

AIRMEDEVAC



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In national and multinational operations, the provision of air MEDEVAC is often a challenge. In many cases, capabilities are not available from Member States and outsourcing is necessary to provide In-theatre aeromedical evacuation services from private companies. Experience shows that contracting on the spot under time pressure is not a cost-effective solution. Having in place ready-to-use arrangements is very beneficial to reduce the administrative burden and achieve economies of scale.

The overall purpose of the AIRMEDEVAC project is to provide contributing members with an efficient and cost effective option to order commercially available In-theatre aeromedical evacuation services through the European Defence Agency (EDA).

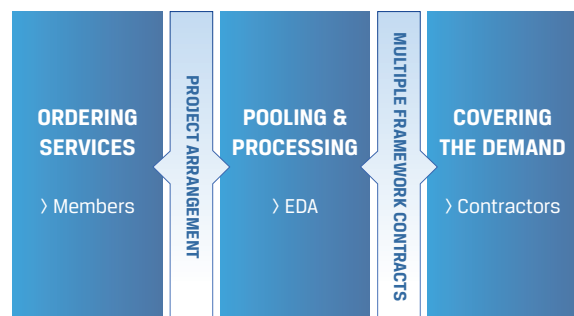
The AIRMEDEVAC project offers services to evacuate patients from the point of injury to the initial Medical Treatment Facility (Forward AIRMEDEVAC) or transfer between in-theatre Medical Treatment Facilities (Tactical AIRMEDEVAC), in the context of national and/or international defence and/or security operations. Services include access to Rotary and Fixed-Wing aircraft in Europe or Africa. This whole range of services provided through the AIRMEDEVAC project can enable users to meet a wide range of operational needs, both abroad and at home.

The 4 contributing members (CM) today are: Austria, Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.

The project is open to all EDA Member States, EU entities as well as third states having an administrative arrangement with EDA.

How it works

The contributing members have mandated EDA through a 'Project Arrangement' (PA), to manage the project including the negotiation of Multiple Framework Contracts (FWCs) and service requests on their behalf.



Through these FWCs EDA promotes the harmonization of CMs' operational needs and the development of a defence "capability" as defined in Art. 5.3 (b) of the EDA Council Decision¹. The AIRMEDEVAC FWCs can therefore be considered as key enablers for missions and operations deployed in remote and hostile environments without appropriate AIRMEDEVAC capability.

The activities performed by EDA in support of CMs include

- initiating, maturing and launching the overall project;
- setting up the PA and its governance (including meetings with CMs);
- procuring and awarding the FWCs through open public procurement;

- managing the FWCs (including regular meetings with the contractors to follow and improve performance and the preparation and signature of specific contracts);
- supporting CMs when defining technical requirements, leveraging lessons learnt from previous iterations with the contractors;
- creating synergies between civilian and military uses of AIRMEDEVAC services, thus contributing to overcome the existing fragmentation on both the supply and demand side;
- aggregation of demand from several CMs to achieve economies of scale;
- creating and administrating an ad hoc budget made up of CMs' contributions to fund the services;
- managing the invoicing and payments of services.

The project constitutes an efficient pay-per-use solution that does not impose any binding financial commitments beyond services requested. It is quick and flexible, reducing the administrative burden for members who do not have to run their own bidding processes since they can rely on EDA framework contracts.

Chronology

- **January 2017** - the AIRMEDEVAC was approved as an ad-hoc Category B Project by the EDA Steering Board;
- **Spring 2018** - The Project Arrangement was finalized and signed by the contributing members;
- **January 2019** - the Multiple Framework Contracts were awarded to GLOBAL HELICOPTER SERVICE GMBH; ELITALIANA S.R.L. and STARLITE AVIATION OPERATIONS LIMITED;

Figures

- **€120 million:** maximum total ordering value for AIRMEDEVAC services over the 4 years duration of the framework contracts;
- **4 contributing members** (CM) so far: Austria, Belgium, Germany and Netherlands;

For more information contact the [EDA Operations, Training & Exercises Unit](#).

