

# Firozabad's OEF to make brake parachute for Su-30

**Arvind.Chauhan**  
@timesofindia.com

**Lucknow:** The Ordnance Equipment Factory (OEFHZ) based in Hazratpur, Firozabad, is set to manufacture brake parachutes for Sukhoi 30, a two-seater, twinjet multirole air superiority fighter, which is the backbone of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

At the ongoing 15th edition of Aero India at Bengaluru, the aerospace and defence exhibition, OEFHZ, a unit of DPSU TCL (defence public sector undertaking, Troop Comforts Ltd), was on Tuesday granted the transfer of technology (ToT) to manufacture Su-30 brake parachute from Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). General manager, OEFHZ, Amit Singh exchanged the ToT with DRDO chairman Samir V Kamath in the presence of Union minister of state for defence, Sanjay Seth and Chief of the Air Staff AP Singh (PVSM, AVSM).

Apart from OEF, two private firms – Oriental Weaving & Processing Mill Pvt Ltd, Navi Mumbai, and Kohli Enterprises, Gurugram – also got ToT for bulk production of brake parachute for Su-30. DRDO's Agra-based lab, ADRDE (Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment), had designed and developed brake parachute in 2000-2002. For a few years, Ordnance Parachute Factory (OPF), Kanpur, was the sole manufacturer of brake parachute for Su-30.

"Since OPF was unable to deliver the brake parachute, the IAF had sought alternative arrangements or domestic vendors. This paved the way for ToT, and OEF grabbed the opportunity, as we have 40 years of manufacturing experience," said Commander (retired) Raghav Sharma, PRO of OEFHZ.

Apart from catering the requirement for IAF Su-30 MKI fleet, OEFHZ will also export brake parachutes for a Southeast Asian country, which has placed export order worth USD 65,000 for its Su-30 fleet.

Sources said the IAF would

place an order for Made in India brake parachutes worth Rs 500 crore for Su-30 MKI.

Life cycle of a brake parachute for fighter jets is 2-3 landings, following which it becomes redundant due to wear and tear. "Only those manufacturers are given licence to produce parachutes, who have cleared the basic qualification to manu-

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facture the product and have capability to produce in bulk. Generally, such licenses are given for 10 years, following which a technical evaluation of quality of manufactured product is done. All three firms, including OEFHZ, have to maintain these parameters throughout their contract period," an official source said.