

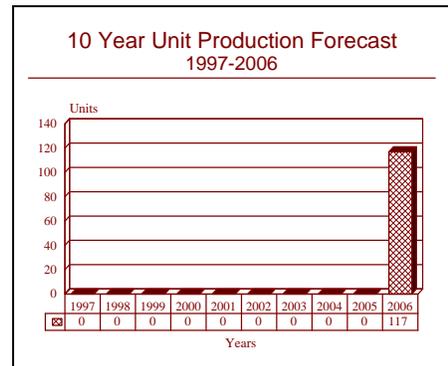
ARCHIVED REPORT

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RB72 - Archived 12/98

Outlook

- Program terminated. No RB72 production units were manufactured, only test rounds
- Sweden will acquire the AIM-120 AMRAAM for its medium-range AAM needs
- Sweden's short-range air-to-air missile requirement could be fulfilled by the ASRAAM, an improved Sidewinder or MICA-IR. No final decision on a new short-range AAM has been made



Orientation

Description. Short- to medium-range, air-to-air infrared-seeking missile.

Sponsor. Swedish Royal Ministry of Defense; Stockholm, Sweden.

Contractors. Under suspended development by Saab-Scania; Linköping, Sweden.

Status. The decision to arm Sweden's JA 37 Viggen with British Aerospace's Sky Flash missile suspended Saab's RB72 development and production. (See separate Sky Flash report.) This program has been

terminated. Sweden is expected to purchase a foreign system for this need, possibly with some indigenous industrial participation.

Total Produced. Approximately 21 RB72 test missiles were completed before the program was suspended.

Application. Short- to medium-range air-to-air missile for the destruction of hostile aircraft.

Price Range. On a run of 400 missiles, the RB72 had an estimated unit price of \$104,000 in Fiscal 1979 dollars. This price did not include the R&D costs.

Technical Data

Dimensions

Missile Length
 Missile Diameter
 Missile Weight^(a)
 Missile Finspan

Metric

260 cm
 17.5 cm
 110 kg
 62 cm

US

8.53 ft
 6.89 in
 242 lb
 24.41 in

Performance

Speed^(a)
 Range (min)^(a)
 Range (max)^(a)

Mach 3.0
 1 km
 30 km

Mach 3.0
 1,093.61 yd
 16.19 nm

^(a)estimated data

Propulsion. A solid-propellant rocket motor of unspecified design and manufacture from a source in the United States was planned for this missile.

Control & Guidance. This missile was to employ a Saab-Scania infrared seeker. The missile's homing head was designed to incorporate a digital minicomputer to

process/evaluate incoming infrared sensor data. The aerodynamic control surfaces were to be electrically actuated.

Launcher Mode. Fired from underwing-mounted pylons.

Warhead. High-explosive type with a weight similar to the Super 530 was planned. (See separate report.)

Variants/Upgrades

No variants or upgrades were manufactured or planned prior to the termination of this program.

Program Review

Background. The Swedish government gave the initial go-ahead on RB72 development during 1975. Approximately \$18.0 million had been authorized for research and engineering validation before termination. Total developmental costs were estimated at \$26.0 million through 1979. However, inflationary pressures caused cost overruns and the program was stretched during 1978, suspended in 1979, and reduced to a feasibility study in early 1980. The only funding detected since 1983 has been for the basic research concerning air-to-air missile technology; no specific funding for the RB72 was found. However, the decision to procure the AIM-9P/L Sidewinder

(designated RB24 in Sweden) in 1979 was probably the death knell for the RB72 program.

Another Indigenous Program. In mid-1986, it was learned that Sweden was working on a totally new indigenous air-to-air missile program. The status of this program, designated SAIR (Swedish Advanced Infra-Red missile), is unclear, but is believed to have been canceled in favor of less expensive foreign alternative. The SAIR was to be an agile-imaging, infrared-seeker-equipped missile. This development effort was believed to have been in response to the difficulty which Sweden encountered in obtaining the US AIM-9L Sidewinder.

Funding

Presently no funding for this program has been announced. Research and development work could be continuing as a private effort, or under another government funding line that has yet to be specified by official sources.

Recent Contracts

No information is available concerning contract awards for this program.

Timetable

	1973	Initial engineering development
	1975	Developmental go-ahead
Jul	1975	Contract award to Saab-Scania
Mid	1978	Advanced development frozen
Late	1978	RB72 seeker technology transferred to B83 air-to-surface missile
Early	1980	RB72 production suspended, program put on hold
	1982	JAS 39 production approval
	1986	Studies of new short range air-to-air missile initiated
Nov	1989-93	Program remains dormant

Worldwide Distribution

Distribution is limited to the 21 test missiles developed by **Sweden**.

Forecast Rationale

A decision on a new short-range air-to-air missile for the Swedish air force will probably not be made until after the turn of the century. The Swedish government is looking to foreign manufacturers to provide this next generation missile, although some indigenous industrial participation could be desired. Among the candidates being examined by Sweden are the AIM-9X Sidewinder, ASRAAM and MICA-IR. A favorite to win this competition has not appeared, but the selection of the MICA-IR appears to be unlikely.

For the near-term, Stockholm's medium-range AAM requirement will be fulfilled by the AIM-120 AMRAAM. There is the possibility that Sweden could

become involved in a cooperative European missile development program, and thereby forgo further purchases of AMRAAM. This so-called Pan-European MRAAM could provide Stockholm with a long-term solution for its medium-range AAM need, with the industrial participation likely to be unavailable with further purchases of AMRAAM. So far, no final decision has been made, but the AMRAAM option seems to be the one most likely to be exercised.

NOTE: The following forecast represents procurement potential, not the development and production of a specific system.

Ten-Year Outlook

		ESTIMATED CALENDAR YEAR PRODUCTION											Total
		<u>High Confidence</u>				<u>Good Confidence</u>			<u>Speculative</u>				
		<u>Level</u>				<u>Level</u>							
<u>Missile</u>	<u>(Engine)</u>	thru 96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	97-06
NOT SELECTED													
SWEDISH SRAAM	UNSPECIFIED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	117
Subtotal - NOT SELECTED		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	117
SAAB-SCANIA													
RB72 (a)	UNSPECIFIED	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal - SAAB-SCANIA		21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Production		21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	117	117

(a) Includes RDT&E component test missiles (incomplete) and initial captive and propulsion test missiles.