



## Aerospace Daily & Defense Report

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**HEADLINE:** FCA teams come out swinging as final RFP release approaches

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**BODY:** The industry teams competing in the U.S. Army's Future Cargo Aircraft program came out swinging at the Association of the U.S. Army's annual meeting in Washington, with each touting the advantages of their offering.

The final request for proposals for FCA is expected by early November, with an anticipated response time of 30 days. The winning contractor will be chosen in June of next year.

Raytheon and EADS are teamed to offer either the C-235, C-295, or a mixture of both for FCA. **Global Military Aircraft Systems**, a joint venture of L-3 Communications and Italy's Alenia, is offering the C-27J Spartan.

Scott Wagner of Raytheon, a recently retired C-23 Sherpa pilot, emphasized the greater length of the C-295's cargo area, which at nearly 40 feet long can accommodate up to five standard cargo pallets. The C-27J can fit three standard pallets with another half-pallet on the cargo ramp.

However, the C-27J's larger fuselage cross-section allows it to accommodate taller pallets as well as uparmored Humvees, which would not fit in the C-295, according to Gary Upshaw, director of business development at L-3 Integrated Systems.

"The C-27J was born and bred a military airlifter," Upshaw told The

DAILY. "Its roots are military. It's not a commercial regional transport that has been reconfigured for a military transport application."

The C-295 has a maximum payload weight of roughly 20,000 pounds, compared with the C-27J's 25,000 pounds. However, according to "the Army's own data - and this is actually my experience overseas - very rarely do we max out an airplane, weight-wise," Wagner said. "Most missions are a combination of passengers and air cargo."

From the standpoint of pure arithmetic, however, "it will take almost twice as many C-295s as C-27Js to do the same mission, because we can put more cargo, more weight," Upshaw said. "We can fly faster than they can, and we can do that transfer quickly."

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