

European Armed Forces

>>GO GREEN

Issue

Today Defence Ministers opened the portal to the world of renewable energy within Armed Forces with the launch of the ad-hoc Category B project GO GREEN, to be implemented by six EDA nations: Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece and Luxembourg.

The innovative concept in the area of energy efficiency of the project will help European Armed Forces reduce their dependency on expensive and unstable energy sources and increase the development of compatible renewable energy. The initiative is part of the save & reinvest principle.

Target

The GO GREEN initiative aims at analysing and unleashing the Armed Forces' renewable energy potential, starting in the field of Solar Power generation, developing a common approach, distributing the generated benefits while, at the same time, creating additional investment for improving capabilities for CSDP and releasing pressure on national defence budgets. After the successful demonstration of the GO GREEN pilot, implementation on a wider national and European scale is an option.

Pilot project facts

- Six countries: AT, CY, CZ, DE, EL, LU.
- One national pilot case per contributing nation (e.g. Airbase or other available infrastructure, free land).
- Energy production targeted: up to 100MW (depending on national test cases provided).
- Estimated value of the overall project: 200 to 300 M€ investment.
- Financing: the project approach does not require financial governmental contributions. Funding will be generated through innovative industrial models (Public Private Partnerships models).

Background

Energy is an essential component of military operations and vulnerability. It is a force multiplier. Without energy, the Armed Forces stand still and silent. Energy innovations will help the Armed Forces today and in the future and, more broadly, enable them to contribute to Europe's 2020 Energy Policy target.

The Armed Forces Energy expenditure profile: A single European Armed Force consumes, on average, the electric energy of a



large city, while the 26 EDA pMS collectively need the energy equal to that of a small EU country. At the same time, EU Armed Forces own, collectively, infrastructure of a total estimated surface of about 200 million square metres. That is an equal size to the Armed Forces of the United States and more than four times the surface operated by any of Europe's largest retailers.

The opportunity: Through these available resources, European Armed Forces have an opportunity to reduce energy expenditure and deploy new alternative energy sources to meet their growing energy needs. Several national initiatives have already reduced energy consumption in recent years. But there is scope for more. The GO GREEN initiative is a way for smarter, more effective resource efficiency to deliver added value to Armed Forces and society at large.

The target of GO GREEN: GO GREEN will demonstrate the deployment of new alternative energy sources for faster, cleaner, more sustainable and cheaper ways to meet Armed Forces' growing energy needs. Through the GO GREEN project, participating European Armed Forces will develop and demonstrate a generic renewable energy exploitation model that could be used later on for European-wide implementation.

Methodology: Commercial off-the-shelf energy technologies and industrial cooperation models will be used to increase the production and use of renewable energy.

Image credits: PhotoXPRESS

Last update: 22/03/2012