

Precision guided ammunition



On the implementation of the European Defence Technological Industrial Base (EDTIB) Strategy, the European Defence Agency (EDA) has commenced a major initiative to strengthen the technological and industrial base related to ammunition in Europe.

This is one of EDA's pilot test cases on identifying which key industrial capabilities must be preserved or developed in Europe to meet future military requirements, and conversely, where Member States can reasonably plan to source future needs from the wider world market.

Within that framework, BAE Systems, representing a significant part of the defence ammunition industry in Europe, conducted a 12 month contract, together with the EDA, relating to the development of a Roadmap and Implementation Plan for a European solution on Precision Guided Ammunition (PGA).

Having identified PGAs as a topic of utmost importance from the operational but also from the industrial and technological perspectives including associated critical non-EU dependencies, Member States tasked EDA to move forward for such an analysis.

The contract provided an achievable step-by-step plan to develop a more robust, sustainable and competitive European defence ammunition industry, able to provide the military capabilities Member States require.

More specifically study results delivered:

- A detailed analysis of Member States' capabilities requirements on Precision Guided Ammunition, identifying also existing commonalities and differences;
- A mapping of the current Global and European technological and industrial situation assessing Europe's strengths and weaknesses;
- A methodology based identification of the existing gaps, focusing on Member States' priorities.

Major deliverable of the study was a PGA Roadmap and Implementation Plan identifying priority measures to be taken with special focus on key technologies and key industrial capabilities to be preserved or developed including proposals for pilot cooperative programs and prioritized areas for investment.

Study delivered its results end of 2011 and having followed - both Member States and EDA- an assessment period, on 10th May 2012 EDA's Steering Board in National Armaments Directors formation decided on the establishment of the Smart Munitions Working Group (SMWG) with main tasks to:

- Discuss aspects of related to the development, production, use etc. of smart munitions, becoming a European reference;
- Monitor and Coordinate EDA's actions related the Implementation of the Roadmap and Implementation Plan on gun-launched "Smart Munitions";
- Assist and advice EDA's efforts/work on the expansion of this activity also in the area of air-delivered smart munitions;
- Contribute with its expertise to EDA's efforts to identify Member States' Pooling & Sharing activities within this sector.

On 8th of June 2012 EDA hosted Smart Munitions Working Group 1st meeting where Member States had the opportunity to initiate discussion and exchange views on the elements included in the PGA Roadmap, the national priorities but also possible tasks and responsibilities on the implementation of this Roadmap.

While expectations are high on the way to define possible areas for cooperation, establishment of Smart Munitions Working Group indicate EDA's important role to fulfill capability requirements of its Member States on areas of high importance while in parallel contributing to the creation of a robust and sustainable European Defence Technological and Industrial Base.

More information is available at:

<http://www.eda.europa.eu>

Last update: 07/06/2012

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