

Prototype Stealth Fighter

J – 31

TEAM CLAWS

China has test-flown a second model of a prototype stealth fighter. The plane, known as the J-31, appears to be a smaller version of the J-20 prototype that was tested in Chengdu in 2011. Both planes feature stealth design features but their true capabilities in terms of sensors, radar-absorbing coatings and other factors remain unknown. It is not known when, or if, either plane will go into production. In terms of capabilities, the smaller and nimbler J-31 appears intended for a fighter-interceptor role similar to the US Joint Strike Fighter, and the heavier J-20 could target airfields, warships and other ground targets.

China remains overwhelmingly reliant on Russia for engines for its latest J-10, J-11, and J-15 models, the last two of which were developed from Russian Sukhoi fighter-bombers. Despite that, the ability to develop two prototype stealth fighters at the same time demonstrates an impressive capability on the part of the Chinese industry.

Chinese J 20 Stealth Jet

