



EDA AIRMEDEVAC

By combining cost efficiency, wide geographical coverage, and streamlined timelines, the European Defence Agency (EDA) project for aeromedical evacuation (AIRMEDEVAC) services can be a game-changer for EU Member States needing immediate services in operations and exercises in remote and hostile environments. The AIRMEDEVAC services of EU armed forces are not always available for all missions, and they must, at times, consider contracting private companies to provide such services. But experience shows that contracting on the spot under time pressure can be more expensive.

Background

In 2023 EDA launched its latest framework contract for the provision of AIRMEDEVAC services during training and operations to support EU Members States' activities around the world. The framework contract gives access to specialised rotary and fixed-wing aircraft in Europe, Africa, and Asia, and allows armed forces to meet a wide range of aeromedical operational needs.

With a total budget of €140 million for the implementation period of two and four years, the contract represents an increase of 16% of the total possible ordering value, compared to the previous framework contract signed in 2019, as well as a boost in the area of operations, with over 150 regions covered around the world.

During the implementation period, the selected framework contractors – FEROX, GHS, International SOS, and Starlite – are set to compete to offer their best services when needed.

Benefits

The benefits of AIRMEDEVAC provided through EDA play a crucial role in emergency situations. Some advantages include:

- **Rapid Response:** EDA services, through commercially available on-the-shelf contracts, ensure the swift and timely implementation of medical support for military operations and exercises. The final goal is ensuring the prompt evacuation of individuals in critical conditions. These services include medical teams equipped with advanced life-support equipment, ensuring that patients receive specialized care during transportation.
- **Cost Efficiency and Reduced Administrative Burden:** With a 'pay-per-use' solution that does not impose any binding financial commitments beyond services requested, AIRMEDEVAC through EDA works out cheaper for Member States. It also means less paperwork for EU Member States who do not have to have their own bidding processes, allowing militaries to rely on EDA framework contracts.

- **Safe and Seamless Transitions:** AIRMEDEVAC services ensure medical patients can be moved seamlessly from the site of an emergency to chosen medical facilities, maintaining continuity of care. Services prioritise safety and security during transport, with trained medical personnel and adherence to the highest safety standards.
- **Global Reach:** EDA provides aeromedical support to Member States across the world. This support facilitates the smooth execution of evacuation operations for individuals across diverse regions, including Europe, Africa, and Asia.
- **Logistical Support:** If requested, services can extend to cargo and passenger transportation, as AIRMEDEVAC aircraft can be reconfigured to meet a user's needs.
- **Helping different militaries who need the same thing:** Through its framework contracts, EDA promotes the harmonization of operational needs and the development of a defence capability. The AIRMEDEVAC contracts can be considered as key enablers for missions and operations deployed in remote and hostile environments where armed forces do not have the appropriate AIRMEDEVAC capability. They can also support short-duration deployments or military exercises.

The role of EDA

EDA oversees the entire procurement process and contractual arrangements, as well as the implementation of the project, including the financial management. This allows Member States to reduce their administrative burden and to achieve economies of scale. Furthermore, it serves as a cost-effective pay-per-use solution, eliminating any financial obligations beyond the requested services

Who can participate?

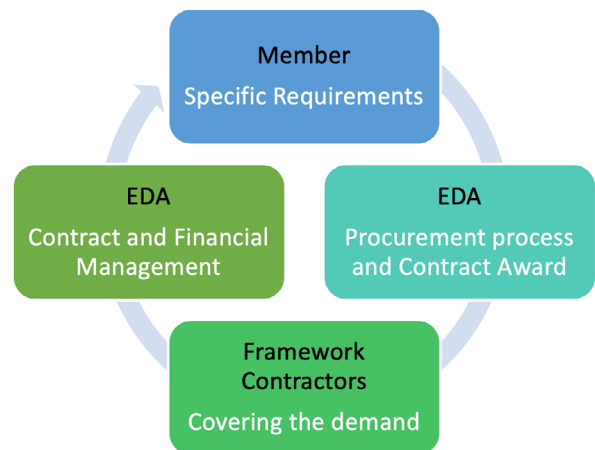
The project is open to all EDA Member States, EU entities as well as third parties having an administrative arrangement with EDA.

The signature of the Project Arrangement does not impose any financial obligation on signatories' members.

How does it work?

When a Member State participating in the EDA project notifies the Agency of a specific AIRMEDEVAC need, the Agency then works with the respective country to define precise technical specifications to best match the requirements.

Once the request for services is launched, the framework contractors will compete to offer the best service. EDA, together with the end-user, will evaluate and select the most advantageous tender, and subsequently sign a specific contract with the successful contractor. This can be done quickly.



Instead, it opens the possibility of using the services of experienced framework contractors, requiring minimum advance notice and imposing no additional administrative burdens beyond the requested services.

Currently, EDA has signed arrangements with Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Germany, the Netherlands and EPF (European Peace Facility) Ops, establishing a foundation for collaborative Airmedevac initiatives. Moreover, it has fostered a robust network of bilateral cooperation with various international partners.

› For more information, please contact the EDA Airmedevac team at: airmedevac_po@eda.europa.eu