CDP-T Engagement with Defence Industry

# Modalities for associating Defence industry to the RPAS WS with defence planners

The EU global Strategy states that “*A solid European defence, technological and industrial base needs a fair, functioning and transparent internal market, security of supply, and a structured dialogue with defence relevant industries*.” The 23 March EDA Steering Board in Capability Directors format approved EDA’s approach to establishing a structured dialogue and enhanced engagement with industry based on a specific set of priority actions. Engagement in this context is understood to be outside the procurement phase and is intended to improve interaction and contribute to harmonisation of national and multi-national requirements.

The first topic to be examined will be Remotely Piloted Air Systems (RPAS) – one of the Capability Development Plan (CDP) priorities identified as part of the 2014 Priority Areas. The EDA will hold an Industry workshop on the 12th of September, 2017. Industry representatives are invited to express interest by submitting answers to the questions below and will be selected to participate by the EDA based on an evaluation of these answers.

**Objective of the meeting**

Industry representatives will be asked to present their long-term perspective (20 years out) on the industrial and technological outlook for RPAS and discuss connected issues with the audience (Member State defence planners and other defence sector experts). Any presentation on currently available products and those nearly available is outside the scope of this initiative and will not be allowed.

Questions

1. How do you anticipate the evolution of RPAS in military warfare? What is your outlook for the future of swarm systems? Looking 20 years ahead, what are the most relevant future RPAS business models? Is there likely to be a prevalence of pooled acquisition, traditional procurement by national authorities or outsourcing of services by private entities? Proposals could be segmented by mission types and assess whether some models are more likely for specific types of missions.
2. What are the obstacles to a cooperative European solution? What additional efforts could European industry make to strengthen its position vis-à-vis non-European competitors?
3. What do you see as the most likely technological breakthrough for RPAS in a 20-year framework?

1. Currently the ratio of size to range is a determining factor. Will this likely remain a defining relationship or do you see technological developments that will redefine the relationship between physical characteristics and utility?
2. Currently the benefits of RPAS are challenged by their cyber vulnerability. In the future, will this risk remain more or less the same, become a strong limitation to further military use of RPAS or eventually be overcome?
3. How far will the autonomy of RPAS develop? Will the role of the operator remain as important or will platforms be designed with a certain level of self-guiding ability?
4. Currently the more complex a system is, the more costly it is (defence cost escalation phenomenon). Will RPAS eventually constitute a break in this trend and present itself as a low-cost solution to operational requirements? What predictions do you make regarding the robustness versus the simplicity/cost of future RPAS? How will this affect maintenance, logistics and personnel costs?
5. With reference to question number 7, to what extent will evolutions in RPAS create a threat to Member State armed forces and societies at large?

Instructions

Answers should be limited to 1500 words for all questions together, though length will not be used as an exclusionary criteria. They should not contain commercially sensitive information. Answers will be made available as supporting material for the workshop to the Member States’ representatives including also those from submitters that were not selected for participation (proper attribution will be observed). Submitters should also specify whether they have objections to presenting their views in a panel format and would prefer to address the workshop individually.

Please send the paper clearly linking answers to questions to the EDA by e-mail to cps@eda.europa.eu with a copy to aleksandrs.bucens@eda.europa.eu. Please clearly indicate a point of contact to coordinate participation in the workshop. Any questions may be addressed to Aleksandrs Bucens by e-mail or by phone +32 2 504 28 37.

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 European defence industry or European defence industrial interests (in the case of research institutes) and be active in the area of RPAS.

**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 RPAS in civil area.

**Versatility** – Submitters should be well versed in RPAS technology however participation is not limited to systems integrators and submissions from SME’s are encouraged.

Evaluation criteria

**Innovation** - The level of innovation and originality demonstrated in the answer. Ability to propose thoughts looking far ahead.

**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 (e.g. range, payload, spectrum management, etc.)

**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.