

AUSTRALIAN GOLD

However, Boeing was unable to sustain momentum in the region with another contract award by Australia. In the Australian project, Air 5402, the KC-767 was once again pitted against an Airbus offering, but this time the European aircraft manufacturer offered an A330 variant, dubbed the Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT).

The RAAF decided that the MRTT more closely fitted their requirements and an acquisition contract was signed in 2004 with Airbus parent company EADS-CASA. Under the contract Australia will acquire five MRTTs to replace the aging Boeing 707s it currently operates. In RAAF service the aircraft will be known as the KC-30B. Through-life support for the aircraft is being managed in a separate contract with Qantas Airways that was signed earlier this year and will include engineering, maintenance, spares, technical data, software and training support for the fleet.



An RAAF operator keeps an eye on tanking operations (PHOTO: RAAF)

It is reported that the project is currently on schedule and within budget to achieve the planned in-service date (ISD) of late 2009. The ISD comprises delivery of two aircraft, completion of qualification testing and

2nd International Conference



Shaping India's Air and Space Power in the 21st Century

Main Conference: Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 February 2008,
Workshop Focus Day: Tuesday 12 February 2008
Venue: Hyatt Regency, New Delhi

INAUGURATED BY:

Arjan Singh DFC
Marshal of the Air Force

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Air Chief Marshal Fali
Homi Major
Chief of the Air Staff
Indian Air Force

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Discussions on the evolving air power matrix
- Analysis of emerging technologies and opportunities
- In depth workshops on the use of air power in netcentric warfare and coastal surveillance

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