**REGISTRATION FORM**

 **“EDA Modelling & Simulation SME Platform”**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME)*** |
| Name\* |  |
| Address  |  |
| City\* |  |
| Country\* |  |
| Website |  |
| Point of Contact\* |  |
| Phone Number\* |  |
| Email\* |  |
|  |
|  ***Please indicate reference on your R&T and Industrial capabilities***  |
| R&T capabilities:\* |
| Industrial capabilities:\* |
| Total No. of employees:\* |
|  |
|  ***Please indicate your participation to other groups / associations in M&S*** |
| SISO |  |
| EUROSIM |  |
| NMSG (# …)  |  |
| National associations in M&S area (…) |  |
| ETSA |  |
| Others |  |

**\* Mandatory**

Date: Signature:

Annex

**Terms of Reference**

 **“EDA Modelling & Simulation SME Platform”**

**1 Introduction**

1.1 The Treaty on European Union[[1]](#footnote-2) tasks the European Defence Agency (“the Agency” or “EDA”), inter alia, to support defence technology research and contribute to identifying and, if necessary, implementing any useful measure for strengthening the industrial and technological base of the defence sector.

1.2 Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1835 of 12 October 2015 defining the statute, seat and operational rules of the European Defence Agency[[2]](#footnote-3) tasks EDA to support defence technology research, to coordinate and plan joint research activities, and the study of technical solutions meeting future operational needs. Moreover, it contains a clear task for EDA to strengthen the industrial and technological base of the defence sector.

1.3 The 2013 December European Council highlighted SMEs as an important element in the defence supply chain, a source of innovation and key enablers for competitiveness. The role of SMEs in the defence supply chain is acknowledged also by the European Commission Communication COM (2013) 542[[3]](#footnote-4) and its related Implementation Roadmap.

1.4. Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) face barriers in promoting their innovative solutions to Government authorities and large companies. Moreover, due to the limited scale of most military projects and programs, the sourcing strategies often orientate to single global suppliers and integrate a lot of non EU products despite the fact that equivalent products could also be delivered by EU SMEs. Following the adoption of the SME Action Plan in March 2013 and the revised “Guidelines for facilitating SMEs’ access to the Defence market” in May 2015, EDA is actively working to identify and develop pragmatic tools for defence-related SMEs. A SME platform in the Modeling & Simulation area can help their access to the related market.

**2 Objective**

2.1 The aim of the **EDA Modelling & Simulation (M&S) SME Platform, (hereinafter referred to as “the Platform”)**, is to support defence-related SMEs to more easily access the M&S defence market and supply chain, to work on standardization and share some good practices/open source products more quickly in the EU Defence environment.

**3 Participation**

3.1 The Platform is open to EU SMEs’ developing Research & Technology (R&T) and M&S products (software and hardware) having industrial facilities in EDA participating Member States, (hereinafter referred to as “participating SMEs”).

3.2 The SMEs’ participation in the Platform is free of charge.

**4 Role of the EDA**

4.1 The Agency will act as group moderator, logistic support and meeting organizer. EDA will manage the relationship of participating SMEs with EU standardization groups and other relevant networks.

4.2 The general services that EDA can provide in the Platform are:

1. Access to procurement – to support participating SMEs to obtain better market awareness and improve access to relevant information on business opportunities in a systematic and structured way. EDA serves as a facilitator, but cannot guarantee contracts or other business opportunities.
2. Access to supply chain - to guide participating SMEs in finding their clients in the M&S sector and accessing defence supply chains, particularly those where the Prime Contractor (Prime) or Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) is based in a different country, and support interaction with other relevant partners (e.g. academia, RTOs, laboratories).
3. Support to innovation – to provide guidance and tips on how participating SMEs can identify R&T opportunities and potential partners for cooperative R&T projects in M&S domain.
4. Access to best practices and technological exchanges could also be provided through specific Simulation CapTech workshops, EDSTAR group and any ad-hoc networks.

4.3. The examples of the specific services that EDA can provide in the Platform are:

a) Single EDA Point of Contact for answering practical questions to participating SMEs.

b) Thematic workshops (“From best practices to standard”) with VTC/Lync connection in the ES3M Captech framework.

c) EU Defence standardization EDSTAR / EG25 workshops (identification of the standards used in EU Member States, identification of best practices and future needs, collecting the work of national groups).

d) Awareness on Market Opportunities on regular basis (monthly if possible) - EDA could facilitate the interaction between Primes and participating SMEs on potential future business opportunities.

e) Dedicated Platform web-based workspace on EDA Collaboration Platform (ECP). EDA will provide guidance to the participating SMEs on the registration and use of this workspace.

f) Networking with other interested M&S stakeholders (e.g. Primes/OEM, academia, RTOs, laboratories).

4.4. The services mentioned at art. 4.3 are intended to complement other existing EDA policies and tools directed towards better facilitating SME access to the defence market as well as ensuring transparency and competition in the defence market.

**5 Platform Management**

5.1 Each participating SME will designate a Point of Contact (PoC) acting as authorised representative to exchange any communication related to the Platform.

5.2. Each participating SME agrees to share the contact details with other members of the Platform and other stakeholders on case by case basis.

5.2 Each participating SME will inform the Agency on any change of its PoC during the duration of the Platform.

5.3 Meetings consisting of the participating SMEs’ PoCs, or other authorised representatives, the Agency’s Project Officer, and additional EDA personnel involved in the Platform will be conducted to enable updates, reporting and exchanges of views, in conjunction as far as possible with other relevant scheduled meeting. Other relevant stakeholders may be also invited.

**6 Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), Non-Disclosure Agreement**

6.1 The Platform concerns exchanges of information between EDA and the participating SMEs, and between the participating SMEs. The elements of discussion and the content of the exchange are all subject to a global non-disclosure agreement.

6.2 Publications done within the Platform can be restricted to the participating SMEs, but also “open to all” with the agreement of the participating SMEs.

6.4 Information will be shared mainly on the EDA ECP specific area or by email.

**7 Financial Provisions**

 None

**8 Settlement of Disputes**

 Any dispute arising between the participating SMEs and the Agency based on the application and interpretation of these Terms of Reference will be resolved by consultation and will not be referred to any national or international tribunal or third party for settlement.

**9 Security of Information**

9.1 The information used and shared under the Platform is unclassified.

**10 Coming into Effect, Duration and Accession of new participating SMEs.**

10.1 The SMEs’ participation in the Platform will come into effect immediately after EDA has received the Registration Form and confirmed to the SME its acceptance on the Platform.

10.2 The initial duration of the Platform is 4 years and will be renewed automatically for another period of 4 years, unless the participating SME decides otherwise.

10.3 The participating SMEs will be informed of any changes of membership within the Platform through the ECP workspace.

10.4 A participating SME can withdraw from its participation to the Platform by means of a unilateral declaration sent in writing to the EDA. Its termination will have effect one month after the notification.

1. Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJ C 326, 26.10.2012p. 13–390). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. OJ L 266, 13.10.2015, p.55. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. European Commission Communication COM(2013) 542 on “Towards a more competitive and efficient defence and security sector” [↑](#footnote-ref-4)