

## **Taiwan confirms request for US tanks, air defence systems**

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The Defence Ministry says that it has submitted a letter of request for 108 cutting-edge M1A2 Abrams tanks, 1,240 TOW anti-armor missiles, 409 Javelin anti-tank missiles and 250 Stinger man-portable air defence systems.

***Reports have also said Taiwan is seeking 66 additional F-16 fighter jets. (Representational)***

**Taipei:** Taiwan has confirmed it has asked to purchase more than 100 US tanks, along with air defence and anti-tank missile systems in a major potential arms sale that could worsen frictions between Washington and Beijing.

The Defence Ministry says that it has submitted a letter of request for 108 cutting-edge M1A2 Abrams tanks, 1,240 TOW anti-armor missiles, 409 Javelin anti-tank missiles and 250 Stinger man-portable air defence systems.

It said on Thursday that the request is proceeding as normal.

The US is the main supplier of defensive weapons to Taiwan, which China considers its own territory. The M1 Abrams would mark a significant upgrade from the ageing tanks Taiwan's army now uses.

Reports have also said Taiwan is seeking 66 additional F-16 fighter jets.

- AP