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Japan: Proposed Type of Replacement Facility

Local committees tasked with determining the type of replacement facility for MCAS Futenma are considering land-based, coastal landfill, and sea-based options.



Type of Facility	Supporters	Reasons for Support
 <p>Land-based (near Nagasaki in north-central Okinawa)</p>	<p>Governor Inamine and many of his conservative supporters—including close associates in the Okinawan construction industry.</p>	<p>Land-based location and construction style would most directly generate contracts for local construction firms. Facility could easily be converted and expanded into a commercial airport that would benefit northern Okinawan development.</p>
 <p>Coastal hybrid (using reclaimed land for coastal airstrip)</p>	<p>Nago City pro-relocation business community and some conservative Okinawan businessmen.</p>	<p>Coastal land reclamation would largely benefit local construction firms. Proponents also tout the safety and noise-control advantages of having the runway offshore with base infrastructure on land.</p>
 <p>Offshore floating pier (quay installation process)</p>	<p>Mainland construction firms, including Kajima Corporation, Obayashi, and Nissho Iwai. Steelmakers NKK and Nippon Steel. Henoko citizens' group is pushing for a facility 2-to-3 km offshore.</p>	<p>Based on proved technologies used in oil platforms and sea berths. Residents view an offshore facility as safer and quieter. Proponents claim the technology would not damage the environment, but up to 10,000 steel posts would have to be sunk into the seabed.</p>
 <p>Megafloat (semisubmersible)</p>	<p>Consortium consisting of 17 mainland shipbuilders and steelmakers, including IHI, KHI, MHI, Nippon Steel, Hitachi Zosen, and Mitsui. Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of International Trade and Industry.</p>	<p>Built as a prototype in Tokyo Bay, it would be a boon to heavy industry. Proponents claim tethered sea-based structure would be durable and more environmentally friendly than the floating pier or coastal hybrid, and would be cheaper.</p>
 <p>Mobile offshore base (MOB)</p>	<p>US Defense Department, Norwegian firm Kvaerner Marine and several US firms. No Japanese players are interested probably because of technical obstacles.</p>	<p>Most stable deepwater platform. Modular, mobile structure would allow for greater operational flexibility. Would give construction firms opportunity to demonstrate technology for follow-on projects.</p>

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