

The L-159 Started Its Operation in the USA

Defense-aerospace



An Aero L-159 photographed during its first flight in the colors of Draken, a civilian contractor which provides adversary aircraft used by the US military services for training. (Draken photo)

The US partner of Aero, Lakeland Florida based Draken International Inc. has started the flight operations of the fleet of L-159E aircraft.

With first batch being delivered, jets were already deployed on multiple military exercises at New Mexico and Nevada. Draken is about to receive in total 21 L-159E, which will be operated together with L-39 and A-4 Skyhawk airplanes. One of the key missions of L-159E is to support US Air Force during Red Flag military exercises during upcoming years.

President of Aero Giuseppe Giordo declares the start of operation as a “start of new era in the life of L-159, which is due to increased demand on the market actively promoted in several countries. The participation in a training of the most advanced air force in the world is a perfect prove of the aircraft qualities. Aero is very excited to support so professional and capable partner as Draken”.

L-159 aircraft mates Aero’s long-term experience in development and production of military jet aircraft, in the category of which Aero represents historically the largest producer in the world, with latest advances in avionics, engine and aircraft systems technology. The L-159 is a light multi-role combat aircraft designed for a variety of air-to-air, air-to-ground and reconnaissance missions.

The aircraft is equipped with a state-of-the-art multi-mode radar for all-weather, day and night operations and can carry a wide range of NATO standards stores including air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles and laser guided bombs. The two-seat L-159 is a derivative of the single-seat L-159, primarily designed for Advanced and Operational/Lead-In Fighter Training. The L-159 configuration can also be tailored to customer specific requirements and adapted to needs of basic training as well as combat missions including air-to-ground, patrol and reconnaissance missions.

AERO Vodochody Aerospace a.s. focuses on the design and manufacturing of military and civil aircraft and is the largest aviation manufacturer in the Czech Republic and one of the oldest aerospace companies in the world. In the field of military aircraft, Aero has been a reliable long-term partner to many of the world's air forces. Aero is a founding member of the Confederation of the Czech Aviation Industry.

Based in Lakeland, FL, Draken International has set a new standard in tactical flight support. With a fleet of over 70 tactical fighter aircraft, the company owns and operates the largest privately-owned fleet of ex-military aircraft in the world. This fleet is used to support various types of military training objectives around the globe, providing a tremendous cost savings over the use of traditional military fighter assets.