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To: pMS NATIONAL DEFENCE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS (NDIAs), AEROSPACE AND DEFENCE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF EUROPE (ASD)

Copy: Capabilities PoCs, NAD PoCs, Central PoCs, Deputy Central PoCs and Brussels PoCs

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT ON C-IED EXERCISE “BISON COUNTER 23” - CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Annex: Exercise “BISON COUNTER 23” – Defence Industry Engagement Call for Expression of Interest

To pursue a more structured and focused dialogue with industry and to facilitate industry engagement in EDA activities as agreed by EDA Steering Boards in May 2017 and April 2021, EDA organises workshops with industry on areas related to the eleven EU Capability Development Priorities approved in 2018 and the implementation of corresponding Strategic Context Cases (SCC), as well as support industry participation to exercises, in close coordination with host nations.

The “**Exercise Bison Counter 23 (BC23)**” that will take place in Zaragoza, Spain, **from 08 to 24 November 2023**, is pursuant to the objectives of the Bison Counter C-IED Exercises Capability Building (BC-EX) Cat B Project, one of the current EDA initiatives supporting the implementation of the EU Capability Development Priority “*Develop C-IED and CBRNe Capabilities Based on Newly Available Technology and Training (Ground Combat Capabilities, Enhance Protection of Forces module)*”.

Bison Counter is a series of live multinational exercises covering all C-IED enabling capabilities (planning and prioritization, search, detection, disposal, collection of exploitable materials, laboratorial technical exploitation). Its objective is to train the technical level skills, to integrate the technical enablers at the tactical level and to validate the full C-IED operational cycle.

The purpose of the BC23 will be to deploy a multinational C-IED Task Force within a dynamic operational scenario containing elements both of irregular and conventional threats.

EDA would like to invite the NDIAs and ASD to reach out to their members and encourage them to reply to present proposals to participate to the Exercise BC23, as per the Call for Expression of Interest herein attached. Participation in this Call for Expression of Interest is open to companies of any size as well as academic, research institutes and associations or groupings of industrial suppliers, as well as any partnerships of the above mentioned.

COMMUNICATION

Interested participants are invited to submit their proposal, including a short Abstract (maximum 300 words) presenting how they intend to participate, the relevance and innovativeness of the technical solutions proposed.

Proposals should be submitted **by 27 March 2023**, via the EDA platform established for this purpose in the following web address: <https://europeandefenceagency.typeform.com/to/ZYLasn0D>. Only proposals made through the EDA platform indicated will be accepted.

Participants will be selected based on their proposals, which will be evaluated by EDA. Proposals will be judged on their relevance and innovativeness, namely propose their ability to present challenging application/integration of new technologies to the field of C-IED and C-IED enabling capabilities.

Should you have any questions, please contact only by email **EDA PO C-IED Mr. Pedro Basto** pedro.basto@eda.europa.eu.

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