The EU Global Strategy stresses that “in this fragile world, soft power is not enough: we must enhance our credibility in security and defence”. This assertion is fully applicable to capabilities required to prevent enemies from entering protected areas with their own air capabilities, including UAS. The use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) has become synonymous with contemporary operations. However, reducing cost and wide availability on the civilian market of smaller UAS platforms has also made them increasingly accessible to hostile forces. In the CSDP context, hostile Mini-UAS are increasingly deployed against military and civilian missions, primarily to gather intelligence. Although so far relatively benign, they possess obvious capacity to be used offensively, to designate targets, and deliver hazardous or even lethal payloads. The ubiquity and technical diversity of UAS technology can be challenging to counter given the rapid pace of development.

In June 2019 the EDA Steering Board (SB) endorsed the first edition of the 11 Strategic Context Cases (SCC) as a guidance to implement the EU Capability Development Priorities agreed by Member States in 2018. The SB tasked EDA to make use of the SCC’s to inform the further implementation of the EU defence initiatives, notably Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and, to the extent possible, in the context of the European Defence Fund (EDF). The SB further tasked EDA to make use of the SCC to facilitate the initiation and the consolidation of cooperative projects. Countering UAS capacities are part of the module A2AD of the SCC related to the EU Capability Development Priority on Air Superiority.

EDA is also working on the identification of Key Strategic Activities (KSA) against selected capability development and research priorities at EU level. The objective of the work on KSA is to highlight those industrial capacities, technologies and skills, which are underpinning the EU’s strategic autonomy, and to match possible actions with eligible EU funding. The KSA methodology was noted by the EDA Ministerial Steering Board meeting in November 2016.

In this context EDA is organising a Workshop on the implementation of the EU Capability Development C-UAS on 15 September 2020. The purpose of this Workshop is to provide Industry with a deeper insight into the SCC Module on C-UAS and to contribute to develop a common understanding between Industry and Member States on the related challenges. Therefore inputs coming from industry (through a call for paper process) are requested, to support the discussion with EDA pMS on concrete steps towards the development of a C-UAS Capability. The discussion with Industry will follow the lines
defined in the Avenues of Approach in a version of the SCC A2AD releasable to industry which is available on request through NDIAAs and ASD via the EDA Prioritisation Platform (https://prioritisation.eda.europa.eu/).

Following this call for papers, Industry representatives are invited to express interest by submitting answers to the questions below by close of business on 3rd July 2020. Particular companies will be selected to participate in the workshop based on an evaluation of these answers by EDA.

OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

The main objective of the workshop is to exchange information on current and future strands of work related to development of C-UAS capacities, on the basis of the Strategic Context Case A2AD and the related Avenues of approach (AoA) and to contribute to develop a common understanding of this guiding documents amongst participants. Industry would be expected to share its views and suggestions to the audience (Member State defence planners and relevant defence sector experts) on further perspectives which could inform R&T and capability development in this selected area. This should also include the long-term perspective (beyond 20 years) on the industrial and technological outlook in naval manoeuvrability, thus to make capability planners reflect on the ‘art of the possible’. Relevant Key Strategic Activities (KSA) reports related to this capability domain and the avenue of approach laid down in the selected area will also be addressed within the workshop.

QUESTIONS

C-UAS Technological developments

• Which technologies are you developing and applying in your C-UAS systems?
• Are these technologies dependent in any way from non-EU sources? Is it possible to develop purely European technological solutions in view of enhancing EU technological sovereignty in the C-UAS field?
• Are you applying an open or closed architecture enabling future growth and incorporation of future sensors?
• How to harmonize the requirements for future C-UAS systems in the long-term perspective (20 years)?
• How are you taking aspects like big data management, data fusion, collaborative layers, Artificial Intelligence support into account in your R&T efforts?
• What type of sensors do you see for the detection phase in Countering UAS?
• What kind of sensors and technology do you see best fit for the identification of a UAS?
• What kind of technology do envisage or use for destroying a UAS (hard or soft kill)?
• How do you ensure interoperability between the Command and control structure both with civil ATM systems and Military Air defense systems?

Industry & Market

• What kind of initiatives and decisions would be required as incentives to promote development of state-of-the-art technology from an economical point of view in the context of C-UAS?
In which areas of C-UAS could civilian/dual nature industry (including SMEs or start-ups) be at the forefront of innovation?

Are you involved in ongoing civilian C-UAS projects? Please elaborate on potential synergies between defense and civilian initiatives?

How do you anticipate the evolution of business models (e.g. traditional national procurement vs pooled acquisition or outsourced services, public private partnerships)? Please outline key benefits and drawbacks of those business models.

What are your main industrial capacities developed already/under development or planned to be developed in the area of C-UAS?

Are there any skills and competencies required for the development of state-of-the-art C-UAS capability solutions a challenge for your industry? How do you cope with this challenge?

What are the key obstacles to a cooperative truly European solution for dual use C-UAS system and what could be the means to cope with them?

On the basis of such future possible cooperative European solution(s) for dual use C-UAS system, what do you consider is needed to enhance the European industry competitiveness also in the global market, having in mind related activities/investments of major non-European actors in this field?

**Instructions**

Answers should be limited to 2000 words for all questions together, though length will not be used as an exclusionary criterion. They should not contain commercially sensitive information. Answers may be made available as supporting material for the workshop to the Member States’ representatives including those from submitters that were not selected for participation, should they not have an opt out of supplying their papers formally expressed (proper attribution will be observed). Submitters should also specify whether they have any limitation in presenting their views in a panel format.

Please send your paper, clearly linking answers to questions, to the EDA by e-mail to CAP@eda.europa.eu, with copy to dion.polman@eda.europa.eu. Please clearly indicate a point of contact to coordinate possible participation in the workshop. Any questions may be addressed to Dion Polman by e-mail.

The EDA will assess the papers according to the criteria below while also striving to select a broad spectrum of representatives to ensure as fair, objective and balanced a discussion as possible. Responses from national research centres as well as commercial actors will be considered.

**Eligibility Criteria**

**European** - Submitters must represent defence industry established in the EDA participating Member State or European defence industrial interests (in the case of research institutes) and be active in the area of C-UAS.

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1 Based on the EDA Industry engagement policy, when engaging industries on matters related to EDA prioritisation tools, EDA invites only industries that are established in the EDA participating Member States and
**Credibility** - Lack of defence expertise will not be a criterion for exclusion but interested commercial actors must have a demonstrated track record of output and an effective market presence of C-UAS in the civil area.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

**Innovation** - The level of innovation and originality demonstrated in the answer. Ability to propose thoughts looking far ahead especially in the domain of C-UAS (integration).

**Comprehensiveness** – i.e. how different aspects are articulated with each other. Ability to include answers in the broader context. Answers should address all related capability aspects (depicted in the adapted version for industry of the SCC Air Superiority).

**Lifecycle approach** - Industry involvement in the process is to be considered throughout the capability lifecycle, from research to decommissioning and therefore answers should span different lifecycle aspects including upgrading.

**Interoperability** - The end state is a dual-use C-UAS capability. The level of interoperability with other systems (basic to high end) is to be considered.

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that do not have limitations in terms of intellectual property rights, security of supply, security of information or export controls, stemming from mother companies or entities outside the EDA participating Member States.