EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

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Brussels, 05 April 2017

Ref: Doc N° EDA201704019/INR/PLV

To: WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT TO EDA CONTRACT 16.ESI.OP.144 – ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING FEASIBILITY STUDY & TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION

Dear Sir/Madam,

The European Defence Agency (EDA) has recently commissioned Fundación Prodintec (http://www.prodintec.es/en/) and MBDA FR (http://www.mbda-systems.com/) to conduct a project on "Additive Manufacturing Feasibility Study & Technology Demonstration" due to be delivered in December 2017. The purpose of this letter is to solicit your support for this study.

This study will assess the areas where additive manufacturing can make a greater contribution to defence capabilities and demonstrate its feasibility. It also has the objective of raising awareness in the defence community and of promoting a better understanding of the potential of these technologies, thereby stimulating their implementation in defence specific areas.

To this end, the EDA project is divided in three main work strands:

- A desktop study to place additive manufacturing and its potential in a defence context. This work will summarise the state of the art of relevant additive manufacturing technologies and compare this with existing R&T and manufacturing capabilities in Europe. The main outcome of this work strand will be (i) the identification of opportunities and weaknesses for AM in the European defence sector, and (ii) to highlight technology and non-technology factors delaying or preventing European defence forces from benefiting from the technology. There will also have to be an indication of what defence capability and economic benefits may be expected in the near-term, mid-term and long-term.

- The second work strand is a technology demonstration of additive manufacturing in a simulated deployed scenario, in order to increase the level of operational experience at European level. The objective is to (i) demonstrate the feasibility of deploying these technologies in support of a military operation and (ii) to demonstrate the operational utility of the technology.

- After the desktop study and the technology demonstration, the conclusions of this feasibility study, including the equipment used and typical objects and materials produced will be

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presented in an exhibition to senior military staff. The objective of this activity is to (i) raise the military awareness of additive manufacturing technology and their defence potential, (ii) exemplify the ways the technology could change the way operations, logistic support or maintenance of platforms is performed and (iii) discuss the possible economic impact on defence capability.

Furthermore, as it is highly relevant to increase awareness on AM, this project will help to disseminate the potential of AM in different defence contexts. By doing so, not only the R&T community will be informed, but also other potential beneficiaries of the technology, linked to the EDA activities above mentioned. This will create a synergy between the Materials R&T community and the operational staff, helping the R&T community to understand the requirements from the operational side. In the mid-term, the study and its outputs are expected to support the synergies with other organizations such as ESA, or EC, in order to better exploit the dual-use potential of additive manufacturing.

As part of the study related activities, the contractor Fundación Prodintec and MBDA FR will be conducting consultation through different means (including interviews and questionnaires) with competent stakeholders, such as: European Commission, European Platform on Additive Manufacturing, Member States MoDs, including different branches as R&T, maintenance, logistics or support to operations, different international organizations (European Space Agency (ESA), European Commission, etc.), and last but not least, Defence Industrial and Research stakeholders, potential selected individual major EU companies, SMEs and academia, and also major non-defence stakeholders with business in the additive manufacturing sector).

Since your organisation is considered as a relevant stakeholder, I would be particularly grateful if you could support and provide input to this study, by taking part in an interview, through filling questionnaire(s) and/or providing any other relevant information, as requested by the study contractor.

Should you have any questions or comments with regard to the study's objectives or approach, the contractor's Project Manager Ms. Almudena GONZÁLEZ ÁLVAREZ (e-mail: aga@prodintec.com, phone: +34 984 390 060 (Ext: 1505)) will be happy to provide you with further information. Should you have any questions related to the EDA's role in the study, please feel free to contact the responsible EDA Project Officer on Materials & Structures Technologies, Patricia LÓPEZ VICENTE (e-mail: patricia.lopezvicente@eda.europa.eu, phone: +32 (0)2 504 2890).

I would like to thank you in advance for any support you may be able to provide to this endeavour.

Yours faithfully,

Denis ROGER