

# India looks to partner Embraer, Sukhoi to make small jets locally

The central government is looking to partner global aircraft manufacturers, including Embraer SA and Russia's Sukhoi, to make small planes locally as it seeks to improve connectivity in tiny towns and far-flung areas, according to people familiar with the matter.

The government will keep 51 per cent equity with an Indian company, while asking the foreign partner to do tech-

nology transfer, the people said, asking not to be identified as the deliberations are at an early stage. The jets, which typically seat less than 100 people, are likely to be produced in Gujarat, they said.

India has completed preliminary discussions with Embraer, while Sukhoi has expressed interest in manufacturing regional jets locally, the people said. In addition, the country has also approached

ATR, a joint venture between Airbus and Leonardo of Italy, to make in India, they added.

Embraer said India has "significant opportunities" for regional jets and the manufacturer "continuously looks for ways to collaborate with India to find win-win solutions". Representatives for Sukhoi, ATR and the aviation ministry didn't respond to emails seeking comments.

India, the world's fastest-

growing aviation market, is trying to ramp up its small-plane fleet as airports with limited capacity and short runways are not equipped to handle narrow-body planes of Airbus SE and Boeing that dominate the Indian skies.

This will help the government bolster tourism and facilitate faster access to remote areas which recently has been seen to surpass China in population. **BLOOMBERG**