BOEING OFFERS SNEAK PEAK OF NEW T-X TRAINER

News / Maintenance / Trainings, Manufacturer

After photos leaked of Northrop Grumman and BAE System's new T-X trainer offering, Boeing and Saab revealed their own T-X sneak peak this week.

A few shadowy glimpses of the trainer appeared over four videos posted on Boeing's new T-X website over the weekend. The clean sheet design has two engine inlets, a high mounted wing and a conventional, vertical tail. That design marks a departure from Boeing's original V-tail concept the company put forth before partnering with Saab. The new aircraft's design is also unique from the Boeing T-45 Goshawk used by the US Navy.

Boeing's T-X bid not only includes the aircraft, but the ground based training and support system. The company plans to hold a Sept. 13 media day surrounding T-X, just a week before for the annual Air Force Association conference held outside Washington, D.C.

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While Boeing and Saab move ahead with their clean sheet offering, Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems have also created a unique aircraft for the T-X competition. Northrop's Model 400 is powered by a single GE Aviation F404-GE-102D engine and was revealed last week in Mojave, California. The aircraft's pointed nose and single, vertical fin resemble Northrop's legacy T-38 Talon.

Meanwhile, Raytheon and Leonardo will implement a block upgrade to an existing airframe for their T-X offering. Last month the two companies unveiled a multi-role version of its M-346 trainer at the Farnborough air show. The M-346T can switch between a trainer and combat role, and development will wrap up in about two years.

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