This report responds to a congressional request to examine the implications of alternative strategies for performing the final assembly and checkout of the Joint Strike Fighter. The task includes identifying reasonable alternative facilities and determining the cost of doing all or part of the work at these locations. Currently, the primary contractor, Lockheed Martin, plans to perform these operations at its plant in Fort Worth, Texas. This research was sponsored by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics and the Joint Strike Fighter Program Office. It should be of interest to those involved with the procurement of military weapon systems, particularly those involved with or interested in fighter aircraft.

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