EDA Bulletin
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SHAREHOLDERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

By Alexander Weis, Chief Executive

EDA's mission is to support the efforts of its participating Member States to improve military capabilities for the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). Why 'support'? Because the Member States are responsible for capability development and investment. They spend over € 200 billion annually on defence and they 'own' the capabilities. Armed Forces are national, but course they operate increasingly multinational. Unfortunately, every crisis management operation shows there is still lack of standardisation and interoperability between the national contingents – despite attempts in the past to overcome these problems. It is the result of a specific European problem: fragmentation of defence planning, research & technology, equipment procurement and defence industries. This European problem requires European solutions. The Agency's raison d'être is to provide such solutions by bringing Member States together and to promote collaborative programmes and projects.

Cooperation in EDA…

The current financial-economic crisis will, no doubt, impact defence budgets, including investment. European cooperation is not the problem, but the solution. Working and investing together in collaborative projects can save money for national budgets – simply because the financial burden is spread over a greater number of Member States. At the same time cooperation contributes to increasing standardisation and interoperability between Europe's Armed Forces.

In recent months several new projects have been launched in EDA, of which I like to mention two in particular. In early March the MUltinational Space-based Imaging System for Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Observation (MUSIS) programme became an EDA project and is now open to participation by other Member States. EDA will also provide the liaison with the European Commission to create synergies with related projects, such as Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES). The second project is the Future Trans-

port Helicopter (FTH). On 18 May the Ministerial Steering Board concluded the approval of the FTH project, based on a Franco-German initiative, as an Agency project.

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…but Member States invest

The portfolio of EDA programmes and projects is steadily increasing, signalling that Member States are willing to invest more together. Two Category A Defence R&T Joint Investment Programmes (JIPs) are 'up and running', on Force Protection (€ 55m, 20 European nations) and on Innovative Concepts and Emerging Technologies (€ 15.6m, 11 European nations) respectively. New JIPs are under consideration, in particular in areas where priorities stemming from the Capability Development Plan can be connected to R&T priorities, derived from the European Defence R&T Strategy. The Category B portfolio of EDA contracted 'single' projects contains a total financial volume of more than € 300m. One new project deserves particular mentioning: MIDair Collision Avoidance System (MIDCAS). The MIDCAS Project Arrangement was signed by the 5 contributing Member States during the Le Bourget Air Show in mid-June. The project has a financial envelope of € 50m. It is an essential element in EDA's activities for the insertion of Unmanned Aerial Systems into normal air space, as the project is to provide a demonstrator of a 'Sense and Avoid' (S&A) system for UAS. This S&A technology will be world-leading.

More and more EDA is becoming the natural home for launching collaborations between European nations for capability improvement. This is not limited to R&T and development of future equipment. The Agency conducts an increasing number of pilot training activities, in particular in the intelligence area, and it is launching electronic platforms to assist Member States in finding suppliers at best value for money. A good example is the Third Party Logistics Support (TPLS) platform.

Shareholders…

Twenty-six EU Member States are also EDA Members (Denmark does not participate in the Agency due to its opt-out from the military aspects of ESDP). They pay the Agency's annual budget, their experts participate in its activities and they invest in programmes and projects. EDA is an 'instrument' in the hands of the participating Member States and of their Ministries of Defence in particular. They are the shareholders of the Agency. Without them EDA would not exist and their engagement is crucial for its success. For that reason the Agency works, as much as possible, with experts from capitals as they prepare decisions on defence planning, R&T investment and equipment procurement. The Agency's governing body, the Steering Board, meets in formations representing the decision-making level in capitals: the Ministers of Defence; and, at the sub-ministerial level, Capability Directors, R&T Directors and National Armaments Directors.

Therefore, Member States' contributions to the EDA Bulletin are very welcome. In this edition Rüdiger Wolf, State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry of Defence, provides his views on EDA and explains his country's policy and contributions.

…and Stakeholders

In an environment with numerous other international players in the field the Agency cannot operate in isolation. NATO is an


Alexander Weis, EDA'S Chief Executive

important partner in military capability development. There are also other European organisations, dealing with specific aspects of defence. Some partners are working for civilian users, such as the European Commission and the European Space Agency. With all of them EDA has established a network of contacts to ensure complementarity or synchronisation of activities and, by doing so, to prevent that scarce money is spent more than once. These 'partner' organisations are the Agency's stakeholders.

In this Bulletin several contributions are dedicated to EDA's relations with stakeholders:

- Work on increasing Helicopters' availability is conducted in very close consultations with NATO. It provides a perfect example of the Agency's line established since the start of its activities, namely to ensure that EDA and NATO reinforce each other in addressing capability gaps and in providing solutions.
- The Letter of Intent (LoI), consisting of six countries home to the overwhelming part of Europe's defence industries and representing about 80% of the Agency's participating Member States' Defence R&T investment, is a dedicated European partner for EDA.
- The Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d'Armement (OCCAR), managing procurement programmes on behalf of countries acquiring the same equipment, is a natural 'downstream' partner of the Agency, which generates projects 'upstream'. Once these have reached the development and procurement phase, OCCAR can take them on.
- Coordination with the European Commission continues to be strong, in particular on industry and market issues. For specific R&T projects EDA is working closely with the Commission to create synergies with investment under the 7th Framework Programme. Software Defined Radio and UAS are examples. Recently, Defence Ministers have tasked the Agency to develop concrete proposals for establishing a European Framework Cooperation for Security and Defence. Within this Framework, both sides can systematically ensure synchronisation of their research, taking into account that technologies are increasingly of a dual-use character.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) is another EDA stakeholder for seeking synergies in technology development for space-based or space-related assets. Space systems are often used by military and civilians; synchronising investment creates mutual benefits. As with the Commission, there is no joint investment or management of projects; research activities are closely coordinated and complement each other.

This list is not complete. The Agency is closely working with other stakeholders, such as the Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD). In its relations with all international partner organisations EDA's approach is pragmatic: we really want to focus on seeking synergies between concrete activities, projects and programmes. In other words: realising complementary output to improve Europe's capabilities.

Future Transport Helicopter

On 18 May the EDA Ministerial Steering Board approved the launch of a Category B programme to develop a Future Transport Helicopter (FTH), based on the Franco-German common preliminary requirement. The programme provides for the development of a heavy transport helicopter (32-35 tonnes) by 2020 to replace the current fleet of CH-47 or CH-53. The programme offers potential for cooperation with the United States. It will also leverage work from the European Commission on the Green Helicopter initiative and foster R&T cooperation.

At the same Steering Board meeting EDA presented Ministers of Defence with upgrade packages and associated roadmap for the Mi-17 helicopters. A proposal will be sent by EDA to Member States addressing cooperation models, with the aim of launching upgrade projects before the end of the year.


EDA Steering Board meeting in Defence Ministers formation

EDA - An Efficient ESDP Instrument

Federal Ministry of Defence

By Rüdiger Wolf, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Defence, Germany


Rüdiger Wolf

After four complete calendar years of successful build-up work the European Defence Agency has now moved beyond its initial establishment phase. Last year, in particular, saw the introduction of important policy documents and strategies for all of EDA's operational areas. These documents and strategies are crucial building blocks for EDA's future work as they enable the Agency to implement the Council's political guidelines in the best possible way. Apart from the aforementioned conceptual work, EDA and its participating Member States have already initiated many projects and further projects are about to start.

Another major step will be the development of the three-year Financial Framework for the years 2010-2012 – the first one in the history of EDA. This Council document should not only be a manuscript describing the priorities of EDA's work, but it should also provide the Member States with the long-term financial planning targets which had not been specified in the past. At the same time, the Financial Framework will ensure a reliable basis for EDA's planning activities. In my opinion the intended introduction of a rolling planning cycle would make sense and should be supported, as it guarantees the necessary flexibility in terms of planning.

In addition to the intended broadening of the planning horizon, the activities at the interface between EDA and OCCAR have successfully moved forward. The planned Administrative Arrangement will provide the Agency with an option to support European cooperative armaments projects together with OCCAR from start to finish, i.e. during the entire development process and during the product life cycle.

Thus, the timing is appropriate to take stock of what has already been achieved. Instead of listing success stories and failures, however, the focus is on determining EDA's position and the course it should pursue in the future.

It goes without saying that EDA's scope for action and its ability to leave its mark largely depend on the ambitions of the participating Member States. In this process all Member States should work towards a maximum degree of collective and cooperative action. One distinctive feature of the Agency to be emphasized is the fact that participating Member States are not "obliged" to participate in all activities of the Agency. According to the Joint Action establishing the Agency, it is possible for the participating Member States to "opt in" or to "opt out". As a consequence, Member States can – even in different project-related constellations – formulate and realise their common interests in the field of defence policy and armaments cooperation. In the light of the well-known complexity of international cooperation this results in a considerable increase in flexibility and helps to promote the nations' willingness to cooperate.

EDA is well on the way to becoming the centre for the realisation of European defence capabilities. However, the Agency has to be more than a mere facilitator in this process. It must invest energy and develop its own ideas to help bring about the best possible realisation of the capability requirements derived from the Capability Development Plan (CDP) purposefully and as quickly as possible. In this context the CDP proves to be an asset in the process of further developing the capabilities at national level. But we must also reject any potential attempt to abuse EDA as a tool box for asserting self-serving interests – be they national or industrial.

I am convinced that EDA will increasingly succeed in demonstrating the added value it provides. Its political impetus and its organisational setup are ideally suited for this purpose. The Agency brings together users and suppliers on a European scale in one lean organisation. This does not only allow for high coherence of contents, but it also results in high process speed while gaining the widest possible acceptance.

Moreover, EDA represents an interface to the European defence industry which makes it possible to take the expertise of industry into account. In the end, the intention of improving defence capabilities in terms of equipment can only be realised if industry makes operational products available in a timely manner. The involvement of industry opens up the opportunity of concertedly assessing critical development and production processes and making them transparent at an early stage. Ideally, the results of the CDP which implicate equipment solutions should partially be part of the dialogue with industry as well.

Besides its main operational tasks EDA has even more potential to offer for the benefit of defence ministries. With the Agency having access to other European institutions, it makes sense to generate additional synergies. Thanks to the cooperation between EDA and the European Commission, for example, defence ministries can benefit from the activities the Commission is involved in (and vice versa) and this may lead to the implementation of more economical solutions. By way of example, I would like to mention tie-ins in the areas of "information and communication technologies", "space" as well as "security" included in the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme for Research.

Revealing the European Defence Agency's potential is only a first step. It is essential that firstly, the participating Member States identify approaches which enable them to cooperate

successfully in their projects and secondly, that the Agency lives up to its role as a key enabler. But it is particularly important to avoid the impression that inexpedient pressure is being exerted on potential project partners. To keep pace with the Agency's time frame occasionally presents a demanding, sometimes nearly insurmountable challenge to national work flows. The success of the Agency's actions will depend on the extent to which it succeeds in better taking into account the necessary national proceedings at the expert level. At the same time, the participating Member States have to examine how to optimise and adapt their national procedures and regulations, so that all stakeholders take better advantage of the Agency's potential.

My fundamental understanding is that a project aiming at the acquisition of equipment should only be launched within EDA once the conditions for reaching the relevant objective have been put in place. These conditions, to be precise, include a coordinated project description with a detailed time frame and the guaranteed availability of the necessary resources, first and foremost the budgetary funds of the contributing Member States. Our national process of providing budgetary funds for defence projects may appear to be more complex or even complicated in comparison to other countries. However, I have learned from experience that sound preparatory work is the prerequisite for success and continuity in the project implementation phase. And this is also a success from the Agency's point of view, as the participating Member States reap a security policy dividend.

EDA and NATO: Partners in Capability Improvement

By Laure Frier, Principal Officer, Planning and Policy Unit, EDA
By Andrew Gray, Helicopter Project Officer, Capabilities Directorate, EDA


Laure Frier


Andrew Gray

The EU and NATO both aspire to safeguard the freedom and security of their peoples, recognising that often it means taking action elsewhere in the world. Such action may require a concerted response from both organisations. As emphasised by EU and NATO Heads of State and Government both at the European Council last December and at the NATO Summit last March, capability improvement is a key area for this dialogue. And here the European Defence Agency (EDA) and NATO work closely together to improve European capacities regardless of whether they are to be deployed under an EU or NATO flag. This benefits both sides. Helicopter availability is a good example – with NATO focussing on addressing immediate needs for Afghanistan, while EDA is working on more structural solutions.

EDA and NATO interaction

Over the last years the EU and NATO have developed a substantial - and increasingly fruitful - dialogue on capability development. On the EU side, the EDA - with its capability focus - has played an important role in this evolution. Twenty of the EDA Member States are also NATO Allies. They dispose of only one single set of forces, and face serious budgetary constraints. In this context, there is an imperative requirement for the EU and NATO to ensure the coherence of their respective capability development activities in overlapping areas, and to avoid duplication.

The purpose of EDA's interaction with NATO is clear: increasing mutual transparency in order to ensure that work is coherent and that scarce resources are optimised. In this relationship the Agency applies a number of key principles. First, we do not reinvent what already exists. Relevant standards, concepts and military requirements developed by NATO are used when applicable and when available (which still remains the exception rather the rule). This will help deliver interoperable capabilities for use either in the EU or in NATO. Second, we are promoting synergies and complementary efforts. As a member of the EU family the Agency is able to connect military and civil requirements and agendas. In areas such as Software Defined Radio, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Maritime Surveillance, CBRN, we are linking our work with the Commission's security research activity. This will also help NATO, which increasingly has to interact with civilian actors on the ground, and this more and more closely.


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EDA interacts with NATO within the agreed framework (Berlin Plus agreement). We cooperate through the EU-NATO Capability Group, with substantial information exchanges on areas considered as priorities in both organisations. Furthermore, we have established a wide and dense net of informal contacts with NATO (Headquarters, ACT, and NATO agencies e.g. NAMSA, NC3A) - taking place at all levels (from management to experts) whenever needed - which form an indispensable complement to the above mentioned forum.

The dialogue between EDA and NATO has allowed to ensure a large degree of complementary between activities, thus contributing to making them mutually reinforcing. This is being demonstrated in a number of areas of common interest, including: transport/sustain (helicopters, logistics, airlift), protection (CBRN, Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices), Information/communication (Software Defined Radio, ISR, Network Enable Capability, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Airworthiness). EDA continues to follow a pragmatic project/initiative oriented approach, which is the most suitable and efficient for ensuring coherence with NATO. There is no choice between the EU and NATO when it comes to capability improvement. Developing better deployable European military capabilities is a common challenge, to be met in a win-win game. Efforts will serve the EU/ESDP in particular, but will also be beneficial to the Alliance – and vice-versa.

Helicopters' availability

The issue of helicopters' availability is one of the best examples of the useful consultations referred to above between the EU and NATO on capability development. There is a shortage of helicopters ready to support deployed operations. This has been true for recent deployments for both the EU and NATO, and changing this situation is one of the highest priorities for both organisations. The cause of the shortfall is complex, blending national political sensitivities with equipment shortfalls and personnel deficiencies. Countering these causes is equally complex, but analysis of responses from nations suggests that there are three main strands – outside of the political decision to support an operation – that prevent countries from contributing helicopters to multinational deployments. The first is that existing aircraft might not be suitably equipped to operate in the environment or threat presented by recent operations. The second is that the aircrew do not have sufficient experience or training to successfully conduct missions in the theatre. Lastly, there is the cost of the deployment itself – the logistical support needed to keep the aircraft flying away from their main base is considerable and expensive. This is often beyond what an individual nation can afford.

Given the number of EDA Member States who are also Allies, it is unsurprising that the analysis and the conclusions on the way forward are common to the staffs of both those organisations. Indeed, it dictates that the efforts of both organisations are focussed on achieving the same outcomes. It is also true that the magnitude of the task, and the multitude of issues that need to be addressed, necessitates that the work is conducted in the most efficient manner possible. This requires transparency between the staff: ideas are shared and explored, the responsibilities and strengths of the organisations are considered and duplication is reduced to the absolute minimum.

For example, it is widely accepted that EDA currently has the lead on helicopter training. The Agency is working on the development of a Helicopter Tactics Programme (HTP) that will help pMS prepare their crews for ESDP operations. The programme is likely to consist of several modules that nations could use, or not, depending on their particular requirements. It will be collaborative in nature and involve a series of exercises and events that will, in the initial phases, be distributed across Europe. It is hoped that the HTP, at least in its initial form, will be launched in 2010.

The Agency also sits on the NATO Hip Helicopter Task Force Working Group for C2, Operations and Training. This also allows EDA to monitor developments other initiatives to ensure that its training programme remains relevant to pMS' needs. In addition to advice offered to the WG, EDA has also delivered concrete benefit to the Hip capability that NATO plans to employ in Afghanistan. Czech and Hungarian crews practiced their skills during the EDA exercise hosted by France this spring. Czech crews due to deploy this year also attended an "Introduction to helicopter tactics course" as part of an EDA study in April.

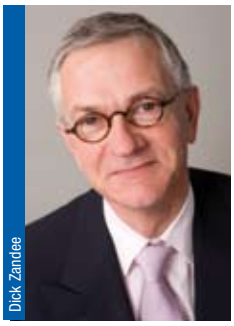
There is also a third structure involved. The International Helicopter Fund, started as part of the Anglo-French Helicopter Initiative, has helped finance upgrade programmes for several countries that have made the commitment to deploy on operations. The Agency sits on the Steering Board of this Fund as an observer. And the Fund has also benefited the EDA, with Luxembourg (one of its contributors) providing funding to both the EDA/FR exercise and an EDA study into operational language training.

Consequently, all the main actors are engaged in a constant and detailed dialogue. There is an international helicopter community developing, that shares a common understanding and has common goals, and is fully engaged in solving a critical shortfall. Coordination and cooperation are the watchwords of an approach which is a fine example of how the strengths of different organisations can be used to best effect to meet the needs of their members.

EDA & NATO: partners in capability improvement (2C-AW101) © Eurocopter

The Need for Transatlantic Cooperation

By Dick Zandee, Head Planning & Policy Unit, EDA


Dick Zandee

At first sight one might not expect a plea for transatlantic cooperation from an organisation like EDA. The Agency aims to improve European capabilities by harmonising European military requirements, promoting European Defence R&T collaboration, enhancing European armaments cooperation, and by strengthening the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base.

So, what would be Europe's interest to seek cooperation across the Atlantic? Naturally, there is the political argument of shared values and principles. These are not only embedded in NATO, they also underlie the direct cooperation between the European Union and the United States. EU-US Summits take place regularly and there is an extensive network of (less visible) contacts at the level of officials and experts. Economic and financial issues, trade and energy, environmental and other topics are on the agenda of EU-US meetings. The same applies to 'security', in line with the European Security Strategy, which defines the transatlantic relationship as "an irreplaceable foundation, based on shared history and responsibilities".

The United States supports European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). This line was already expressed in the two speeches, given by the US Permanent Representative to NATO, Ambassador Nuland, early 2008 in Paris and London. Since the arrival of the Obama Administration further support has been expressed and this has become part of the Alliance's policy. The Strasbourg/Kehl Summit Declaration of 4 April this year is quite clear: "NATO recognizes the importance of a stronger and more capable European defence and welcomes the European Union's efforts to strengthen its capabilities and its capacity to address common security challenges."

"With the arrival of the new American administration there are new opportunities for EU-US cooperation. We should use them. European and American security can only gain from closer cooperation. The regular EU-US dialogue should be used to the maximum extent. I have tasked EDA to establish a substantial dialogue with the US to explore concrete opportunities for transatlantic partnership."

Keynote Speech by Javier Solana, Secretary General / High Representative and Head of the European Defence Agency, EDA's Annual Conference "Helicopters – Key to Mobility", 10 March 2009

"There is no alternative but to cooperate in the development of future helicopters. Our security depends on it"

Al Volkman, Director of International Cooperation for the US Under Secretary of Defence Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, EDA's Annual Conference "Helicopters – Key to Mobility", 10 March 2009

While Europe will continue to strengthen its defence capabilities, this cannot be done in isolation from the US. Soldiers, sailors, pilots and civilians from both continents operate often side-by-side in crisis management operations. Standardisation and interoperability have to be improved in order to operate in a real multinational way (different from the sum of national contributions). This is a transatlantic interest, not just an American or European one.

The time has come to take a closer look at future plans and projects, where both sides of the Atlantic Ocean can join forces. At the Annual Conference on Helicopters the Head of the Agency, Javier Solana, tasked EDA to establish a substantial dialogue with the US to explore concrete opportunities for transatlantic partnership, within the context of the regular EU-US dialogue.

At the same Conference Al Volkman, Director International Cooperation in the US Defence Department (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), stated that there is no alternative but to cooperate in the development, production and support of future helicopters. In his view this would imply that: *military* leaders agree on the capabilities required; *governments and industry* agree on how to share technologies and on what conditions; and *governments* agree on what role industries will play in the development and production.

On 18 May 2009 the Franco-German *Future Transport Helicopter* (FTH) has become an EDA (Category B) project, open to participation by others. The aim of this project is to provide a solution for intra-theatre heavy lift capability in the years 2020+. In its initial three-year preparation phase the FTH project will focus on requirements and related work, leading to a recommended solution. This phase offers an excellent opportunity to explore the scope for a transatlantic agreement on required capabilities – as proposed by Al Volkman – before governments commit themselves and industrial contracts are prepared and signed. EDA now has the unique opportunity to establish a transatlantic cooperation in a crucial capability area. An opportunity not to be missed.

Norway's Experiences with EDA

By Leif Lindbäck, National Armaments Director, Norway


Mr. Leif Lindbäck

Co-operation between Norway and the EDA continues to develop positively. Three years have passed since Norway signed its Administrative Arrangement with the Agency, preparing the grounds for our role as an active partner. Having entered into dialogue with all EDA Directorates, including visits to Oslo by its Directors in recent time, we find ourselves co-operating with the EDA in a number of different areas.

Given the existing political and economic climate, Norway, like many other Europeans nations, finds itself in the position of relying on co-operation with partners for maintaining and developing military capabilities, and conducting operations. Consistent with past economic and political experience, we find natural partners among European nations. In this context, the EDA serves as one vehicle for multinational co-operation, as we seek the right military capabilities, supplementing our efforts within NATO, harmonised against co-operation with other partners, including the Nordic countries. Being a non-EU member, our relationship with the EDA also gives us valuable insight into the development of the ESDP within this arena.

Co-operation between Norway and EDA continues to develop positively. Further to the coming into being of our Administrative Arrangement, the exchange of timely and relevant information on co-operation opportunities between the EDA and Norway has improved over the last year, providing the basis for Norwegian decisions on participation in a steadily growing number of programmes, projects and initiatives. By now, we have entered into co-operation with all EDA directorates.

Within the research and technology arena, co-operation has been ongoing since EDA's creation in 2004. This has resulted in our current participation in approximately 25 Ad hoc Category B Projects within a number of different areas. Norway is also participating in both Category A Joint Investment Programmes, on Force Protection, and Innovative Concepts and Emerging Technologies. Within the Industry and Market arena, we joined the Code of Conduct on Defence Procurement last October, and have endorsed the Code of Conduct on Offsets, which will be an integrated part of the Regime as of 1 July. Concerning capability development and armaments co-operation, Norway is in close dialogue with the Agency, and has a number of comparable programmes and projects that could lead to more practical co-operation.

Norway's co-operation with EDA is based on a flexible and capability-driven approach. Our decisions to participate in EDA projects and programmes will be determined on the basis of a comprehensive evaluation of needs and costs. We are ready to elaborate our co-operation within a wide range of areas potentially rewarding to both the EDA and Norway.

In sum, our joint endeavours hold promise for fruitful co-operation in the time to come. We would like to further develop our participation within the areas of research and technology through additional EDA programmes and projects, and at the same time to strengthen our industry's role in this effort.

We also hope that the continuous development of the Code of Conduct Regime on Defence Procurement will further improve transparency, openness and cross-border competition between the European nations, paving the way for a true level playing field in the European defence market.

Norway will also seek to be more actively involved in relevant capability development programmes and projects, and make efforts to co-operate more directly within practical armaments co-operation as both sides see fit.

In conclusion, I would like to note that Norway's relationship with the EDA is progressing well and gradually moving towards a deeper level. From our side, we thank all EDA nations and the Secretariat for being forthcoming and transparent, facilitating our dealings with the Agency. We looking forward to further elaborating our joint efforts in the future, securing a mutually constructive and rewarding relationship.

EDA–OCCAR:
a Partnership for Strengthening European Armaments Cooperation

By Laure Frier, Planning and Policy Unit


Laure Frier

Promoting more efficient European Armaments Cooperation is an important part of developing defence capabilities in support of ESDP. With new budgetary constraints faced by European governments, improving the effectiveness and efficiency of European collaboration is even more critical. Investing better together – and thereby increasing the output from defence investments – should be considered by EU Member States as part of the response to the financial crisis. Additionally, when used wisely cooperation will bring other benefits such as improved interoperability.

The European Defence Agency (EDA) and the Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d' Armement (OCCAR) - consisting of six Member Nations (all members of EDA: BE, DE, ES, FR, IT, UK) and a number of participating Nations through the programmes it manages (FI, LU, NL, PL, SE, TU) - are natural partners in the European capability development, each with their different but complementary roles.

EDA is not an armaments acquisition Agency. It will not run, at least for the foreseeable future, cooperative programmes. Although the Agency's legal basis provides that EDA may assume, at the request of participating Member States, responsibility for managing specific programmes (including through OCCAR), for the time being it is not structured to perform this task. But with the practical implementation of both the Capability Development Plan (the overall strategic tool defining future capability needs and driving the R&T, armaments and industry agendas) and the Armaments Cooperation strategy, there is an increasing potential to generate cooperative projects within EDA or to attract collaborations generated outside - with the prospect of these initiatives being entrusted to OCCAR's management. Over the last years EDA has established a number of major collaborations, some of them already managed by OCCAR (like the ESSOR Software Defined Radio project). Others are in the pipeline - for instance the recently established projects on space-based earth observation ("MUSIS") and on protection against biological threats ("BIO EDEP") – the integration process of the first one being more advanced than for the second one.

On its side, OCCAR is perfectly equipped and experienced for managing cooperative defence acquisition programmes. It was established by a Convention, signed in 1998 by a small group of EU Member States wishing to strengthen European armaments collaboration in order to improve efficiency and reduce costs. The Organisation aims at being the centre of excellence in the management of cooperative programmes.

So, there is a natural link and an underlying continuity between the more upstream EDA activities (including identification of future defence requirements, harmonisation of military requirements, programme generation and preparation) and the downstream work of OCCAR (management of cooperative programmes). It makes sense, for the EU and for the European tax payer – to make the optimum use of their respective skills through pragmatic cooperation.

This is the reason why EDA Defence Ministers last November decided, through a common declaration, to strengthen the partnership between the Agency and OCCAR, through the establishment of an Administrative Arrangement. They agreed on two governing principles: first, OCCAR should be regarded as a privileged partner for EDA. In practical terms this means that, upon the request of contributing Members States, the Agency will facilitate the use of OCCAR for the management of programmes resulting from its work. Second, EDA will remain involved in cooperative programmes once their management is entrusted to OCCAR. Indeed it is important that EDA projects and programmes, when managed by OCCAR (according to its proven rules), also remain in line with the common European acquis formed by the overarching principles agreed by Member States last year (with, notably, the strategies for strengthening the European Defence Industrial and Technological Base, and for improving European Armaments Cooperation). Ensuring continuity and coherence between the work of the two organisations is critical for the effectiveness and the coherence of European efforts - and therefore a key aspect of their cooperation.

Against this background, last April the EDA National Armaments Directors adopted a Directive to the Head of the Agency to negotiate the draft Administrative Arrangement – including a "mandate" describing the objectives and principles of the relationship and the consultation modalities between the two organisations. Official talks started this May, with the intention to seek Council's approval of the draft AA next November. These small procedural steps have the potential to delivery very significant future benefits to all EDA Member States.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Boosting together the European Research Framework Cooperation

By Christian Bréant, R&T Director, EDA

By Ulrich Karock, Technology Manager, R&T Directorate, EDA


Christian Bréant


Ulrich Karock

The Joint Action establishing the European Defence Agency (EDA) identifies promoting research aimed at leadership in strategic technologies for future defence and security capabilities as one key aim of the Agency.

It tasks the Agency to identify appropriate areas of cooperation with the European Commission research activities in order to fulfil future defence and security capability requirements and to strengthen Europe's industrial and technological potential.

Likewise the European Commission (EC) is tasked by the Council Decision concerning the 7th Framework Programme's Specific Programme "Cooperation" to take into account relevant research activities carried out by Member States, European and international organisations. This decision recognises that there are areas of dual use technology relevant to both civilian and military applications, and that a suitable frame should be established to coordinate some activities between the FP7 and EDA.

- **Complementarity**
  Situation in which two or more different things enhance each other or form a balanced whole.
- **Synergy**
  Interaction or cooperation of two or more agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.
- **Synchronisation**
  Situation in which two or more different things occur at the same time and / or operating with the same rate.
- **Situation Awareness**
  Capability concerned with the perception of the environment critical to decision makers in complex and dynamic situations. This encompasses the sensing and understanding of the environment of interest, and the projection of its status in the near future. It includes the management of networked situation awareness assets.

The cooperation between the EC and EDA varies in depth and shape, and increasingly encompasses taking into account work done within the frameworks of other organisations like the European Space Agency or Eurocontrol.

This working together is not an objective on its own – the cooperation aims at building the capabilities that meet the needs of the defence and civilian security communities. Where comprehensive capabilities are addressed, where requirements converge, where duplication must be avoided, and where the compatibility of defence and security related technologies and systems is paramount, the European Commission's and the European Defence Agency's Frameworks need to synchronise the implementation of their programmes in order to maximise complementarity and synergy.

European Ministers of Defence, meeting in EDA's Steering Board on 18 May 2009, have tasked the EDA to develop concrete proposals, working in close coordination with the Commission. Decisions on the European Framework Cooperation, including on the content of a coordinated Programme, will be taken by Defence Ministers in November 2009.

"Situation Awareness" was identified as a possible candidate for such a Programme, from sensing to command and control of networked assets. Most of the related technical challenges are as relevant in the civilian security domain as in the defence remit, and the European technological and industrial base is very much the same.

EDA and the Commission are already synergising their research in some specific projects, such as Software Defined Radio (see box, next page), the insertion of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles into regulated airspace, on critical technologies for space applications or on Maritime Surveillance.

The existing cooperation with the Commission will now be brought to a systematic and more intensive level drawing on the experience of the cooperation between Member States and liaising with the Commission in the running Joint Investment Programmes, but there will be no joint funding and the management responsibilities in both frameworks will remain unchanged. The aim is to synchronise research and allow for mutual use of results, as technologies are increasingly of a dual-use nature for military and civilian end users.

The cooperation is expected to address research, technology development and demonstration activities ranging from the system of systems level down to the level of underpinning technologies. First activities will start in 2010, and the last

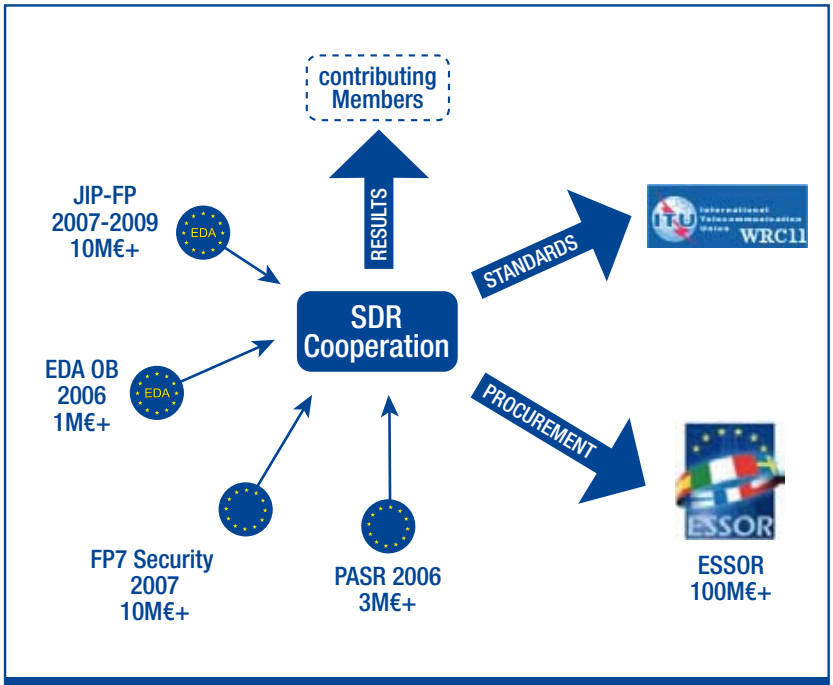
commitments would likely be made in 2014, bridging to the next framework programme.

At the *system of systems level,* work could inter alia address aspects like governance, concept of use, information sharing and data policy. Technical topics like architecture, design, integration and demonstration could also be covered. Furthermore, regulatory aspects need to be covered, system (of systems) security and asset protection, and interoperability, standardisation or life cycle management.

At the *system level,* work could address air, ground (land and maritime) and space based sensor systems, enabling functions (e.g. command and control, data relay), and novel concepts, e.g. sensor platform autonomy.

Finally, the programme needs to look at enabling and underpinning *technologies and data exploitation techniques.*

The Agency will propose to Member States to look forward with the European Commission to prepare such a Framework Cooperation in the Situation Awareness Domain with the aim to establish a cooperation on the broadest possible basis and present it to the Steering Board in Defence Minister Formation in November 2009.



The SDR Cooperation Example*

* JIP-FP: Joint Investment Programme Force Protection
PASR: Preparatory Action in the field of Security Research
EDA OB: Operational Budget of the EDA
WRC 11: World Radio Conference Geneva 2011
ESSOR 6: European Secure SOftware defined Radio
FP7 Security: Security theme under the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development

"Coordination on investment in research between the Agency and the Commission will save the European taxpayer money, as our actions will be concerted"

Javier Solana, Secretary General / High Representative and Head of the European Defence Agency.

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Linking CDP and R&T priorities

By Solon Mias, Technical Project Officer, R&T Directorate, EDA


Solon Mias

Enhancing the effectiveness of the European Defence Research and Technology (EDRT) is one of the main objectives of the European Defence Agency. The EDRT Strategy, endorsed by the EDA Ministerial Steering Board on 10 November 2008, is focused on addressing the R&T needs of European Security and Defence Policy "as it stands now and develops in the future".

Investment in Research and Technology (R&T) is vital for EDA participating Member States (pMS) to maintain their future defence and industrial capabilities. However, with current national defence budgets facing constraints, there are fewer margins for investment in R&T. Taking this into account the EDRT Strategy is aiming at a step change in Defence R&T collaboration in Europe through the convergence of EDA pMS defence investment. Such convergence would improve the coherence in the R&T-related activities of military users, capability planners, researchers and technology developers.

As a first step in this direction the EDA pMS have identified twenty-two common R&T priority areas. These priorities have been selected taking into account the pMS need for EU industrial capability, openness to multilateral collaboration, and high level of national and collaborative ambition. They reflect an immediate potential for European multinational collaboration in R&T.

Nevertheless, the EDRT Strategy needs to be integrated with other strategies currently running within the Agency's capability-driven framework. Of particular importance to R&T is the Capability Development Plan (CDP), which describes the future military capability needs for the European Security and Defence Policy. Twelve priorities have been identified, based on the CDP. Out of these priorities four areas (Mine Counter Measures in Littoral Sea Areas, Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear protection, Counter-Man Portable Air-Defence Systems and Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices) were selected by Ministers of Defence for immediate attention regarding the need for R&T work to improve these capabilities.

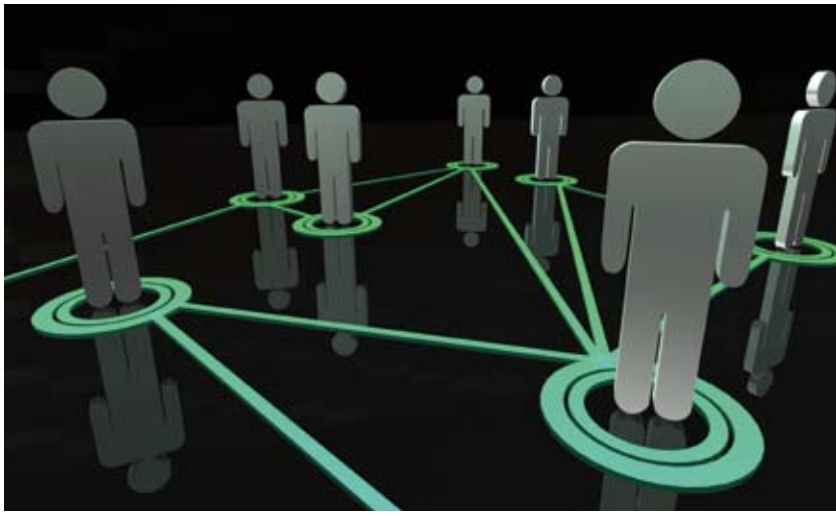
To accelerate and cement the joining of technical priorities and CDP priorities for the four areas, an exercise has been launched to identify related national R&T activities (current and future). The exercise is identifying CDP-related technical areas which pMS have already linked with national capability needs. The output of this exercise is expected to validate a number of the 22 common R&T priorities. Wherever commonalities in national activities are identified the EDA will encourage and facilitate the launch of cooperative projects, thus progressing in a coherent approach with the implementation of both the EDRT Strategy and CDP. The pMS will have to decide on the modalities of such cooperative projects (timeframe, budget, level of collaboration, etc), taking into consideration industrial views.

Overall, linking the various strands of work and particularly Capability and R&T, is a step which is sometimes missing in national planning processes. In establishing this link the EDA is showing the way to its pMS. Now, it is up to the pMS to prove their commitment to both the CDP and the EDRT Strategy by taking the common capability and R&T priorities into account during national planning.

Capability Development Plan

Initial Tranche of 12 selected Actions

1. Counter Man Portable Air Defence Systems
2. Computer Network Operations
3. Mine Counter-Measures in littoral sea areas
4. Comprehensive Approach - military implications
5. Military Human Intelligence and Cultural / Language Training
6. Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Architecture
7. Medical Support
8. Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence
9. Third Party Logistic Support
10. Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED)
11. Increased availability of helicopters
12. Network Enabled Capability



European Defence R&T Centres – Building up a Network

by Utimia Madaleno, Assistant Director, R&T Directorate, EDA


Utimia Madaleno

European Defence Research and Technology involves investments from institutional, private and European Community sources that address a huge variety of key technology areas resulting in improved systems and services for the armed forces. The domains of application are enormous and there is a tendency to create clusters that enhance knowledge and quality, and strengthen the related industrial base.

The European Defence R&T Centres (EDRC) Initiative is aiming at the promotion of the competences and cooperation amongst European government-owned Defence Research Centres and was proposed by Germany and France in 2008. The original idea was to boost the use of dedicated sources of scientific, technical and operational knowledge, as well as highly qualified services and expert researchers and engineers, in the defence field, to the benefit of EDA and its participating Member States. The original plan was to focus only on public research centres for setting up an EDRC network. However, soon this was regarded as too restrictive. A wider approach was deemed necessary.

European nations have different structures and concepts in relation to defence research institutions. They can range from almost fully state holdings to private organisations. In recent years, as a consequence of geopolitical changes and budget cuts, restructuring policies had to be implemented transforming traditionally public services into private entities. New companies were in many cases spin-offs from this process, also offering innovative or specific solutions. Moreover, the growth of instability and violence in the world created the need for more sophisticated security systems and services, which forced a business re-orientation for many of the established organisations.

Member States have shown a common interest to get a global picture of defence technology competences in Europe, which is the reason why it was decided to use the Agency's framework to implement the EDRC initiative. There is a vast scientific community in Europe of relevance for defence. This community is made up of small or big industries, institutes, institutional bodies and universities.

The overall aim of the EDRC initiative is to catalyse the development of defence R&T, through the promotion and advertisement of available competences and services within the defence community. In general, the support would be complementary to the EDA CapTech fora. The EDRC network can be an add-on to other relevant players by offering specialised advice on trends and methodology for developing future systems and also contribute to the exchange of experts and to support training.

Bringing this to fruition, a database was deemed necessary to improve awareness of defence research activities in Europe. It is foreseen as an entering front-page to compile data on defence R&T institutions recognised by pMS as reliable defence research providers. To keep the design as simple as possible and reduce the number of inputs, the details are channelled through the available official websites of the listed institutions.

The concept follows the European Defence R&T Strategy and focuses the activity on certain priority topics. In addition, it accommodates the EDA Technology Taxonomy and the domains covered by the CapTechs, to give direct connections to EDA activities.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For those exploiting the EDRC database in the future, they will discover a quick and easy access to available competences in Europe. The search engine will serve to identify topics of common interest through the offered pool of ideas, made available by research organisations. Additionally, it will allow the creation of business opportunities and consortium building in current or innovative areas.

The EDRC database will be accessible through the EDA Website. It is planned to be fully operational by the end of 2009. The pMS will, through the EDA, use this network to improve the development of cooperation in research by getting the best advice on technology trends and reaching the technology readiness level required by defence and security challenges.

LoI–EDA Relationship

By Peter Scaruppe, Assistant Director, I&M Directorate, EDA


Peter Scaruppe

Since the creation of the European Defence Agency there has been a symbiotic relationship with the Letter of Intent (LoI) family, due to the fact that to a large extent the majority of the objectives of the LoI and EDA are the same. Through the LoI Framework Agreement, signed in 2000 by the Defence Ministers of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the six European countries with the largest defence industries and spending together about 80% of the total European Defence R&T expenditure, committed themselves to develop measures to facilitate the restructuring and operation of the European defence industry. The main issues the LoI countries defined for action were: Security of Supply, Export Procedures, Security of Information, Research and Technology, Treatment of Technical Information and Harmonisation of Military Requirements.

Looking at these six topics, it becomes immediately obvious that they are also central to the mission of EDA. In fact, the Joint Action establishing the EDA states that the Agency should develop close working relations with LoI. Furthermore, the Joint Action calls for "pursuing EU-wide development and harmonisation of relevant rules and regulations (particularly by an EU-wide application of relevant rules of the LoI Framework Agreement)". Consequently, there has been continuous interaction between the respective working bodies of the LoI and the Agency. The idea is to build on the achievements of the LoI process wherever they have value to the wider community. LoI should not be seen as an exclusive circle, but rather as a catalyst for ideas and solutions that benefit not only the LoI six, but all the participating Member States of EDA.

In the five years since the launch of the Agency, cooperation with LoI has produced tangible results.

EDA and the LoI's Harmonisation of Military Requirements Board (HMRB) have developed a very close and fruitful relationship. The HMRB has adopted the role of a "think tank" for the Agency in the area of capabilities. Many of the results achieved by the HMRB have already been transferred to EDA as a basis for common work on exploiting future capability requirements in Europe.

For R&T the LoI Group of Research Directors (GRD) represents the main Defence R&T investors, with a strong technology and industrial base. Activities from the LOI/GRD have been gradually transferred to EDA Captechs and a new step is in preparation to bring the Agency and the GRD to work closer together to broaden the base for R&T collaboration, in order to bring the other Member States to the table. Both the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) working groups from LOI and EDA have been in close relation to take advantage of their experience to prepare new sets of IPR regulations.

In the area of the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) and the European Defence Equipment Market (EDEM), the Agency has been working very closely with the LoI Executive Committee and its respective subcommittees. Currently, the cooperation is focusing in the issues of Future Air Systems (FAS) and Security of Supply (SoS).

On FAS the Agency can use – and is dependent on – the expertise of the LoI. Incidentally, the LoI countries are the same nations that subscribe to the "European Technology Acquisition Program" (ETAP).

ETAP was set up in 2001 and its objective is to develop and demonstrate the technologies necessary for a common fighter aircraft for the six participating nations. Obviously, the work done there would be a great input for EDA's FAS exercise, which will focus on preserving and developing critical aerospace industrial capabilities. The ETAP cooperation framework could also benefit from EDA support, for instance by using the Agency's contracting services, or through input from the CapTechs. EDA participating Member States, not belonging to ETAP, can still bring forward their own ideas on future needs, or participate in the solutions offered by the ETAP nations.

On Security of Supply, the LoI countries are, after long negotiations, very close to agreeing to a mutually acceptable concept. This will be a good starting point to bring the SoS issue to EDA. SoS is an important part of the Intergovernmental Regime on Defence Procurement, and one of the four roadmaps of the EDTIB strategy being implemented by the Agency right now. The more LoI can provide to the discussion "at 26", the better. To a large extent, given that the bulk of the defence industry rests in the LoI countries, the LoI Member States need to show leadership to strengthen SoS at a European level. As a starting point, the Agency can envisage work on a political declaration on SoS that hopefully can form the common ground for deeper consideration among EDA participating Member States.

LoI and its achievements has been a valuable asset to the work of the European Defence Agency. EDA appreciates that the LoI countries are increasingly acknowledging their responsibility to share their experiences for wider European defence cooperation in a transparent way. But it is equally important to get the participating Member States on board that are not part of LoI. This is a responsibility that the European Defence Agency takes very seriously. EDA will live up to this responsibility by listening to and working with all participating Member States, small and big ones alike.

European Armaments Cooperation will benefit from LoI and EDA strengthening their relationship and improving their respective ways of working.

Multinational Helicopter Exercise Gap 2009

by Nicolas Veillon, Capability Directorate, EDA


Nicolas Veillon

EDA's work strand on helicopter training represents one of the main leverages to increase helicopters availability for ESDP operations. It will allow operational commands to better share out difficult missions among crews and, thus, provide for more capability for higher-end mission execution. Within this context and as a contribution to the preparations of the Helicopter Tactics Programme (HTP), the Agency benefitted from a real multinational helicopter exercise, lead by France in Gap (elevated section of the Alps). This was the first time that EDA was involved in a real exercise, acting as sponsor and coordinator. The "Multinational Helicopter Exercise Gap 2009" was carried out in mid March 2009, with five participating Member States bringing together eleven helicopters of different types: three Czech Mi-17s, one Hungarian Mi-17, one Belgian A109, one CH47 and one Cougar from Spain, two Tigres and two Gazelles from France. Six additional Member States (Austria, Greece, Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom) plus the European Air Group (EAG) also participated in the exercise. Luxembourg generously provided funding for the bulk of the Gap exercise.


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Focus on precise goal

The exercise aimed at producing concrete results through two different goals:

1. realising pre-deployment training for crews to be deployed in real operations next year (essentially Afghanistan) and for those pilots preparing for future commitments;
2. gather lessons from a "test bed" exercise for the sake of a better assessment of the Member States' training requirements, as well as improvement of further multinational exercises. This second aim will assist in defining the HTP.

There were many constraints on the exercise structure: participants were at different stages of their preparation; there were logistical hurdles to overcome: and some detachments were far from their home bases. So, the focus was on the principle of "train as you fight". The main feature was to train together in a multinational format, since this is how it frequently happens in operations. All Member States were invited to participate, since, again,this is how it happens in Force Generation Conferences for real-life operations. Therefore, it was deemed absolutely necessary to establish a multinational organisation team to favour integration, to better take into account Member States' requirements and to be confronted by a realistic operational configuration, as far as it is possible for an exercise. All other principles stemmed from this challenge: build up a multinational helicopter unit, train in a coherent manner, but also create confidence through sharing responsibilities and experiences as well as through the use of a single operational language. Moreover, an assessment team was in charge of observing and providing lessons from this exercise for multinational follow-up activities, and the HTP establishment in particular.

Tangible Benefits

To meet the challenges a specific organisation was set up: the first of the two weeks were dedicated to "warming up" training. All crews improved tremendously their mountain flying skills, but also spent time in school sessions devoted to operational lessons learned or to other procedural and technical information sharing. The second week allowed crews to operate together inside four scenarios, with most of the aircraft dealing with specific tactical missions in a general framework. Ground troops were provided by the French mountain infantry brigade and Joint Tactical Air Control by UK Special Forces Support Group, both of them also being involved in the current operations. In the end, 50 crews trained in English (not the smallest challenge) for a total of 350 flying hours in a demanding mountainous area.

Future Air Systems:

Ensuring the Future of Europe's Defence Industrial Base

By John Mattiussi, Principal Officer, Industry & Market Directorate, EDA


Jon Mattiussi

Europe has a world class defence industrial base. It is the product of several decades of national investment in technology and defence programmes. However, like any industry its future depends on economics and the business environment is increasingly harsh.

If Member States want to keep the defence industrial capacities to meet future capability needs in Europe, thereby retaining the "operational sovereignty" to act in future world events, they need to be proactive.

The Agency has made progress towards strengthened industrial capacities. It is working with Member States in creating a European approach to our DTIB - one that recognises that it is more than a disparate range of national capacities.

To this end Member States have agreed a strategy - to create a stronger European DTIB - more competent, more competitive and able to deliver the military capability needs of the European Armed Forces of the 21st century.

The strategy is clear.The challenge is, of course, implementation - how do we ensure that Europe's DTIB is maintained, strengthened, developed and its global competitiveness enhanced?

Defence Ministers have tasked the Agency to work, together with the participating Member States, on identifying the key industrial capabilities to preserve or develop in Europe and conversely when we can reasonably plan to source our future needs from the wider world market.

This work will cover, over time, all defence capabilities but the proof of concept will be on Future Air Systems. Here we will develop the methodology and identify how best to implement effective solutions.

Europe's military aerospace industrial base has long been a driving force for technical innovation, wealth generation and business growth. It is formed by many world class companies supported by a strong supply chain rich in innovative Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

It produces equipments that successfully compete on the global market but it still suffers from wider European problems: the poor alignment of EU military requirements and fragmented investment.

Governments have provided their view on where action on Future Air Systems – at a European level - is necessary. These views are now being cross checked against the future military capabilities requirement using the Agency's Capability Development Plan.

The Agency will have to develop business cases, demonstrating the link to required capabilities and prioritising amongst a number of strong cases for action.

What those actions will be is difficult to be precise on today but they are likely to concern investments, in R&T and in joint armament programmes.

The Agency hopes to be able to work with the European Commission to exploit the synergies with civil aerospace to ensure that, where possible, complementary actions take place. This will be important given that the supply chain is often formed by "dual-use" companies supporting both civil and military manufacture.

In the final assessment progress will be judged not on statements of intent but by concrete measures. We recognise the subject is complex and challenging particularly when set against the backdrop of the prevailing economic situation facing governments. However, prudent action now can help ensure we have an economically sustainable military aerospace industry in the future.

And this is not about "fortress Europe" policies – we recognize that protected industries will not thrive in the global market - but rather about making ourselves better competitors and partners for our allies.

The Agency can do a little on its own – but with Member States' backing and the support of industry we can do a great deal to bring about our aspirations for a strong and competitive future DTIB.


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European Cooperation on Space Matters

By Denis Trioulaire, Capability Manager, Capability Directorate, EDA

By Michael Simm, Planning and Policy Unit, EDA


Denis Trioulaire


Michael Simm

Since the development of a European Space Policy in May 2007 Space has been high on the political agenda. As Europe establishes a coherent vision of the role of space-based services, the security and defence dimensions have been acknowledged as priorities. Given the recognised dual-use character of space assets, Ministers have regularly expressed their support towards increased complementarity and synergies across the civilian and defence domain.

The *'Structured Dialogue on Space and Security'*, involving the European Commission, the Council General Secretariat, the European Defence Agency, the European Space Agency and Member States aims at raising awareness about respective programmes and identifying opportunities for the complementary development of space-based assets for respective user communities. EDA brings its expertise to the table when it comes to define, develop and deliver required military capabilities in support of ESDP.

Firstly, the Agency is conducting activities to improve capabilities derived from the Capability Development Plan (CDP) in areas such as Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR) and Network-Enabled Capabilities (NEC), to which the space dimension is of strong support. Space systems increasingly become part of a wider ISR architecture featuring multiple sensors and relying on both civilian and military assets. Other CDP priorities such as ISR sensors, medical support (Telemedicine) and wide-area maritime surveillance fit in this context.

Space-related EDA projects include the Multinational Space-based Imaging System (MUSIS), space-based communications systems, notably with regard to the creation of a European Satellite Communication Procurement Cell, as well as space-related Research and Technology work.

Secondly, valuable interfaces have been developed with other key players. The *European Commission's* activities within the 7th Framework Programme in areas such as Space and Security research are of high interest to EDA participating Member States. With a view to a more structured approach, Ministers of Defence have tasked the Agency on 18 May 2009 to propose a framework for maximising such complementarity and synergy between defence and civilian security-related activities and propose the content of a coordinated Programme. Initial ideas on the content relate to 'situation awareness' – a domain to which Space assets can make a particular contribution. EDA equally investigates possible synergies and military requirements as to the GMES programme.

Regular exchange is equally taking place with the *European Space Agency,* whose space-related technology and application programmes bear a similar potential for coordination and synergies. Common areas of interest currently range from the definition of military requirements for security-relevant programmes such as 'Space Situational Awareness' and possible interest in the European Data Relay Satellite System to the conduct of coordinated feasibility studies as regards the demonstration of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Command and Control over Satellite. Further scope for cooperation exists in the area of research and technology development.

Building on those first strands, the 'Structured Dialogue' needs to be further put into practice and the development of a more comprehensive European agenda to be fostered. Based on clear definition of roles and funding as well as management responsibilities, there is further space to improve coordination in Europe and to make it more capable.


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Space-based Earth Surveillance

MUSIS (MUltinational Space-based Imaging System) has been launched by six participating Member States (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain) to replace their current military earth observation capability (French Helios II, German SAR Lupe and Italian Cosmo-Skymed) and to ensure continuity of service from 2015 onwards. In early March 2009 MUSIS was approved as an EDA Category B programme, aiming at federating nationally provided space components through a generic user ground segment. Other pMS have already expressed interest to join and, furthermore, potential synergies with Europe's Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) initiative will be assessed.

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EBB – 'Feel and Look' Better

By Nikos Ghikas, Senior Project Officer, I&M Directorate, EDA

Nikos Ghikas

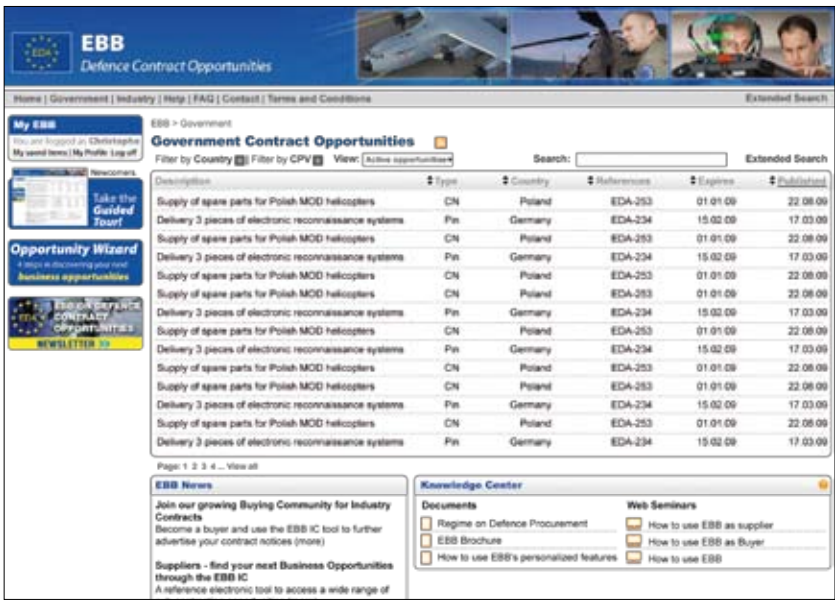
The Electronic Bulletin Board (EBB) portal was initially developed and launched in July 2006 for government-to-industry contracts. An improved integrated approach was later developed upon EBB's industry-to-industry launch in March 2007. Since that time the platform has not undergone any substantial upgrades either in terms of its functionality or its user interface.

Having relised that a number of improvements were needed, we have proceeded in the specification, design and development of EBB's new graphical, ergonomic and functional features, for the immediate future. The objectives of this new 'Feel and Look' of our platform, is to provide all EBB users (existing and newcomers) with:

- a more user-friendly, business-oriented and intuitive interface by improving the total user experience and satisfaction (enhanced ergonomics, context-sensitive help, easier browsing by important categories);
- a richer functional base, including new sections (Knowledge Centre, News), improved personalised features (MyEBB) and search facilities;
- start-up tools for the new-comers and the non-experienced, like the 'Guided Tour' and the 'Opportunities Wizard'.

Additionally, this upgrade will provide the EBB 2 Buying Community with the new 'closed environment' process which has been requested by industry, responding to one of their major concerns regarding confidentiality of information and commercially sensitive contracts.

Complete implementation of this first stage of EBB's improvement is foreseen by October 2009. The ambitions though go even further for a more mature 'Feel & Look' of EBB for the next three years, where the portal will undergo some major improvements, mainly in its functionalities, so that it can meet increasing user expectations, enhance user friendliness and allow the Buying and Supplying communities to interact and co-operate better between them.



EDA's CBRNE Training Portal

By Frank Kaemper, Project Officer Protect, Capability Directorate, EDA


Frank Kamper

ESDP operations require trained personnel proficient in dealing with today's multiple threats from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) weapons and devices. Moreover, soldiers must be able to plan and handle CBRNE incidents in a multinational environment.

The EDA has developed an in-house training portal for individual Member States to advertise their training opportunities and to enable them to search for available training across the European Union.

CBRNE training encompasses the individual disciplines of CBRN, Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Countering Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED) and combinations thereof. CBRNE training involves individual and collective training. Whereas individual training is primarily a national responsibility, collective training for ESDP operations requires training to prepare CBRNE teams to deploy and operate successfully during European multinational operations.

These capabilities are at varying stages of evolution in EU Member States due to national specific situations. Further, not all the nations have the same level regarding CBRN/EOD capabilities: there is a lack of standardisation and some nations are in no position to develop CBRN / EOD courses.

To address CBRNE training needs, the Project Team CBRN EOD has developed a document on "Minimum Standards of Proficiency for Education and Training for CBRN and EOD Specialists". The idea is to promote the development of minimum standards and to enhance interoperability for EU multinational operations. With the support of the multi-nation Project Team – focused on CBRN explosives ordnance disposal (EOD), CBRN detection identification and monitoring (DIM) and C-IED – the EDA has established a new training portal.

The portal is hosted on the EDA's Extranet as a forum, both for publishers of CBRNE training opportunities and for users seeking CBRNE training opportunities. The training portal is essentially aimed at governmental organisations conducting individual and collective training in a multinational environment. (i.e., schools, units, and national or international centres of excellence) or looking for multinational individual and collective training opportunities.

The new portal project is only just under way but already 20 people from six Member States have been trained. Also, training opportunities are starting to be posted on the site. But to really make this a success, EDA participating Member States will need to populate the portal with information and check its inputs on a regular basis, in order to ensure the relevance of the information.

Applicability: the training portal is intended for use by personnel with responsibility for CBRNE defence, either individually or in teams or collectively in a multi-nation environment. Yet it is not limited to the military. Indeed, there has already been interest from police organisations who have heard about the portal via Europol.

Whether military or civil, the objective is to support Member States in finding and making use of training opportunities across the EU to make sure we are making the most efficient use of the resources available. It is hoped eventually to include all sorts of relevant training from individual training to multi-national incident commander training and awareness. Similarly, the EDA is also looking at "Train the Trainers" courses for CBRNE incident Commander and Military Search.

By training together and working together the EDA aims to foster closer cooperation and improve interoperability as well as promote understanding between European military actors and engage their civilian counterparts.


EDA's Chemical, Biological and Radiological Agents Exercise, Jambes, Belgium, November 2008

TPLS Platform Launched

By Gérard Heckel, Assistant Capabilities Manager, EDA


Gérard Heckel

On 2 April 2009 National Armaments Directors have decided to establish a web-based European Third Party Logistic Support (TPLS) Platform (www.eda.europa.eu/tpls) to facilitate and support the identification of commercial solutions for mission and operations-related logistics. The creation of the TPLS Platform is the first step of a series of planned actions to leverage the logistics performance in EU crisis management operations.

The principle decision to develop such capability was taken last year by the Steering Board when the need for more visibility between governmental bodies engaged in the preparation and conduct of military operations and missions on one hand and industries offering respective logistic services on the other, was acknowledged at the occasion of the 2008 EDA Logistics Conference.

The implementation of the TPLS Platform in such a short time must be considered a remarkable achievement by the development team, composed of a broad range of European governmental and industrial actors as well as experts from EU institutions, like the Commission and the Council General Secretariat. In addition, a large number of interviews were conducted with staff at UN/WFP, UN/DPKO and NATO/NAMSA to share best practices and lessons learned and to avoid any unnecessary duplication from the very beginning.

The TPLS Platform will act as an interactive showcase and provide a forum for interaction between the demand side (EU institutions and EU Member states) and industries to improve situational awareness of solutions for contracting services in support of crisis management operations, promote close-cooperation among all EDA participating Member States and all EU bodies engaged in such activities, facilitate business-to-business co-operation and create a more efficient, more competitive and more transparent market.

Subject to the fulfilment of basic generic criteria and the acknowledgement of specific responsibilities related to the use of the TPLS Platform, all European industries with relevance to Third Party Logistic Support wishing to advertise their services to a highly targeted audience of 'Buyers' are invited to register – free of charge - and create their own 'Services Profile', through a specific "Catalogue of Services". Such mapping will allow logistics planners and procurement experts using the Platform to identify the most appropriate solutions for their operational needs in an efficient manner.

While the TPLS Platform will feature additional functionalities focusing on the pre-contracting phase such as exemplar models of contractual arrangements, models for the development of technical specifications, it will not act as a contracting authority. The actual contracting will be conducted between the respective Contracting Authority and the successful Economic Operator(s) according to the rules applicable to the specific case; and of course, the use of the TPLS Platform will neither amend nor supersede any legal obligation or political commitment Contracting Authorities might have to observe, in particular those related to public procurement.

EDA's TPLS team: Claire Bordes, Gérard Heckel and Reinhard Marak

The EU TPLS Platform in short

- **Where to register:**
  www.eda.europa.eu/tpls
- **When to register:**
  Economic Operators –
  as from 25 May 2009
  Contracting Authorities –
  as from 01 July 2009
- **Contact**
  eu-tpls@eda.europa.eu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