HEADLINES

NEWS IN BRIEF

DoD CUTS COST
Computer Sciences (CSC) has
been selected to develop the
US Department of Defense's
(DoD) joint computer-aided
acquisition and logistic sup-
port (JCALS) system. The
project will put all paperwork
required to build, maintain
and support weapon systems,
from contracts to engineering
drawings and technical manu-
als, onto a single computer
system linking military instal-
lations and defence contrac-
tors via fibre-optic networks.
The DoD estimates that
JCALS will reduce the cost of
new weapons systems by 20%
and reduce the cost of spares
by 50%.

US Navy awards
five A-X studies

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he US Navy has awarded
study contracts to the five
industry teams bidding to de-
velop the A-X carrierborne at-
tack aircraft. The $20 million
concept exploration/definition
study contracts cover trade-off
studies and risk-reduction activi-
ties to be completed by October.
The A-X supersedes the
cancelled General Dynamics/
McDonnell Douglas A-12 as the
replacement for the Navy's
Grumman A-6 Intruder me-
dium-attack aircraft. One prime
contractor is to be selected in
mid-1993 to proceed to the
demonstration/validation phase.
Three of the five prime con-
tractors are proposing "clean-
sheet" designs: McDonnel l
Douglas, with LTV Aerospace as
its principal subcontractor;
Grumman, with Boeing and
Lockheed Advanced Develop-
ment as subcontractors; and
Rockwell, again working with
Lockheed's "Skunk Works".

Two primes are pursuing de-
rivative designs: General Dy-
namics, with principal subcon-
tractor McDonnell Douglas and
major subcontractor Northrop,
will use the A-12 as a baseline;
while Lockheed Aeronautical
Systems, with Boeing and Gen-
eral Dynamics as subcontractors,
will study an F-22 derivative. •

Raytheon in last-ditch
bid for ASRAAM deal
BY MIKE GAINES

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S aerospace manufacturer
Raytheon is making a last-
minute attempt to enter the UK
Ministry of Defence's (MoD)
competition for an advanced
short-range air-to-air missile
(ASRAAM), after failing to meet
the August 1991 deadline for the
submission of initial tenders.
The company is offering the
Improved Sidewinder missile,
developed under a US Depart-
ment of Defense classified pro-
gramme codenamed Box Office,
which uses tail-fin control only.
The reasons for the company's
changing its decision not to bid
are unclear.

Raytheon's short-range air-to-
air missiles programme manager,
Jim Wilson, says: "We are hav-
ing dialogue with the MoD right
now, but we're not sure if we
will be able to get in as the three
other companies are already pro-
ducing their best and final of-
fers. We are working to see if
the British will accept our bid
before the 31 January deadline
for the offer."

The MoD says: "If they want
to talk to us, we are happy to
talk to them."
Five companies and consortia
expressed an initial interest in
the ASRAAM requirement in

Raytheon seeks new target for Improved Sidewinder sales

1991: Raytheon, Loral, BGT in
Germany; British Aerospace
(BAe) with Hughes; and GEC
Marconi with Matra.
Only BAe, GEC and BGT sub-
mitted bids in 1991, however.
An MoD equipment policy com-
mittee (EPC) met to discuss the
initial bids on 4 December,
1991. A decision on the winning
tender is to be made by the
middle of 1991. It is not clear
whether the selection process
will be delayed if the Ministry of
Defence decides to allow Ray-
theon to bid.

The MoD surprised industry
last year by opening the
ASRAAM requirement to compe-
tition after it had been under
development for nearly a decade.
Under the now collapsed joint

family of weapons memorandum
of understanding between sev-
eral European nations and the
USA. The missile now forms the
basis of BAe's bid.
GEC Marconi/Matra are offer-
ing MICASRAAM, a develop-
ment of the latter's Mica, while
BGT said in 1991 that "...a
Sidewinder upgrade would be an
option" to meet the ASRAAM
requirement. Loral was also ex-
pected to bid a Sidewinder vari-
ant, but did not respond to the
August deadline, and confirms
that it will not be bidding.
The ASRAAM staff require-
ment, SR(A)1234, is for a short-
range missile to replace the
current AIM-9L/M Sidewinder
on Royal Air Force European
Fighter Aircraft and Harrier

French navy shelves trainer need
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he French navy has put on
ice plans to buy up to 50 jet
trainers to train pilots for the
Rafale ACM naval fighter.
A senior naval officer says:
"The Marine Nationale has de-
cided to put off the purchase of
a new trainer, at least for several
years...no funds have been allo-
cated in the 1992 defence
budget for a naval trainer, and

Naval Rafale awaits training partner
as funds for the project dry up

we cannot even hope that it will
be in 1993 or later."
The two aircraft competing
for the requirement were the
McDonnel l Douglas/British
Aerospace T-45 Goshawk and
the Dassault Alpha Jet Marine,
utilising converted existing
airframes used by the air force.
The selected aircraft was to
replace the navy's current ageinj.
fleet of 23 CM175 Zephir
(Fouga Magister) trainers, oi
which 11 are in storage.

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