Grumman Confirms Compatibility of U. S. Systems for Chinese Fighter

Grumman Corp. has completed a five-month study establishing the feasibility of integrating U. S. engines and avionics into Chinese-built F-7M fighters (background) to replace 150 older Chinese-made F-6 fighters in the Pakistan air force. The updated aircraft, called the Sabre 2 (model, foreground), is characterized by a new forward fuselage, larger bubble canopy, and twin lateral air inlets replacing the single central nose intake on the F-7M. The F-7 is itself a derivative of the Soviet Mikoyan MiG-21 fighter. Candidate engines identified at the start of the Grumman study early this year included General Electric's 16,000-lb.-thrust F404-GE-400 and 18,000-lb.-thrust F404-GE-100, as well as Pratt & Whitney's 20,600-lb.-thrust PW1120 and 16,500-lb.-thrust PW1216. Grumman conducted the feasibility study in cooperation with the Chengdu Aircraft Corp. of the People's Republic of China, China Aero Technology Import-Export Company (CATIC) and the Pakistan air force.