Helicopters deployed on EUFOR Chad operation

Putting Theory into Practice

By Alexander Weis, Chief Executive

Since its creation four years ago the European Defence Agency has been laying some firm foundations and providing a sound basis for enhanced European cooperation in defence. Now, with this month's approval of the *Capability Development Plan (CDP)*, a robust and solid central block to support the entire structure is in place. It has been a common project built over the past 18 months. Its design clearly indicates the shape of the rest of the construction, which all those willing to participate in a new type of defence cooperation will be part of, and provides guidance for all of our future efforts.

The CDP validates and complements the work already under way within the Agency on Research & Technology, the Armaments Strategy, and the implementation of the existing EDTIB Strategy. It is not a new departure. We have not been starting from scratch. We may not quite be at the "topping-out" ceremony but we have come a long way since the first stone was laid.

As described in more details on *page 5*, the CDP offers Europe a systematic approach for identifying capability gaps and harmonising military requirements in urgently needed capability areas. It also sets

the right operational priorities for cooperative R&T work, launching specific development and procurement projects and providing guidance to industry about the focus of future investments. The CDP will be both the engine and the measure for ensuring that the Agency is truly "capability-driven".

The CDP is an expression of a common view of the future. The CDP is a unique tool developed by the participating Member States for the participating Member States. It has been a most successful co-operative effort by all 26 pMS which are committed to one objective, supported

Contents

by the EU Military Committee, EU Military Staff, General Secretariat of the Council and of course the EDA. It provides a global picture of capability needs, capability trends and potential capability shortfalls up to 2025. More importantly, it is an expression of the common will to face the future of our European Security and Defence Policy together. That is why it is so important that the theory behind the CDP is put into practice and its words are turned into action.

Member States now have a tool with which they can plan and conclude – at least partially – their national assessments from a common European assessment. The CDP is the common denominator of our efforts to create those capabilities needed to make ESDP a credible political enterprise. But unless Member States identify with, and take ownership of, the CDP process, it will remain just a theory and our aspirations for the ESDP will remain just aspirations.

"Unless Member States take ownership of the CDP, it will remain just a theory"

The military requirements to conduct ESDP operations have to be reflected in national defence and investment plans. As always, when Europe wants to move forward, we need a strong intellectual drive, and some practical actions from some Member States, to get this process started and show others the way ahead. This leadership role can be played by any coun-try, irrespective of its size. What is required is an understanding that for ESDP, we can achieve more by assessing and planning together on a European level, than by doing it individually on a purely national basis. Final decisions on how much to spend on defence and how to spend it, will, and must, be taken according to the sovereign processes of each Member State.

Fortunately for this process, the CDP is not simply an analysis of where we are, and where we need to be. It also includes "proposed actions" that set the agenda for real programmes and early opportunities for collaboration, which Member States will have to launch and implement, with the help and support of the Agency. It is through these actions that we will all have a chance to demonstrate our common will, not just to say what is required, but to do it together.

If I may be permitted to mix metaphors, one might think of the CDP as a sheet of music from which all Member States can sing in chorus. There will be different voices, at different pitches, singing different parts. But with the right degree of effort, the result could be powerful and harmonious, and allow Europe's voice to ring out more clearly in the world.

Relaunching European Defence

By Hervé Morin, French Minister of Defence

French Defence Minister Hervé Morin (left) with Javier Solana, Head of the Agency

The re-launch of European defence is one of the priorities of France's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Member States made a commitment in 1999 to be able to deploy 60,000 troops for one year at 60 days' notice. This commitment was aimed at developing the defence capabilities of the Member States and it was the same motivation which led to the creation of the European Defence Agency in 2004. We must admit that our objectives have not yet been fully met, and the smallest operational demands reveal shortfalls which affect the way in which the EU is able to operate. We must be able to live up to the Union's role as a global actor in crisis management and respond to the high expectations of our citizens and of the international community.

The strengthening of Europe's military capabilities is therefore the priority of the French Presidency in the field of defence. The Capability Development Plan represents a new opportunity which we must seize. It provides a global inventory of European capability shortfalls and presents proposals for concrete actions to tackle them. The first results are very encouraging. Member States must from now on show that they are determined to sustain a long-term effort and to commit themselves to translating their declarations of intent into real decisions regarding their national defence procurement processes. This effort and this commitment should demonstrate that European solidarity exists in defence, as it does in other fields.

In order to achieve this objective, we will in the future have to promote innovative methods of creating inter-operability, mutualisation and developing specialisation around major equipment projects. The European Defence Agency has an essential role to play in this area.

It needs to take responsibility for some substantial and fundamental projects. While the EDA's conceptual and strategic work is both necessary and of high quality, it is not an end in and on itself. Our ambition is to make the Agency the incubator for future European cooperative armaments projects, which must become an ever-growing share of the equipment of European armed forces in the future.

In addition to the MIDCAS project for Unmanned Air Vehicles, which Sweden and France have just transferred to the Agency, we would like other Member States to join us by the end of the year in entrusting to the EDA the definition of some important projects: heavy helicopters, mine sweeping, and military observation satellites. We are also hoping for results in improving the availability of helicopters for operations, as a result of the Franco-British initiative in this area. Lastly, we would like

to bring the Agency and OCCAR closer together, and make OCCAR the preferred partner for programmes launched by the EDA.

These initiatives will make sense only if we have a competitive and performing European defence industry. Building on the EDA's Regime on defence procurement and the Code of Conduct, and on the basis of the European Commission's "defence package", we would like to see new dynamism in the European market, opening up public defence procurement and

"Member States have given themselves an outstanding catalyst for action in the shape of the EDA"

making progress on liberalising intra-Community equipment transfers. We will seek to have the European Council and our partners acknowledge the strategic and economic imperative to restructure and rationalise the European defence industry. We also want to consider putting in place mechanisms to stimulate and make best use of the Research and Technology efforts of Member States.

Several complementary operational initiatives will also be launched to consolidate European military capabilities. In particular, they will cover space, intelligence, training and interoperability of forces, carrier-group cooperation and the initial training of officers.

Member States have given themselves an outstanding catalyst for European action in the shape of the EDA. Our Presidency would like to strengthen its role and its output for developing the EU's military capabilities. We expect the Agency to meet the many challenges of today and we expect all our partners to provide the needed support and confidence.

LE FIGARO **Les ambitieux projets de Paris pour la défense européenne** | 26 June 2008

La France entend mettre à profit sa présidence de l'Union européenne, qui commence mardi prochain, pour relancer la coopération militaire

Autre grand chantier, l'augmentation des capacités militaires, par le biais de la jeune Agence européenne de défense (AED), créée en 2004 et qui ne compte encore que 100 membres. Paris veut forcer à plus de rationalisation, mettre l'accent sur les failles de l'Europe, le transport aérien en général, les hélicoptères en particulier, et puis les moyens de commandement. La France entend aussi créer un véritable marché européen des industries de défense, financer des projets concrets comme l'initiative franco-allemande sur les hélicoptères de transport, faire naître des sous-marins germano-franco-britanniques...

«Il faut se rendre à l'évidence : aucun pays européen ne peut consacrer un effort budgétaire suffisant à sa défense, prévient Alexander Weis, le patron de l'Agence européenne de défense. Il faut donc dépenser plus et mieux ensemble. Le moment est venu de traduire les mots en actions. Si nous ne sommes pas capables de le faire, l'Europe de la défense perdra sa crédibilité. Sans le soutien de la France, je ne réussirai pas...

REUTERS **EU states back Franco-British helicopter plan** | 26 May 2008

European Union countries agreed on Monday to take part in a Franco-British initiative aimed at plugging a chronic shortage of helicopters able to conduct peacekeeping missions in tough terrain, officials said.

The shortfall has hit EU security plans, forcing it for example to delay by months an operation to protect refugees in eastern Chad and Central African Republic.

Under the scheme, European armies with the ability to run helicopter missions in regions such as Africa and Afghanistan will share those capabilities with others. That could run from training personnel for such conditions to equipping helicopters with the dust filters needed for flights in desert conditions.

"We all know that helicopters ... can often make the difference in the success or failure of crisis management missions," EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said in a statement.

Alexander Weis, head of the European Defence Agency (EDA) that will coordinate the project, told a news conference that training could start in the coming year with other benefits of the scheme being felt over a period of two-four years.

The Franco-British initiative was launched in March and is due to work in conjunction with NATO's military headquarters in southern Belgium.

AFP **Zehn EU-Staaten und Norwegen finanzieren zusammen Rüstungsforschung** 26 May 2008

Deutschland und neun weitere Staaten der Europäischen Union starten erstmals gemeinsam mit Norwegen ein auf zwei Jahre angelegtes gemeinsames Investitionsprogramm für Forschungsprojekte im Rüstungsbereich. Wie die Europäische Verteidigungsagentur (EDA) am Montag in Brüssel mitteilte, stimmten die Verteidigungsminister der betreffenden Länder dem Programm im Umfang von 15,5 Millionen Euro auf einer EDA-Leitungssitzung zu. Dabei geht es den Angaben zufolge um "innovative Konzepte" und "moderne Technologien" etwa zum Aufspüren von versteckten Sprengsätzen an Straßen.

Bei den zehn beteiligten EU-Staaten handelt es sich neben Deutschland um Frankreich, Griechenland, Italien, Polen, die Slowakei, Slowenien, Spanien, Ungarn und Zypern. Die 2004 gegründete Europäische Verteidigungsagentur EDA soll die Rüstungs- und Verteidigungspolitik der Europäischen Union koordinieren. Mit ausnahme von Dänemark gehören ihr alle 27 EU-Staaten an.

Planning Capabilities for an Uncertain Future

By Jon Mullin, Capabilities Director

On July 8th 2008 the EDA Steering Board welcomed the delivery of the initial *Capability Development Plan* (CDP) as a unique tool to assist each Member State in prioritising short-to-long term defence investment, including research and technology, and to identify opportunities for collaboration.

The development of the CDP in such a short time must be considered a remarkable achievement by all concerned. However, it should be seen as just one - albeit a crucial one - of a number of components needed to meet the wider objective of developing an end-to-end, capability-based process within the European Union, to converge towards a common understanding of military needs in the 21st century. Where the CDP adds value is in assisting all of the EDA's participating Member States to develop their national

"The CDP helps all Member States to develop their national plans"

capability plans according to their particular ambition and resources. It also provides a catalyst to identify and launch multinational collaborations to develop new and enhanced capabilities. Therefore, the CDP is not, and must not be seen as, a Brussels-driven supranational plan with an aspiration to replace national decision-making.

With this shared sense of vision, the CDP attempts to address the well-documented fragmentation in demand for European military capabilities, and the lack of harmonised military requirements or comprehensive priorities. It is also trying to evolve from a culture which has focused too much on force size, and not enough on the mutual dependency of the determinant factors contributing to capability. It does this by identifying the risks and challenges facing Member States across the full range of ESDP missions, from the defined Headline Goal 2010 military requirements, to lessons from recent and current operations, and potential, but less tangible, long-term needs. It examines possible trends in global strategic factors like technology, demography, economy and global governance to mention just a few, but considers them within the complex and unpredictable global security context highlighted in the EDA's Long -Term Vision. Moreover, it takes into account a structured assessment of potential adversaries, not who or where, but what and how. This has been an issue poorly understood in the last decade. A capability-based process is not an antidote to uncertainty that divorces threats from capabilities. Cold War planning was too focused on specific threats, and by doing so often conceded the initiative to the adversary. It is necessary to integrate threat into planning in order to determine the necessary quality and,

at times, quantity of capabilities. Clearly it is difficult to undertake such an assessment but that does not suggest it should not be tried. The CDP takes on this challenge by providing a starting point for future debate and deliberations.

Taking all the detailed analyses into account, pMS identified the following as the principal conclusions emerging from this initial CDP:

- *A clear and enduring need for appropriate conceptual work to support capability development.*

- *The need for persistent intelligence to support modern, knowledge-based operations in complex environments, including full spectrum awareness, robust networks and appropriate architectures.*

- *The requirement for adaptive and co-ordinated inter-agency structures in order to support a comprehensive approach to EU crisis-management operations.*

- *The necessity to maintain the initiative against a broad range of possible adversaries that are technically, and conceptually agile, and who will not be constrained by western legal and societal norms.*

- *The need for ever-greater flexibility, agility and responsiveness in order to be able to deliver the precise effects at the right time and place.*

- *The human factor - the most critical requirement - to recruit, train and retain a motivated workforce to meet the most demanding challenges.*

From these conclusions, the pMS must consider which actions need to be taken forward in order to address the varied challenges identified. They need a wide remit to tackle real-time operational risks, and recalibrate the future capability mix, in order to reflect the uncertain times that lie ahead. Some new capabilities are extremely expensive and raise complex investment issues. What could be given up in order to generate a future force that has more, rather than less, relevant defence capabilities? What could be a more appropriate balance of investment, and what force options would make the most sense? These questions involve difficult but important choices, and must be answered at all levels, from tactical to strategic.

The initial version of the CDP has been elaborated by the key staffs of all the pMS, the EU Military Committee, the EU Military Staff and the Agency. It is significant and it is unique, but it must be considered only a starting point, to be further refined and regularly reassessed to ensure it remains pertinent and useful. The journey towards a more relevant capability development process in Europe is well underway. It is a long road, but the delivery of the Capability Development Plan clearly demonstrates that there is much to be optimistic about.

EDA Conference Boosts Third Party Logistic Support

By Gerard Heckel, Capabilities

The European Defence Agency's third annual conference brought together a broad range of experts from government, industry and international bodies to discuss the opportunities and challenges of commercial logistics support for EU crisis-management operations.

The conference was opened by Javier Solana, Head of the Agency, who told the audience: "Current and future crisis management set complex demands. A close dialogue between consumers and suppliers is needed, because we might need new mechanisms to ensure that services are timely and effective, in an environment where the military have to deploy rapidly to emerging crises."

Building on the outcome of the conference, the EDA is seeking to establish a European, industry-based Third Party Logistic Support Platform to make it easier for military commanders and civilian officials in charge of EU operations to get access to commercial support.

It would guarantee them rapid reaction and simplicity, and provide an early warning for suppliers for delivering timely and effective support. Additionally, it would provide further impetus to developing a truly open European Defence Equipment Market.

The AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) is "co-piloting" this exercise, since it favors cross-border competition in Europe, and offers opportunities to small and medium sized enterprises.

Temporary accomodation (KBR)

New Joint R&T Programme on Emerging Technologies

By Bertrand de Cordoue, Hilary Davies, Gregorio Ameyugo and Magnus Levin, R&T Directorate

European governments have agreed to establish a new Joint Investment Programme (JIP) for research into innovative concepts and emerging technologies (ICET). Using an innovative structure devised by the European Defence Agency, the JIP will boost collaborative European efforts on defence Research & Technology.

The new two-year programme, which will build on the experience from the first JIP launched in 2006 which focused on the protection of armed forces, will initially involve 11 European countries. All these countries will contribute to a common budget of €15.5 million.

Basic defence research of this type is a key investment for assuring the future ability of Europe's Armed Forces to meet unanticipated mission needs in an unknown future. Basic research provides the understanding of natural phenomena, which is critical to creating new technical options required to provide agile military capabilities in a world in constant change.

Very few European governments are currently funding basic, speculative research of this kind. However, if Europe is to remain competitive in capability terms, it is essential that its technology base remains funded with a long-term perspective. The JIPs established by the EDA represent one mechanism to help achieve this.

Emerging technologies can often be highly disruptive, as illustrated in the chart. They can bring about dramatic improvements in performance in a short space of time. Gradual, steady improvements result from the development of existing technologies.
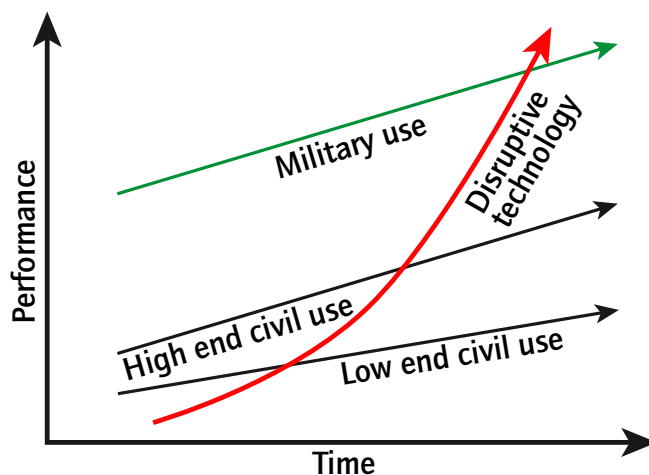
ICET aims at basic research with an identified potential to generate new and improved capabilities. It is particularly aimed at fresh ideas developed by small and medium sized enterprises and academic institutions. The ICET programme definition covers some exciting new technology areas, such as nanotechnologies and the remote detection of hidden items.

A Choice of Tools: the EDA's Approach to R&T Collaboration

The Joint Investment Programme on ICET is an example of what is officially known as a "Category A" project. These are created based on a proposal from the EDA and are open to all EDA participating Member States, which decide individually whether to contribute and participate or to opt out. The Agency also has two other tools at its disposal. It can fund a contract directly from the EDA's operational budget, or launch a Category B project, where the initiative and management mainly lie in the hands of a restricted group of participating Member States.

Below are some recent examples of these other two approaches:

DISCOTECH: a study funded by the EDA budget

Almost all military equipment depends on semiconductors. These are typical dual-use products (civilian and military) and often available commercially 'off-the-shelf' (COTS), but exceptions still exist where the military user has exclu-

sive military requirements. These may, for example, concern performance and reliability issues, the need for low power consumption or a secure future supply.

The civil semiconductor market has a €163 billion annual turnover. Two thirds of this is produced in Asia. Intel alone spent $5.76 billion (€3.7 billion) on research and development in 2007. Our investment in this field must therefore be highly targeted to relate the potential of this enormous civil market to the particular needs of the defence customer.

The EDA-funded DISCOTECH study (Disruptive COTS Technologies in the IT-area) seeks to forecast likely technical developments in electronic components over a 10-20 year perspective. The study will help military users decide where to invest R&T funds to ensure European availability of critical components. A consortium led by

Thales is undertaking the study, which will involve the majority of European suppliers and the defence system companies which are the main industrial users of such components.

SOCUMOD: a Category B project

Project SOCUMOD (Social and Cultural Modelling of the Operational Environment and of Headquarters) is the first "Human Factors" Category B project to be launched at the EDA. It will study how socio-cultural distinctions, and awareness, can impact on the effectiveness of EU Force HQs, both internally and in their understanding of and responses to the external operating environment. The project will develop models that can be used in future training of HQ staff.

There will be two phases. The first phase will scope the study based

on exchange of existing information between five Contributing Member States, who will, at the same time, draw up the plan for a more extensive second phase. In phase two, which will be open to other pMS and contractors, models of the HQ and the external environment will be developed and evaluated.

Project SOCUMOD follows the classic path of a Category B project. An Outline Description has been accepted by the EDA Steering Board. The Contributing Members in Phase 1 are developing a Project Arrangement that describes their work plan, and sets out their various rights and responsibilities as co-operative partners. Next year, the Project Arrangement for phase 1 will be replaced by a more complex arrangement for phase 2, and the EDA may be asked to contract with non-government actors. The results of the project will be available for use by the Contributing Members.

Enhancing Protection Against Biological Attack

By Frank Kämper and Jim Blackburn, Capabilities

Experts in Biological Detection Identification and Monitoring held a unique gathering to underline the European Union's commitment to protecting deployed forces from biological attack.

A symposium organised by the European Defence Agency and hosted by the Bundeswehr Research Institute for Protection Technologies and NBC Protection from June 9th -11th in Munster, Lower Saxony, Germany, provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to examine issues and challenges, and identify potential collaborative solutions.

The event brought together key European industrial and military actors, including senior members of the armed forces in CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) issues, to share information on concepts, operational requirements, and current and future capability development for enhancing protection against biological attack.

Experts from the European Commission Directorate of Justice, Freedom and Security took part, looking for synergies to enhance the protection of civilians.

"The capability to detect threats and to respond to them is the key to determining where and how we should invest our resources," said Rear Admiral Heinrich Lange of the German Ministry of Defence in his keynote speech at the symposium.

It was agreed that a high level of expertise exists within the EU, and that the most effective way to enhance capability in the CBRN arena is to harness that expertise collaboratively.

Meeting the Urgent Need for Helicopters

By Herve Maniere and John Mattiussi, Capabilities

EUFOR Chad Helicopter

Increasing the number of helicopters available for international crisis management operations is one of the biggest challenges facing European Union governments. This was recently demonstrated during EUFOR CHAD which had difficulty finding sufficient deployable helicopters, particularly for transport.

Defence Ministers signalled their commitment to address the situation in a declaration issued on May 26th at the EDA Steering Board, which highlighted the increasingly important role being played by the EDA in this area.

"(We) declare our full determination to improve the operational availability of helicopters and commit, wherever possible, to work with the Agency in this regard (and) strongly encourage the European Defence Industry to contribute to this effort," the ministers said.

Earlier this year the Steering Board endorsed a range of activities which could help Member States through initiatives in helicopter aircrew training, logistics and upgrade programmes. This work has been building momentum, with the Agency providing a catalyst for fresh thinking on cost-effective solutions.

Further impetus was provided by the French/UK helicopter initiative announced at their summit on March 27th, which foresaw an important role for the EDA. Those two countries have put in place practical measures to support the Agency to move this work forward, including seconded staff. While France and the UK have been prominent partners, the Agency has made clear that this is an initiative that engages all EU Member States.

An important early milestone was a Helicopter Availability Workshop held on May 15th. The Agency presented its initial ideas for training/upgrade work over the short and medium term and took on board Member States' comments. All sides are now working together on developing a number of practical measures.

June saw the inaugural meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on helicopter training experts and the launch of a web platform to allow Member States' helicopter experts to exchange information on training assistance. Among a number of promising training measures, work is advancing particularly quickly on defining the requirement for a possible multi-national Helicopter Tactics Programme. This would allow Member States to train together in realistic operational scenarios, and for a Tactics Training Aid, with certain Member States seeing value in a PC-based, reconfigurable, mobile tactics trainer.

While training has been at the forefront of the initial work, equally important is longer term activity on upgrades and support. The Agency has already assessed the potential for cooperative programmes between EU Member States using the same types of helicopters, and initiated the development of a package of measures dedicated to assist willing nations in their upgrade projects.

The EDA recognises the challenge set by Member States in addressing the helicopter availability problem, and is confident that, with the full engagement of all Member States, real progress can be made.

A Roadmap for UAVs in General Airspace

By Martin Stoussavljewitsch, Armaments

The Air4All consortium comprises major European defence aviation companies that between them account for the bulk of Europe's expertise in Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs). They have presented a proposed strategy and roadmap to the EDA and Member States for the seamless integration of UAVs within general air traffic.

The consortium, which emerged from a working group of the Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD), has been working under a contract from the EDA to produce the study. Using questionnaires and workshops it identified and considered the views and opinions of key stakeholders, including regulators, government authorities, operators, European agencies, air traffic management providers and research agencies. Almost all agreed that the insertion of UAVs into general airspace at all flight levels is an important issue across defence, security and civil and commercial applications. They said they would like to see this happen as soon as possible, with most suggesting before 2015. A third

and final workshop took place on June 23rd-24th, at which Air4All presented the final results of the study and the proposed implementation strategy and detailed roadmap.

During the EDA study, the consortium reviewed all aspects of the current and planned regulatory framework that impact UAVs and identified areas requiring further development. While no changes are required in areas covering the design and production of UAVs, much regulatory work is required in operational areas such as airworthiness, operations, traffic management, aerodromes and security. A key challenge is to develop the regulatory framework so that it is compatible with managing the allocation of safety requirements between the various components of the system.

For the roadmap itself, four main barriers were identified: technical, rules and regulations, procedures and training, and transversal issues such as legal, social and environmental barriers. Given that it is not practical to solve all of the challenges

in one step, the roadmap envisages a series of increasingly challenging steps based on the different classes of airspace and the relative difficulty of operating in them.

The study also recognises that establishing European standards in this area would provide a basis for industrial growth, as well as a common route towards certification of UAVs to operate within general airspace. Standards would promote both cooperation and innovation and encourage the development of new civil and military applications. Strengthening the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base in this area also improves the export potential of European UAVs, thanks to greater economies of scale.

The Agency's participating Member States are now considering the specific project proposals in the detailed roadmap, which includes milestones, a schedule of activities and capability demonstrations. These investments will ultimately place Europe at the forefront of UAV airspace integration.

DefenseNews **EU Governments Request Funding From EDA for UAV Projects** | 14 April 2008

BRUSSELS - The European Defence Agency (EDA) intends by mid-summer to propose UAV-related projects in four areas: integration and coordination, standardization and harmonization, research into high-priority technologies, and initial areas for demonstration and validation.

EDA members will spend up to 6 million euros ($9.4 million) on the projects, provided they are convinced by the business cases for certain of the initial ones, an EDA official said.

The projects are intended to be of interest to all EDA members, who will own the rights to the technology developed.

At an April 9 meeting, the EDA's steering board noted with satisfaction the work already done by the agency on a road

map to integrate the unmanned craft into conventional airspace by 2015. The EDA effort is assisted by member countries and 12 industrial prime contractors.

At the meeting, Swedish officials described the country's soon-to-launch MIDCAS project, a technological demonstration of collision-avoidance systems intended to equip UAVs to sense and respond to other aircraft, allowing them to fly anywhere a manned aircraft does...

The Evolution of a European Armaments Strategy

By Jukka Juusti, Armaments Director

My first encounter with the European Defence Agency was as a member of the Agency Establishment Team (AET) four years ago. I returned as Armaments Director at the beginning of 2008 and was intrigued to see whether the AET's theory, so painstakingly crafted, was actually working in practice. Broadly, the answer has to be yes. In fact, it is remarkable to see what has been achieved in such a short period of time.

At the strategic level, the Agency has produced a European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) strategy, a framework for a European Defence Research and Technology (EDRT) strategy and a long-term vision with its associated Capability Development Plan (CDP) progressing apace. It was perhaps not surprising that the missing piece of the jigsaw puzzle - the production of a European Armaments Strategy - should be one of my first responsibilities.

Fortunately the foundations had already been established. The EDA study into cooperative lessons learned and best practice had provided the pMS, their industries, and other stakeholders with the opportunity to learn from the past and to formulate more effective practices for the future. A number of Study recommendations have been taken forward as enablers for cooperation. A notable one is the "matchmaking" database, which offers pMS a centralised tool where they can advertise cooperative opportunities spanning all phases of acquisition. Presently we have over 300 entries, mostly for programmes approaching the development phase. We hope to attract potential cooperation in other phases, with 'off-the-shelf' purchases being an area of particular interest to the pMS. We have just started to investigate suitable arrangements for joint 'off-the-shelf' purchasing and how through-life management can best be integrated into armaments work.

We are also investigating how to improve the mutual understanding of stakeholders involved in cooperative programmes. It's a long-term, but nevertheless high-leverage, activity where we are seeing a clear gap in true European thinking. Plus, we have long-standing initiatives to improve standardization and the defence test and evaluation base.

So with this all going on, why do we need an Armaments Strategy? Much of what has been done is about setting the right environment for cooperation through processes and tools. We are now seeing potential programmes emerging from the capability development work of the Agency, and also significant projects/programmes such as Unmanned Air Vehicles air traffic insertion, mid-air collision avoidance systems and Software Defined Radio coming under the umbrella of the Agency. With the CDP maturing, we are sure to see the emergence of yet more cooperative programmes entrusted to the EDA. We therefore need to establish a general framework to handle these potential programmes and to ensure there is value added by the EDA.

We have been working with the pMS to establish a process for the programme "Preparation Phase". This will include defining the requirements, undertaking studies, choosing a favoured solution and outlining plans for the next phase.

"It makes sense for governments to share the cost of developing and procuring capabilities"

The Armaments Strategy provides a common vision that brings together the long-term strategy, the processes to translate common capability needs into cooperative programmes and then deliver them, and the practices to improve the way we do business.

The timing is right. Defence budgets are static and in some cases falling, whilst the cost of equipment continues to rise. It makes sense for governments to share the cost of developing and procuring defence capabilities. I have no doubt that an Armaments Strategy, with associated processes and tools, will help. We have been working hard with the pMS and we plan to present our common findings in October/November this year.
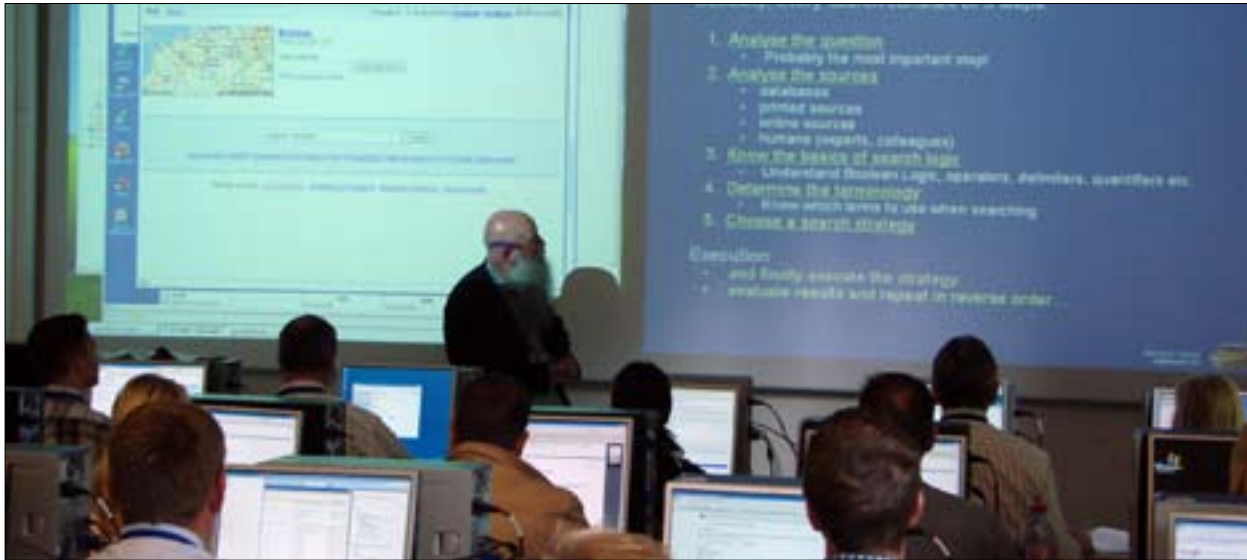
Participants at EDA OSINT training course

Developing Open Source Intelligence Expertise

By Johan Truyens, Capabilities

Open-source intelligence, which is based on the collection and analysis of publicly available information rather than classified material, is increasingly important as ever greater quantities of information become accessible, particularly online and in electronic form.

In 2007, EDA hosted a number of meetings with participating Member States (pMS) focused on the development of professional Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) capabilities. One of the most relevant conclusions was that training could represent an essential step in that direction: current national and international training packages did not always meet the requirements of pMS in terms of quality, quantity and accessibility.

As a result, two pilot training courses were organised at the Agency in Brussels. Because of the civil-military interest in the activity, the courses were open to students not only from the Ministries of Defence, but also from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs,

Interior, and Justice, as well as national Counter Terrorism Centres and Prime Ministers' Offices. Due to the extremely high number of applications – 86 people from 21 countries and 10 different EU bodies – pMS have decided to organise an additional pilot course in November.

The feedback EDA will receive on the courses will be used for further fine-tuning in 2009 when, in addition to basic and advanced courses, EDA will offer additional OSINT courses focused on specific regions of interest such as the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. EDA will also offer courses on three current high priority topics: terrorism, proliferation and humanitarian affairs – there will be between 15 and 20 such courses in 2009.

Apart from satisfying an immediate training requirement, the goal of the pilot courses is to be ready to hand over a complete Intelligence Analyst training package in 2010 to an appropriate EU entity. This

would take on the responsibility for the management of such training issues at EU level.

The courses are part of a larger EDA strategy to deliver a basic training package for analysts in support of decision-making processes. This EDA approach is based on three pillars: transfer of knowledge about a specific geographical area via the "Intelligence Understanding of the Mission Environment (IUME)" courses; developing skills to collect current data about multiple topics via the OSINT courses; and acquiring the necessary capability to evaluate and integrate the retrieved information with the already available knowledge via the "Intelligence Analysis" courses.

Additional information about the courses is available from Johan Truyens (johan.truyens@eda.europa.eu – OSINT and Intelligence Analysis) or Andrea De Candido (andrea.decandido@eda.europa.eu – IUME).

Tough Love or Feather Bedding?

By Ulf Hammarstrom, Industry and Market Director

Is tough love or feather bedding the right strategy to ensure a strong European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) in the future? This provocative question was asked at the EDA's EDTIB conference in February 2007. Not surprisingly there was no unequivocal answer. Indeed, Defence Ministers concluded by endorsing the EDTIB Strategy later that year that both approaches were needed: a stronger dose of market forces through competition, but with a more coherent governmental strategy at the same time.

One year later, how is Europe proceeding?

According to a report published by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington in May, a transformation of European defence capabilities seems to be happening. Spending on personnel is decreasing while investment spending increases. I am convinced it is largely a result of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). Increased EU operations, but maybe more importantly a more common perception of what EU nations need to do, and concepts such as EU battle groups, have started to make an impact. I am also equally convinced that this transformation and stronger European defence capabilities – whether for UN, EU or NATO-led operations - will not come about without more coherent industrial strategies. It is in procurement and industrial strategies that the root of European fragmentation is always found.

The Code of Conduct Regime for defence procurement has introduced more market forces and competition (see page 15). This is necessary to ensure competitiveness, give better value for taxpayers' money and provide the market access that competitive industries need to be sustainable. The Regime has now been running for two years, with more than 300 contracts worth more than €10 billion published for competition, and the number is increasing. Meanwhile, cross-border contract awards are growing: they represent some 25% of all contracts, 15% within Europe and 10% outside. We are not aiming for 100%, but we would like to see more, especially for large contracts. Still, this is not a bad start. So far, some €4 billion worth of contracts has been transparently awarded under the provisions of the Code of Conduct.

"Market forces alone will not shape the EDTIB"

This is not to say that we are there yet. We have to address issues such as offset, and the need for a level playing field to create a better functioning market place. The prime aim of defence procurement is best value for money for the frontline soldier risking his or her life. That is what we mean by being capability-driven. And we would still like to see more prime contractors opening up supply chains in accordance with the agreed Code of Best Practice in the Supply Chain. But the market is opening, that is for sure.

So what of feather bedding? We have always said that market forces alone will not shape the EDTIB we want. We cannot all just buy off-the-shelf; someone must put something on the shelf as well. European governments have a responsibility to ensure conditions for preserving or developing those industrial capabilities for which they don't wish to be dependent on third party capabilities, or want to ensure future competitiveness on the global market. Much of Europe's present competitiveness is based on past, Cold War spending. Therefore one key way to ensure the future is to have more, and more coherent, R&T spending. The EDA R&T Joint Investment Programmes, which involves competition for global return rather than "juste retour" as the guiding principle, also have an important effect in helping to shape the EDTIB.

Critical to ensuring a strong industry for the future is to create a climate to involve small and medium sized companies (SMEs) and non-traditional defence suppliers, wherever they exist across Europe. This is a must for innovation and for economic and technological reasons and we will propose concrete measures to achieve this in the autumn. Some important measures would, in my mind, be lowering the threshold for publication of contract opportunities, harmonising procedures for low value contracts establishing common certification, and supporting partnering of SMEs around specific programmes. The Code of Conduct

Norwegian Defence Minister Anne-Grete Strom-Erichsen (left) with EDA Chief Executive Alexander Weis at the EDA on 26 May after Norway joined the Code of Conduct on defence procurement, which since April also includes Bulgaria.

is already having a positive effect on SMEs: about half of the contracts awarded so far have gone to SMEs, including 20% of those awarded cross-border.

The definition of key industrial capabilities to maintain or develop will start with Future Air Systems, looking in particular for weaknesses in supply chains. For example, there might be over-dependence on non-European sources of supply or areas where Europeans will want to ensure future competitiveness. Unmanned Air Vehicles and Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles may be obvious areas, but the helicopter sector is also of crucial importance for other work strands of the EDA. Within a year, this work should lead to concrete programmes to deal with identified weaknesses or seeking to ensure strengths.

Competition and cooperation – tough love and feather bedding – can be pursued simultaneously but need to be balanced correctly. Cooperation will be further supported by the new Armaments Strategy to be presented to EDA Ministers in November. Competing and co-operating more effectively around common programmes is probably a more efficient way for the Agency to support a natural, and industry-driven, reshaping and specialisation of the future EDTIB, rather than looking at a top-down rationalisation through mandated mergers and acquisitions.

"Hello, this is the European Defence Agency…"

Building awareness about the new opportunities in the European Defence Equipment Market is critical to the project's success. Put simply, the greater the number of companies bidding for contracts at home and in other countries, the more widely the benefits will be shared and the bigger the impact will be for customers and suppliers alike.

To tackle this, the EDA has launched a number of marketing initiatives about the Regime on Defence Procurement and its integral parts. These include the Code of Conduct, the Code of Best practice in the Supply Chain and the Electronic Bulletin Board, the online portal for contract opportunities.

One such activity is the European Call Centre project. Under this scheme up to 4,000 defence-related companies, located in 25 subscribing Member States, will be contacted by a dedicated team this year.

The aim is to increase awareness, disseminate information and gather feedback on the effectiveness of the regime and its tools. It also aims to get permission to add names to a database for community-building activities, such as newsletters and email alerts.

The Call Centre was launched on 9 May and has so far successfully completed half of the first phase, during which it will contact 2,000 companies. At the end of that phase, conclusions will be drawn about the companies' views which will feed into subsequent phases of the project.

For more information about the Regime on Defence Procurement and business opportunities, visit the EBB at http://www.eda.europa.eu/ebbweb

EDA Electronic Bulletin Board team

Starting Up the EDA: a Unique Experience

By Bertrand de Cordoue, R&T Director

After nearly four years at the European Defence Agency as one of the founding members of the Agency Management Board, R&T Director Bertrand de Cordoue tells EDA Bulletin about the challenges and achievements of his time in Brussels.

When did you first hear about the European Defence Agency?

In June 2004, a couple of weeks before the adoption of the Joint Action founding the EDA, I received a call from the French National Armaments Director to say that they were seeking candidates to join the initial Agency Management Board. At that time I was at the French Trade Department in charge of bilateral relations with Asia, far away from the Ministry of Defence and Brussels. However, my wife and I had fond memories of our time in Belgium in the nineties when I was posted to the Western European Union and worked on the creation of the Western European Armaments Group. I have to confess that my first professional experience in European military circles left me with mixed feelings. But my work with emerging powers such as China and India had strengthened my conviction that building Europe is the only way forward. Having heard that unanimity wasn't necessarily required to undertake something under the newly created Agency, I decided to apply for the challenging position of R&T Director.

What has been your major source of satisfaction over the last four years?

Without doubt, leading my team of colleagues in the R&T Directorate. Recruiting them, organising their responsibilities and work to make them both efficient and happy, stimulating their creativity and coordinating their activities in support of shared objectives was extremely satisfying. I had held management responsibilities previously, but not in such a multinational environment. It wasn't always easy to create a common understanding among 15 people of 12 different nationalities. But, once that was achieved, the productivity of such a team, especially in their working relations with external partners, is multiplied.

I was lucky to be involved in establishing the Agency from scratch, a little bit like a start-up. And I have to say that I am still surprised by the freedom we had at the beginning to set up our initial structure and operating rules, something you would be unlikely to experience twice in a public sector career!

How would you summarise what has been achieved during this period?

I strongly believe that the creation of the EDA has been a major step in building Europe's defence strategy. There is now an independent institution with the task of proposing policies and projects to reflect the common interest of its Member States, even if ultimate decisions remain in the hands of Member States. This model has of course been implemented successfully in many other areas of European construction on the civilian side.

For the EDA to play this role efficiently it needs to meet two conditions. First, the Agency should remain independent, which implies autonomy in terms of manpower and budget. Secondly, the Agency must establish a clear and convincing view of where its Member States' common interest lies. This is not always easy considering the complexity of defence procurement and industrial matters.

The best illustration of this new approach, applied to European Defence R&T, has been the first joint investment programmes proposed by the Agency, and funded by interested Member States. It was time to break the traditional approach to collaborative R&T, in which governments sometimes seemed more concerned about what they would get back individually, rather than what the collaboration would achieve collectively. This often leads to a lack of results, feeding scepticism, discouragement and cynicism about the process - not the best climate for producing results! The management structure of these new programmes has struck a good balance between rewarding merit and encouraging collaboration, while recognising the relative contributions of all participants.

EDA R&T Director Appointed

Christian Bréant, currently R&T Director in the Délégation Générale pour l'Armement (DGA) of the French Ministry of Defence, has been appointed as the new EDA Director for Research & Technology.

He will take up his post in the summer, replacing Bertrand de Cordoue, the Agency's first R&T Director.

"I am very pleased that we have such a well-qualified successor who will be able to build on the excellent foundation which Bertrand and his team have created for boosting European collaboration in Defence

Christian Bréant (left) with Bertrand de Cordoue

R&T," said Javier Solana, the Head of the Agency.

Bréant is a graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique and has a PhD in Laser Physics from Paris University. He carried out post-doctoral research at JILA, University of Colorado. During his career, he has held a series of posts at DGA and served as a member of the European Security Research Advisory Board of the European Commission in 2006-7.

Steering Board

Head of Agency Javier Solana has appointed Pierre Hougardy of Belgium (left) and Jan-Olof Lind of Sweden (right, with Solana) to chair the EDA Steering Board in Capabilities and R&T formations respectively.

Les Echos

L'Agence européenne de défense veut fédérer des projets 19 June 2008

Pour Alexander Weis, le directeur de l'Agence européenne de défense (AED), l'année 2008 s'annonce décisive. Le 8 juillet, les 26 pays membres de l'AED (les Vingt-sept moins le Danemark) se verront présenter une liste de projets d'armements communs à plusieurs pays. L'enjeu est de taille. Si plusieurs pays s'accordent pour harmoniser leurs besoins, l'agence pourrait alors lancer ses premiers programmes en coopération. « Aux pays membres de dire s'ils veulent faire de l'AED autre chose qu'une machine à produire du papier », a estimé son directeur lors d'une conférence de presse, en marge du Salon Eurosatory et en compagnie de François Lureau, le délégué général pour l'armement.

Quatre ans après la création de l'AED, de nombreuses voix s'élèvent pour critiquer le peu de résultats de l'Europe de la défense. Le Livre blanc français rappelle « qu'aucune nation en Europe n'a la capacité d'assumer seule le poids d'une industrie de défense répondant à l'ensemble des besoins de ses forces ». D'où une consolidation jugée indispensable mais qui bute sur les nationalismes industriels. Dotée d'un budget très faible, l'agence a pourtant réussi à faire bouger les lignes. Outre son portail d'appels d'offres, elle a lancé en un temps record les premiers projets de recherche militaire européens (« Les Echos » du 14 décembre). Qui plus est, en réussissant à s'affranchir de la règle, tant décriée, du « juste retour »...

Seeking Civil-Military Synergies

Dick Zandee, Head of Planning & Policy Unit

Since its launch in 2000, European Security and Defence Policy has consisted of two legs: military and civilian. Likewise, the development of the capabilities needed for military and civilian operations has taken place on separate tracks. In sharp contrast with this distinction, ESDP operations themselves increasingly show the need for close cooperation between military and civil actors. In many cases they operate side by side. The unique feature of the European Union, the ability to deploy military forces and civilian personnel, is moving in the direction of civil-military integration.

Since the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York, on the Madrid metro network and on civilians elsewhere in Europe, another distinction has disappeared, namely between "external" and "internal" security. The European Security Strategy, adopted by the Council in 2003, reflects this reality. It provides an overall security concept, encompassing both ESDP and "homeland security".

The EU's institutional set-up does not yet reflect these new realities. ESDP belongs to the second pillar and "homeland security" belongs to the first and third pillars. However, this separation of responsibilities does not imply that activities in the different pillars take place without any coordination. It would be foolish to do so: modern threats to our security show up outside and inside Europe – we need coordinated action. Logically, the capabilities to underpin these actions also need to be harmonised. If we were to neglect this, first euros would have to be spent twice in many cases and, secondly, the lack of interoperability

and standardisation between civil and military actors would continue to exist.

Another element which affects both military and civilian capabilities is the dual use character of technologies. While some specific military technologies will always exist – simply because they are only applied to weapon systems – nowadays civilian Research & Technology is often spinning off military applications, not the other way around. Information technology is a perfect example. The European Commission is investing large sums of money in new technologies under the European Security Research Programme (ESRP), part of the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013): € 1.4 billion for "security" and the same amount for "space". There is huge potential to spend European tax payers' money for R&T in a more concerted way.

The European Defence Agency is taking the civil-military interface into consideration in its work to improve military capabilities for ESDP. This applies in particular to capability areas like "inform and command", where military and civilian users are operating with similar equipment. A few examples:

- **Software Defined Radio:** the communication tool of the future – no longer hardware driven - which will make it possible for military of different nationalities, and with all kinds of uniforms, to talk securely to each other. But

"The separate worlds don't exist any more."

why should this be limited to the military? Indeed, there are many users on the civilian side: police, border control, coast guards, but also those in charge of disaster relief, humanitarian aid delivery and the like. Based on a mandate from its Ministerial Steering Board, the Agency is undertaking a joint civil-military effort to link requirements, standards and concepts of the military and civilian communities. It is connecting the ESSOR project, carried out by a small group of its participating Member States, with the activities of the Commission. This will lead to an important change: within a decade civil and military personnel involved in crisis management – inside or outside the Union – will be able to communicate securely.

- **Unmanned Air Vehicles:** an information asset, so far mainly used for military intelligence-gathering. But there is a fast growing need for civilian use: the Union's long border from the North Cape to the Black Sea can no longer be controlled effectively by people on the ground. In the waters around Europe, problems with illegal immigrants, drugs traffic and pollution are increasing. The Commission is investing in UAV technology for tracking such dangers. The Agency has launched a major initiative, namely to allow UAVs to fly in normal airspace (see page 10). It is an excellent example of combining efforts with other European actors, such
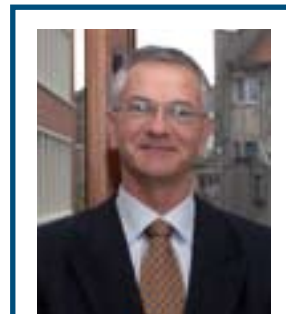
as Eurocontrol, for the benefit of all.

- **Space:** use of space was originally driven by military needs, but now civilian users dominate, be it in satellite communications (80% civilian) or for observation (for weather, environment, cartography, etc.). Space is also becoming less safe. The amount of debris is increasing and space around the earth is more densely occupied by a growing number of satellites. Hence, there is a requirement for more accurate space situational awareness. The Council has recognised the need for closer links between civilian and military users of space. In spring 2007, it called for a "structured dialogue" between the different pillars of the Union. This dialogue, involving the Commission, the Council General

Secretariat and EDA, has started. More importantly, practical cooperation has been launched under this umbrella of a cross-pillar dialogue. The Agency has provided the Commission with military requirements for the use of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) system in the area of Maritime Surveillance. Requirements for other military use of GMES may follow. Likely, dedicated military observation satellites will still be needed, but use of GMES services will provide an alternative source for imagery information. In the near future EDA will also develop military requirements for Space Situational Awareness (SSA). These can be brought into the SSA programme, to be approved by the European Space Agency's Ministerial Council in November 2008.

In many ways the Agency can bring added value to the efforts of its primary shareholders – the Ministries of Defence of its participating Member States – to improve European military capabilities. Harmonising military requirements, more joint investment and collaborations are logical examples. Very rarely do national military planners look at the potential use of civilian capabilities. But reality is different: the separate worlds don't exist anymore. Military and civilians have to work together and, therefore, they need interoperable capabilities. They have to combine their efforts in planning, research and programmes, thus creating better output at lower cost. EDA provides the bridge between the two communities. No doubt the bridge will expand in the years to come.

Implementing Network Enabled Capability

By Rainer Cramer, Capabilities

In December 2006, the EDA Steering Board agreed to contract a senior personality (the so called "WisePen") to produce an EU Concept for Network Enabled Capabilities (NEC) in support of ESDP. The document is designed to set the basis for the future development of an EU Civil-Military Network Enabled Capability, taking advantage of information technology to ensure that all actors in any operation can have access to and share the information they need to carry out their mission.

On 8 July, the Steering Board noted the report produced by General (ret) Rainer Schuwirth, after several months of consultations amongst the relevant stakeholders. The document will now be presented to Head of the Agency Javier Solana, who

will decide how to proceed so that the draft can be transformed into an officially agreed concept at EU level.

In parallel, the EDA has initiated a tendering procedure to launch, by the end of 2008, a NEC Implementation Study (NEC IS). This will be an 18-month effort with the purpose of defining:

- a NEC Vision, describing what the EU wants to achieve through NEC;
- a NEC Roadmap: the milestones, deliverables and actors that need to be considered in order to make the NEC Vision come to life.

The NEC IS will be based, among many others, on the principles out-

lined in the EU NEC concept which were consensually supported in the 8 July Steering Board,on the outcome of the Information Exchange Requirement workstrands managed with the support of EDA by the EU Council General Secretariat, and on the NEC stocktaking effort conducted by participating Member States within EDA's Project Team NEC. The idea is to take into account all NEC efforts currently being undertaken in the EU and its Member States.

One of the strategic recommendations of the WisePen's document is the need for a strong governance authority, responsible for coordinating and managing NEC-related issues within the EU.

More of EDA in the news

Military Capabilities: European Defence Agency Adopts Capability Development Plan | 10 July 2008

The 26 EU member states of the European Defence Agency (except Denmark) endorsed, on 8 July, the first capability development plan (CDP) defining the future military needs and priorities of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and agreed to use it to guide future national defence investment decisions. They also agreed to seek opportunities to collaborate so as to address their short and longer-term military requirements coherently (see interview with Alexander Weis, Europolitics 3565).

"The CDP provides the picture all member states need to take into account when planning future capability development agendas and finding the right balance between ambition and resources," said Javier Solana, the head of the agency. "It is quite clear, however, that the CDP is not a supranational military equipment or capability plan which aims to replace national defence plans and programmes. It should support, not replace, national decision making," he added.

"A capability-driven agency means: investing in and delivering those capabilities which the CDP has listed as the needs for tomorrow, both in the short and the longer term," said EDA Chief Executive Alexander Weis.

DATABASE AND PRIORITIES

As part of the effort, member states contributed to a database of the national programmes and priorities, which has initially revealed a large number of different areas where more than one country was working on similar ideas.

The Steering Board agreed on 12 topics for specific action (see box) and asked the agency to prepare a detailed way forward for each set of priorities.

Separately, the EDA's Steering Board reviewed progress on the existing initiatives.

• Availability of helicopters: The meeting agreed to a series of measures on helicopter training, which would allow cooperation between member states and increase the operational availability of aircrew, and on upgrading existing aircraft.

• Information technology: According to a report on network-enabled capabilities - the use of information technology to link all actors in an operation together so that information can be reliably shared - the Steering Board agreed that the agency should fund a study on how the NEC concept could be implemented.

• Force protection: Protection against sea mines, maritime surveillance, biological agent detection and combating terrorist bombs were among the force protection issues discussed as areas where the agency is developing significant capabilities to enhance the operational effectiveness of European military forces.

• Logistics: Following an EDA conference on the role of third-party commercial support for logistics, the Steering Board agreed to set up a trial of a European support platform for connecting industry with planners and commanders to provide help to meet the logistics requirements of EU operations.

The CDP background note is available at www.europolitics.info>Search >230298

The 12 priorities

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 devices (C-IED)
11. Increased availability of helicopters
12. Network enabled capability

España, entre los principales contribuyentes del programa I+D de defensa
26 May 2008

España será uno de los principales contribuyentes del programa de inversión conjunta en innovación y tecnologías emergentes de la Agencia Europea de Defensa (EDA) que aprobó hoy el Consejo de Defensa de la Unión Europea, y aportará dos de los quince millones de euros de presupuesto total.

Además de España, participarán en el programa Chipre, Francia, Alemania, Grecia, Hungría, Italia, Polonia, Eslovaquia y Eslovenia, así como Noruega, que no es miembro de la Unión Europea, pero que hoy mismo firmó un acuerdo industrial con la EDA.

El director de la agencia, Alexander Weis, explicó en rueda de prensa tras participar en el Consejo de Ministros de Defensa de los Veintisiete celebrado hoy en Bruselas que el programa de innovación contará con un comité de dirección compuesto por los participantes, cuyos votos estarán en función de la aportación económica.

España, con dos millones de euros, es uno de los principales contribuyentes al mismo, informaron a Efe fuentes de la agencia de Defensa.

El programa impulsado hoy se centrará en buscar soluciones innovadoras a problemas de arquitectura integrada de comunicaciones, en caso, por ejemplo, de pérdida de señal del satélite GPS.

También aplicará la nanotecnología para un diseño más ergonómico del equipamiento de los soldados, desde su vestimenta a los sistemas de protección.

Otra de sus prioridades será el estudio de tecnologías de radar para la detección remota de objetos escondidos en un área determinada. EFE

Off the Drawing Board, Onto the Runway

By Arturo Alfonso Meiriño

Assistant Director, Industry & Market

Eight years ago, I was a member of a small team of eight based in Toulouse responsible for negotiating the contract with Airbus Military for the design, development, production and initial logistic support of the A400M aircraft. So it was a very proud and satisfying moment on June 26th when I attended the rollout ceremony of the first A400M aircraft in Seville, Spain. It was also a significant milestone in the history of this transport aircraft programme.

Looking at the finished aircraft sitting on the runway, it was hard to remember just how improvised and primitive our work at the start of the project had felt. The whole team was sent to Toulouse at short notice in December 2000 with urgent instructions to create the Interim International Programme Office (IIPO-A400M). No one knew how long we would be there, and no one imagined that it would a full year, with almost no holiday apart from Christmas Day.

We initially occupied empty offices on the first floor of a workshop of the old facilities of the Centre d'Essais Aeronautiques in Toulouse, which was already in the process of closing down to move to another part of the city. We had no desks or computers and spent our first week sitting on chairs in one bare room, talking and talking about how to share the workload between the eight of us.

We were operating under a mandate from the Policy Group of the participating countries in the Programme, managing the contract negotiation process and coordinating the activities of the different programme working groups. In December 2001, responsibility for the contract was transferred to OCCAR which, with its legal status already in place, signed the contract on behalf of its members in May 2003.

With all due modesty, I think I can say that the participating countries and industry in general recognised that the implementation of the IIPO under the chairmanship of Mr Hans Horn, now retired, was the factor that really brought the countries together and allowed them to push for contract signature. The key was to have a permanent team dealing with the subject on a daily basis, rather than relying on itinerant working groups as had been the case until then.

The A400M project is a clear illustration of European armaments cooperation in practice. It will help to fill a major gap in the military transport capabilities of European Union members, a critical area for operations under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). This transport aircraft project has also stimulated the development and maintenance of key technologies in Europe, which support the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB). As the European Defence Agency works to implement its strategy for a capability-driven, competent and competitive EDTIB, we are also drafting the European Armaments Cooperation Strategy. The example of the A400M, and the new instruments which the Agency is developing, are helping to pave the way for more and better defence equipment collaboration in Europe.

We probably do not need to repeat the experience of an empty room with just a few chairs. But we certainly could do with recapturing the same spirit, and the same commitment, which inspired our governments and our small team eight years ago.