

EDA industry engagement



The EU Global Strategy underlines that Member States need technological and industrial means to acquire and sustain capabilities to achieve their Level of Ambition. At the European Defence Agency's (EDA) Ministerial Steering Board on 18 May 2017, Defence Ministers supported the EDA's revised approach towards a structured dialogue and enhanced engagement with industry.

Objectives

Engagement with industry can be more efficient and valuable if it meets commonly agreed objectives. The following **five overarching objectives** supporting a stronger European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) are driving the EDA's activities in this field:

- to act as an interface between the industry and wider EU policies, by sharing information on EU regulations and policies with industry and providing the European Commission with the defence industry perspective;
- to support access to EU funding by identifying opportunities for defence-related industry;
- to maximise defence industry involvement in R&T and capability development projects, and increase the number of collaborative projects in these domains;
- to share with industry the evolution of European defence requirements, in particular the priorities resulting from the Capability Development Plan (CDP), promote networking and facilitate access to related business opportunities;
- to collect and analyse all sorts of information related to the EDTIB and industrial defence capabilities.

Principles

Future EDA interaction with industry will be without prejudice to Member States' role as the ultimate decision-makers both in capability and R&T domains. The interaction will be based on equal treatment of all industrial stakeholders and ensure fair competition at all levels throughout the entire capability development and R&T process. It will be guided by the following **key principles**:

- transparency;
- inclusiveness;
- coherence and consistency, through a coordinated use of all EDA fora and tools;
- output and effectiveness, with a focus on priorities.

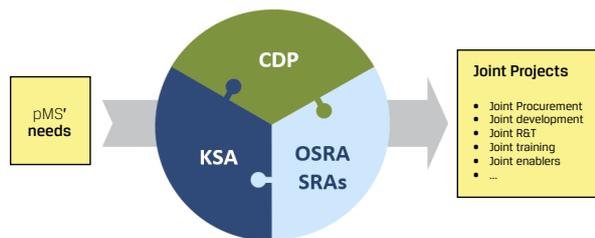
Priorities

Building on the aforementioned key principles, priorities have been identified for EDA engagement with industry, notably with regard to:

- capability development (including exercises);
- research, technology & innovation;
- the Single European Sky (SES) / Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR);
- the Key Strategic Activities (KSA) identified at EU level;
- support to and overall engagement with industry.

Capability development process

Enhanced interaction with industry will help increase the number of cooperative projects to be launched under the various CDP priorities, and improve the capability related information to be provided to Member States. Stronger engagement with industry on the CDP also allows to gather their views and input on technological and industrial challenges, and expected developments in view of the CDP revision. Informing industry on agreed priority actions furthermore supports timely capability development and facilitates the information gathering on industry's long term perspectives. As the capability development process also includes activities related to exercises, those existing at EU level could be opened to industry.



Research, Technology & Innovation

As mandated by its Steering Board in December 2016, the EDA will take into account more systematically the views of the industry as regards the development of the Technology Building Blocks (TBBs).

In order to maximise the output of new R&T projects, optimise industry's participation in EDA R&T&I activities and attract innovative industries to the defence sector, industry's participation in the defence research prioritisation process will be enhanced by expanding EDA's Capability Technology groups (CapTechs) in terms of mandate and membership. To ensure interaction with innovative companies which traditionally are not operating in the defence sector, it is essential to fully embed innovation in the EDA R&T process.

SES/SESAR

Apart from representing the military views in SES/SESAR, the EDA will also enhance its role as the interface between the military, the defence industry as well as other key

stakeholders in the SES/SESAR domain through the establishment of an Industry Exchange Platform on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Air Traffic Integration (RPAS ATI).

The purpose of this exchange platform is:

- to establish a regular dialogue with industry on MALE RPAS integration in the European ATM system in a 2025 to 2030 timeframe;
- to share information on current R&D initiatives and strategies, including industry aspects of RPAS ATI;
- to identify technology gaps and solutions that can benefit both civil and military applications.

Key Strategic Activities at EU level

Even if the identification of Key Strategic Activities (KSA) is a top down process, inputs from industry will be actively sought in order to benefit from their knowledge of the state of skills and manufacturing capabilities in Europe. This means consultations with industry will have to take place once the KSA are identified.

Support to industry, overall engagement

To support the competitiveness and diversity of the European defence industry and supply chain, the EDA will improve information sharing with industry so as to allow it to build cross-border partnerships and benefit from available EU tools, including funding instruments. In this context, a particular emphasis is put on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

