

# Matériel Standardisation

The harmonisation of applied defence standards in Europe is a key enabler for interoperability of matériel used by European forces. Moreover it is a prerequisite for a successful cooperation of participating Member States of the European Defence Agency (EDA) and their partners in the whole life cycle of defence equipment starting from the development phase, testing and evaluation of matériel, maintenance up to the disposal of equipment. Estimations on product cost savings following the more intensive use of civil standards by the military sector range from 10% up to 50%<sup>1</sup>.

## EDA Initiatives

In 2007 EDA established the European Defence Standards Information System (EDSIS) and in 2011 followed the European Defence Standards Reference System (EDSTAR) to support the objective of a harmonised standardisation for matériel. Both EDA portals are online available at [www.eda.europa.eu/edsisweb](http://www.eda.europa.eu/edsisweb) and [www.eda.europa.eu/edstar](http://www.eda.europa.eu/edstar).

The European Defence Standardisation Information System (EDSIS) is the central portal for all European defence matériel standardisation services. EDSIS's main function is to enable the EDA participating Member States and industry to advertise defence matériel standards that are to be developed or undergo major modification. Other stakeholders from government or industry are able to express their interest in joining the project through the EDSIS portal. This co-operative way of working enables standards to be developed, recognised and used by numerous parties. Furthermore EDSIS gives registered users the possibility to get actively involved in creating new standardisation solutions and to network with defence standardisation stakeholders.

### EDSIS is a tool to

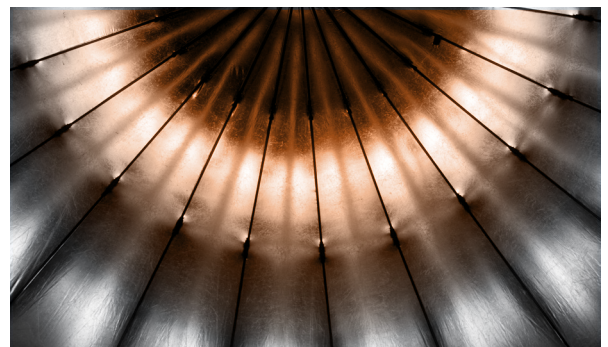
- 1 Promote defence standardisation activities;
- 2 Network with defence standardisation experts;
- 3 Be up-to-date on defence standardisation activities, events & news.

[www.eda.europa.eu/edsisweb](http://www.eda.europa.eu/edsisweb)

EDSTAR today contains guidance for roughly 2,000 standards and "standard-like" specifications for Member States and defence industry. The application of material standards during the procurement process contributes to the harmonisation and thus standardisation of the market. Download of the standards is available for representatives of defence governmental organisations of EDA Member States at <https://www.eda.afnor.org>.



The **European Defence Standards Reference System (EDSTAR)** has been established by the European Defence Agency in 2011. The web platform contains guidance on the use of roughly 2,000 standards and "standard-like" specifications to optimise effectiveness, efficiency, and interoperability of their application. The web platform is designed to assist governmental organisations and defence industry for the procurement of defence matériel (including development and production). It is a means to consolidate the highly fragmented defence matériel market in Europe. EDA's participating Member States are the shareholders and consequently the Matériel Standardisation Group decides on major change requests and proposals of EDSTAR. Following an open call for tender, the Agency concluded a framework contract with AFNOR, the French standardisation office, for the download of the vast majority of standards currently included in EDSTAR. The service is available for representatives of defence governmental organisations of EDA Member States at <https://www.eda.afnor.org> since January 2014.



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<sup>1</sup> Source: The standardisation systems used in the defence industries in the EU Member States and the USA, University of Sussex, 1999.

## Council Conclusions on Defence Standards

Through the EDA Materiel Standardisation Group (MSG) EDA's participating Member States (pMS) started discussions on the further evolution of standardisation of defence materiel in Europe in March 2013. The MSG is a well-established network of pMS standardisation managers. The MSG acts as a central gate for all defence standardisation initiatives with a cooperative aspect both for security-defence and pure defence relevant standardisation. The European Commission as member of the MSG asserted in the Communication "A New Deal for European Defence" of July 2013 that standardisation was the foundation for defence co-operation and competitiveness. Finally, the European Council meeting on 19/20 December 2013 tasked the European Defence Agency and the Commission to prepare a roadmap for the development of defence standards without duplicating existing standards.

As a first step, the European Defence Agency organises a materiel standardisation conference to identify a coordinated civil-military procedure for defence standardisation in Europe. During this event potential solutions and collaborative opportunities are presented and discussed among key standardisation stakeholders. This includes the European Commission, NATO and the three official European Standardisation Organisations - the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC) and the European Telecommunication Standardisation Institute (ETSI). Industry is represented through two organisations developing aerospace standards: ASD-STAN and EUROCAE.

The outcome of this conference will be used to implement, by mid-2015, a coordinated civil-military procedure for defence standardisation that will better serve European interests.

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