

# **SPECIFICATION FOR EUROPEAN CAMOUFLAGE [SPEC]**

**B-0722-ARM-GP**  
10.07.2015

- Publishable Executive Summary -



## 1 Introduction

Currently within the EU military community there is no common view of or practice in the use of camouflage. This leads to a situation where every nation uses its own experience and its own equipment even when multinational forces are deployed together in the same theatre. Differences in camouflage technology and practice may compromise the entire battle group. To overcome this situation there is an urgent need for a commonly agreed specification covering woodland, arid and snow-covered regions. This project has addressed the requirements and test procedures for a multi-spectral camouflage net in temperate woodland.

## 2 Objectives

Current national military standards were compared and analysed in order to create a common European military standard. The aim was to identify and to establish a minimum but effective set of requirements and test procedures. Mutual visits to national camouflage equipment testing facilities helped to establish a mutual trust in the various measurement methods.

The S.P.E.C. project can also be seen as a test case for interoperability and cooperation between European testing and evaluation (T&E) centres. The project started with an information exchange on national requirements and test procedures and the group visited test facilities in all participating countries. Furthermore the group visited military units in order to discuss the operational needs of the armed forces.

## 3 Project organization

The S.P.E.C. project was conducted as a serial of workshops by a multinational working group of technical governmental experts from the following contributing Member States:

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Other attendants in S.P.E.C. workshops were Netherlands (withdrawn member), Switzerland (invited observer) and United Kingdom (invited observer). In order to focus on military capability needs the technical expert group was complemented by military personnel.

## 4 Project Results

This study resulted in:

- harmonised best practice standards for the definition of technical requirements,
- harmonised test procedures,
- a quality management process agreed by the associated EU testing facilities,
- information exchange regarding future camouflage-related procurements and technical experience of camouflage materials.

This study also developed a new specification for a woodland European Camouflage Net (EUCAN) and thereby provides a European technical specification and qualification procedures for potential suppliers of camouflage materials. The UV, VIS, IR, radar and pattern properties of multi-spectral nets are contained in the specification.

A major achievement of this project is interoperability amongst the nations fielding the proposed standardised EUCAN camouflage net. By applying the validated standard test methods agreed upon any forces engaged on a joint EU deployment will have camouflage systems of known multi-spectral capability which are traceable to common standards. This reduces the possibility of mismatch and a compromise of counter-surveillance measures.

## 5 Conclusions

The recommendation from the S.P.E.C. group is to proceed the fruitful co-operation under the EDSTAR umbrella and form an expert group on camouflage. The intention is to broaden the scoop to not only nets but camouflage in general.

The group also recommend interested nations to start a procurement process within EDA regime using the SPEC document.

The expertise and available test resources of the S.P.E.C. Members group will be a valuable asset to EDA concerning future camouflage procurement.