. When you buy it, you are free to decide your own allegiances and actions, both nationally and internationally.

OUR SMART APPROACH
BALANCING THE CUSTOMER’S NEEDS
CASE STUDY
SWEDEN

In 1987, no fewer than 4,370 Warsaw Pact aircraft were based within 15 minutes of Sweden’s coastline.

To counter the threat, Sweden needed an aircraft with maximum flexibility: a smart fighter that could cope with harsh environments, operate from dispersed airbases, and confront a numerically superior force. Gripen met that brief, exactly.

Since then, a close partnership between Saab and the Swedish Air Force has made sure that it continues to meet and exceed operational expectations.

The Gripen C and D models were developed with interoperability firmly in mind: enabling the Swedish Air Force to participate fully in joint operations under UN or NATO command, and integrate successfully with air forces worldwide.

Gripen’s flexibility and reliability were vital during the recent coalition intervention in Libya. Eight combat-ready Gripens flew 40% of the reconnaissance missions during the conflict, over the course of 650 deployments.

“Our aircraft proved fully compatible with the international forces’ equipment,” says Micael Bydén, Swedish Air Force Chief of Staff during the mission. “Gripen was very well integrated into all systems and we were a full partner of the combined forces. Avionics and equipment were the equal to our partners. And at home in Sweden we have succeeded very well with Gripen so far. We can train our own personnel, take care of our own maintenance and take off and land almost everywhere in the country. The Swedish Air Force is also a voice heard by Saab when it comes to future developments.”

NATIONAL SECURITY
IN CONTROL
OF YOUR FUTURE

Every government’s first priority is to defend its citizens. But when threats are becoming ever more unpredictable and budgets are becoming tighter, it takes a smart fighter to respond and adapt to them. That smart fighter is Gripen.

Gripen doesn’t just protect your independence in the air. When you buy Gripen, it belongs to you: which gives you flexibility over political allegiances and how you act, both nationally and internationally. With Gripen as a tool of your national policy, you are in control of your future.

Interoperability

As well as protecting the interests of the user’s nation, Gripen is fully able to participate in joint missions around the world. The aircraft is interoperable with army, navy and C2 organisations, and is also fully NATO-compatible. And though originally designed to operate in the harsh arctic conditions of northern Sweden, Gripen has been adapted to operate in a complete range of extreme climates – from tropical zones such as South-East Asia to the deserts of Africa.
SHARING TECHNOLOGY  
DRIVING INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Gripen spreads growth and brings economic benefits. It encourages collaborative industrial partnerships with a customer’s local defence contractors by sharing technology; and integrates with existing systems. But the co-operation doesn’t stop there. Gripen also brings inward investment from companies outside the defence sector. By this Gripen demonstrates that an air force can deliver economic benefits throughout the national economy.

Whether you wish to see your home industry develop new products, your regions prosper from the arrival of new companies, or your established companies develop new competences, a partnership with Saab can make them happen. Your needs and requirements will form the basis of our offer. By choosing Gripen you are not only joining forces with dedicated professionals committed to supporting the development of your industrial base, via Saab, you will also have access to a powerful network of global business partners. Partners able to deliver valuable inward investment, and to provide your local industries with access to unique know-how and state-of-the-art technologies, both civil and military.

CASE STUDY  
SOUTH AFRICA

When South Africa signed a contract for 26 Gripen aircraft, the programme was tailored to deliver sustainable economic growth through increased investment, improved local and export sales, and technology transfer to the defence and aerospace industries.

By investing in projects with real strategic and commercial potential, Saab has been able to implement over one hundred industrial co-operation projects. The ventures embrace a wide spectrum of defence and civil sectors including:

- Aerospace
- Automotive
- IT
- Mining
- Metal beneficiation

“This programme has, without question, been a success. It has resulted in important new capacity in the South African economy, not just in the defence industries, but almost without exception, in more modern manufacturing and technological capacity in our economy.”

Alex Eren MP
Former Minister of Public Enterprises & member of Cabinet’s Economic Cluster of Ministries, Republic of South Africa

CASE STUDY  
HUNGARY

When Hungary signed a lease/purchase contract for 14 Gripen aircraft, the agreement comprised an offset programme. With this, Saab committed itself to delivering an economic programme representing 110% value of the lease cost. All obligations were fulfilled seven years ahead of schedule.

Electrolux opened its biggest European refrigerator and freezer base in Hungary in 2005. The total investment value was EUR85 million. Today, this facility employs over 1,000 people. Other job generating investment schemes include:

- Car parts manufacturing
- Telecommunication
- Biopharmaceuticals
- R&D software development
- Electronic assemblies

More than 15,000 new jobs have been created in Hungary as a result of the programme.

“For many Hungarians the word ‘Gripen’ means not only a high tech Swedish fighter but also a fantastic long-term economic development programme. The programme has been concluded ahead of schedule and I’m confident that the whole country will continue to benefit, both from the new defence capability that Gripen brings and from the long-term economic benefits of the offset program.”

András Sillagyi
Former Director, Ministry for National Economy
A full authority digital 'Fly-By-Wire' flight control system enables carefree handling throughout all areas of the flight envelope. The pilot can concentrate on the mission at hand and be fully confident that the aircraft will always respond with maximum efficiency, performance and safety.

**Multi-role capabilities**
From the very beginning, Gripen has been designed to be a true multi-role and swing-role fighter – meaning it can perform air-to-air, air-to-surface and reconnaissance missions. Gripen can seamlessly change between roles within a single sortie if needed. It means Gripen can perform a wide range of missions, from air policing and tactical air reconnaissance to offensive and defensive counter strikes.

**Agility and manoeuvrability**
Gripen has outstanding agility and high instantaneous turn rates, giving unrivalled performance in close combat situations. The aircraft’s canard and delta wing configuration provide agile flight characteristics for both evasive manoeuvres and close engagement.

**Weapon system integration**
Gripen is designed to host a formidable arsenal of weaponry. A fully flexible mission capability offers multiple role requirements without changes to software or hardware. Combined air-to-air and air-to-surface stores carriage give Gripen a true swing-role capability. Offensive and defensive operations, including reconnaissance, can be conducted in a single mission.

**Superior mission systems**
**Dominate the air domain**

With a genuine multi-role, swing-role fighter, you don’t need multiple aircraft types: because one can do it all. But Gripen’s sheer versatility is more than matched by the superiority of its mission systems. It’s equipped with sophisticated data link technology, radar and an Electronic Warfare Suite, with information all conveyed through the world’s most advanced pilot interface.
Information support
To achieve information superiority, pilots need to be able to identify enemy assets and share intelligence with wingmen, and to have this intelligence presented in a clear way. They must also prevent the enemy from acquiring the same type of information. Gripen’s sensor suite identifies the enemy using a number of active and passive methods while retaining a relatively small radar and infrared signature.

The onboard Electronic Warfare Systems can also jam enemy sensors and approaching missiles, while the aircraft’s relatively small size makes it difficult to detect visually.

Datalinks
A Gripen pilot has full automatic, continuous and secure communication access to information from other Gripen fighters and military forces. Tactical information regarding targets and threats, as well as position, fuel and weapon status, is shared with other Gripen fighters in the same Tactical Air Unit via customer-tailored data links:
- Link 16 as used within NATO
- Links with AEW&C and C2 centres on ground or at sea
- Links with Forward Air Controller.

“[I HAVE FLOWN ABOUT 40 DIFFERENT FIGHTERS AND NONE OF THEM ARE AS RESPONSIVE AND PRECISE AS GRIPEN]”
Richard Ljungberg, Chief Test Pilot, Saab
Logistical flexibility
The ability to deploy swiftly with minimum resources was a basic requirement of the Swedish Armed Forces when Gripen was first conceived. This original capability has since been further enhanced with the incorporation of fully NATO compatible systems.
All these features result in a minimal logistics footprint for sustained operations. For example all Gripen equipment for maintenance and turnaround at squadron level are deployable for operation at temporary air bases.

Availability
Gripen has been designed with maximum availability in mind. For example, the entire engine can be exchanged and tested in the field in less than an hour. These properties, together with low maintenance requirements per flight hour, give the aircraft higher availability than its competitors. Gripen has also been designed for minimum turnaround time. For example, an air-to-air combat set-up takes only 10 minutes to perform, including refuelling and rearming.

Air-to-air refuelling
All Gripen aircraft are equipped to conduct air-to-air refuelling via the NATO standard probe-and-drogue system. This ability increases its combat radius and/or time on station considerably – in fact, missions of up to eight hours or more can be flown.

Survival on the ground
Gripen fighters can be airborne just one minute after the scramble signal, requiring only engine start and final automatic start up tests.
Gripen’s low approach speed, spot-landing technique, the use of canards as airbrakes, precise nose wheel steering and efficient carbon-fibre brakes mean that it can operate from runways only 16 x 800 metres in length. This means the fighter can be deployed from taxiways, damaged runways, small civil airfields or even highways.
Continuous development
Saab works in close co-operation with its customers around the world to continuously develop and improve the aircraft, instead of conducting major and costly mid-life upgrades. Using a short upgrade cycle to provide step-wise improvements ensures the fighter is always up to date and can be adapted rapidly to a changing world. Improvement costs are spread out over a long period and the customer can implement upgrades at a time that best suits them.

Modularity
Gripen’s modular design greatly enhances its ability to adapt. Using existing products and integrating them in an open architecture makes the aircraft development process very flexible. It also enables distributed development of Gripen in customer nations as part of industrial co-operation and technology transfer packages.

LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT
SUPERIOR TODAY, SUPERIOR TOMORROW

Gripen is designed with the future firmly in mind. At the outset, it is compatible with your existing weapon systems: but it can integrate future technology as it is developed. It is designed to be able to evolve continuously to reflect new combat challenges: but you control the path, pace and progress of the upgrade programme. This ensures maximum air effectiveness over Gripen’s entire lifecycle.
Breaking the cost curve
Saab has managed to break the trend of fighters being endlessly more expensive, by producing a more capable aircraft at a lower cost. New functionality can be introduced to the aircraft by installing new software. Hardware components can be changed without affecting the rest of the aircraft, so updates and upgrades can be executed quickly and cost-effectively. Moreover, throughout Gripen’s design and construction Saab has ensured that the aircraft is easy to service and repair. Every detail is created for maximum ease of use and minimum maintenance cost. In fact, our engineers have to work within fixed cost parameters. This way, Saab avoids undertaking expensive solutions that may not prove cost-effective. The whole lifecycle is taken into consideration when these prioritisations are made. With Gripen, cost-effectiveness over the entire life-cycle is built-in from the outset.

We select the best suppliers
Saab increasingly makes use of proven and available components. This negates the expensive process of developing everything ourselves. Saab constantly scans the market to ensure that its customers gain value from the Gripen supply chain. For every system category, we seek to buy the best materials for the best possible price.

COST EFFICIENCY
GIVE YOUR AIR FORCE A STABLE FUTURE

Gripen has value for money built into it. Costs are clear at the outset – and predictable throughout the life cycle. For many countries, Gripen makes a modern air force viable. It adapts to work with your existing military technology and communications systems. And you control the pace and progress of the upgrade path, so you’ll never be forced into costly upgrades. Overall, Gripen is versatile, reliable and cost-effective: protecting your defence budget as well as your citizens.

More time in the air
The result of our commitment to cost efficiency is a fighter with a flight hour cost far superior to any of its competitors. An IHS Jane’s study showed that Gripen’s flight hour cost can deliver over 6.5 times more time in the air for the same money as the Joint Strike Fighter. Gripen keeps your pilots where they belong in the air.

Flight time
GRIPE N F-16 F-18 RAFALE TYPHOON JSF
GRIPEN USERS
AROUND THE WORLD

Gripen has been chosen by air forces on four continents, and its presence in world markets has been strengthened following the order for Gripen E from the Swedish Air Force. The latest milestone in Gripen’s order history was the signing of contracts with Brazil’s Aeronautics Command (COMAER) for the development and production of Gripen NG for the country’s Air Force.

Events like these have thrust Gripen to the forefront of fighter aircraft competitions, from the Americas to Asia – securing its place as a global market leader.

“IN ADDITION TO EQUIPPING [THE BRAZILIAN AIR FORCE] WITH ONE OF THE WORLD’S MOST MODERN FIGHTERS, THE PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRIPEN NG MEANS A TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH FOR BRAZILIAN INDUSTRY”

Lieutenant-Brigadier Nivaldo Luiz Rossato, Commander of the Brazilian Air Force

CASE STUDY
CZECH REPUBLIC

Responding to NATO’s increasing need to patrol its extensive borders, Gripen has been deployed to impressive effect by the Czech Air Force.

For example, Iceland is a NATO member with a uniquely important geographical location – yet no air force of its own. The solution? Other NATO member states take turns to patrol Icelandic airspace.

In 2015, the Czech Republic completed a five-week deployment over Iceland – with a force of five Gripens – under the control of NATO’s Combined Air Operations Centre, and within NATO’s Integrated Air and Missile Defence System.

Throughout this operation, the Czech Republic was still able to maintain a Quick Reaction Alert mission at home, using their remaining seven Gripens.

In similar arrangements, Czech Gripens have performed air-policing duties over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

These complex deployments have all been made possible by Gripen.
A HISTORY OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY

Saab’s history is defined by the unique challenges faced by Sweden as an independent sovereign nation with a large landmass and relatively small population. The company was founded in 1937 with the mission to secure the nation’s supply of military aircraft – part of a drive to maintain national security and sovereignty at a time of imminent crisis. Since then, we have grown into a global player in the defence and security business. But throughout our history we have retained our belief in innovative technologies and pragmatic thinking to defend the world’s freedoms. Some of our milestones:

1930s
Saab was founded on the 2nd of April, 1937. A year later Saab completed its new factory in Trollhättan.

1940s
In 1948 the Saab J29 Tunnan jet fighter made its maiden flight. Several aircraft development projects began during this decade.

1950s
The Lansen flew in 1952 for the first time and marked Saab’s entry into the electronic age.

1960s
Draken entered service, the Viggen fighter aircraft was introduced and Saab entered the missile business.

1970s
The first Viggen fighter aircraft was delivered in 1971, and the first order of RBS 15 surface to surface missile was received.

1980s
Development of the first Arthur weapon locating system and the Gripen started during this decade. First flight for the Saab–Fairchild 340.

1990s
Saab’s first laser simulator (BT 46) and Sea Giraffe AMB were launched. In 1993, the first version of Gripen (A/B) entered service with the Swedish Air Force.

2000s
Saab participated in the development of the Neuron unmanned aerial vehicle program. Major acquisitions included Celsius, Ericsson Microwave Systems and Grintek.

2010s
In 2014 Kockums was acquired. 2016 saw the roll-out of Gripen E and the capability expansion of Gripen C.