

# European Satellite Communications Procurement Cell (ESCPC)

## ESCPC overview

The overall aim of the ESCPC is to pool the procurement of commercial SatCom capacity in order to reduce costs, promote ease of access and improve efficiency to deliver a better connectivity to armed forces of the EU Member States. Recent lessons learnt from operations ATALANTA and EUFOR Chad-CAR are excellent illustrations of the need to set up and run a cell specialised in space based connectivity services.

The role of the ESCPC consists in acting as a booking office to stimulate the common business with contributing Member States, based on a portfolio of SatCom services to be contracted by EDA on a pay-per-use basis over three years (Q4 2012 – Q4 2015).

This project is the first of its kind (Service provision, so non-standard arrangement). It's a pilot project where EDA is now starting operations. EDA acts as the Contracting Authority for tailored on-demand services (SatCom) that will be invoiced to contributing Member States. So far, France, Italy, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom contribute to this project, while additional members are expected to opt in.

ESCPC is one of the first projects delivering real services to improve EU defence capability for today's national and CSDP operations. It provides a wireless connectivity solution between theatres and headquarters. It is another implementation of the efficient procurement method (EPM) initiative, pooling demand through common off-the-shelf procurement and a particular service in the portfolio of outsourced logistic services supporting any national, EU-led or coalition operation within the EU and abroad. So ESCPC is linked to the TPLS (Third Party Logistics Support) Platform of the Agency.

It represents a quick win of the Pooling & Sharing initiative launched by Defence ministers in 2011. It will primarily serve EDA participating Member States' national needs, CSDP operations.

It may also serve interested third parties such as the EU Satellite Centre, the European Space Agency, FRONTEX, EEAS and could be extended to the civil community of users.

## ESCPC dates

The ESCPC was adopted as an Ad Hoc Category B Project by a Steering Board Decision on 15 October 2009.

The Project Arrangement has been signed by the five contributing Member States on 28 June 2012.

The Framework Contract has been awarded to ASTRIUM Services on 28 September 2012, which marks the ESCPC Initial Operational Capability (IOC) for an initial period of 3 years of SATCOM service provision.

## ESCPC scheme



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For further information: [www.eda.europa.eu](http://www.eda.europa.eu)