

Transmittal No. 04-02

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer
Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1)
of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex
Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. Components considered to contain sensitive technology in the proposed coproduction program are special armor, 120mm gun and ammunition, gas turbine propulsion system, Night Vision Forward Looking Infra Red, and compartmentation.

a. The M1A1 Tank Special Armor and other special armors used in the hull and turret are classified at the Secret level. Major components of special armor are fabricated in sealed modules and in serialized removable subassemblies. Special armor components and associated vulnerability data for both chemical and kinetic energy rounds are classified Secret. The track skirts have been formally declassified but are still considered to be sensitive items and their dissemination is controlled.

b. The M1A1 Tank 120mm Gun and Ammunition system is composed of a smooth bore gun manufactured at Watervliet Arsenal.

c. The M1A1 Tank Gas Turbine Propulsion System in the Abrams tank is a unique application of armored vehicle power pack technology. Manufacturing processes associated with the production of turbine blades, recuperator, bearings, and shafts, and hydrostatic pump and motor, are proprietary and therefore commercially competition sensitive.

d. The Second Generation (GEN) Night Vision Forward Looking Infra Red (FLIR) can be used for target acquisition such as Infra Red missile target acquisitions or air defense. It is classified as Secret.

e. A major survivability feature of the Abrams Tank is the compartmentation of fuel and ammunition. Compartmentation is the positive separation of the crew and critical components from combustible materials. In the event that the fuel or ammunition is ignited or deteriorated by an incoming threat round, the crew is fully protected by the compartmentation. Sensitive information includes the performance of the ammunition compartments as well as the compartment design parameters.

f. The Commander's Independent Thermal View (CITV) Hunter/Killer Sight is a "second generation" thermal sight. This fully stabilized, Panoramic sight is capable of 360 degree rotation and independent sector scanning under automatic or manual control. The CITV interfaces with the fire control system and can be used for surveillance, automatic target hand-off to the tank gunner and as a back-up engagement sight for the commander. The CITV is currently designed to interface only with the M1A2 series tank and not the Egypt M1A1 series tank, which would require either modification to the sight itself or the addition of interface equipment in the tank. The CITV is classified Secret.