UAE blasts fighter bid wide open

by Chris Pocock

French hopes of an early order for Rafale fighters from the United Arab Emirates Air Force may have been dashed. A British source with knowledge of the requirement has told AIN that the Emiratis will now hold a formal competition, and has just issued a request for proposals (RFP) to the UK government for the Eurofighter Typhoon.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia’s future fighter intentions are also unclear. The UK and the Kingdom have made only slow progress in executing the $7 billion Al Salam contract for 72 Eurofighters. Furthermore, Riyadh has not yet accepted last year’s U.S. offer to supply another 84 Boeing F-15 Strike Eagles.

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Dreamliner realized as A350 lags

by Gregory Polek

It’s no mirage, and no longer a dream. The long-delayed Boeing 787 Dreamliner has finally made its Middle East debut here at the Dubai Air Show, just as rival Airbus has announced a significant delay in the development of the A350.

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