



# Reaching for the sky

a competitive European industrial base for world class aerial capabilities



## Overall context

Europe's Aerospace Defence Technological Industrial Base (DTIB) is critical to: meeting Member States' military requirements, including for CSDP today and in the future; underpinning deployability and manoeuvrability for crisis management operations, and providing theatre-wide intelligence, air defence and other capabilities adapted for Network Enabled Capabilities.

Military Aerospace is significant – as well as delivering the defence capabilities that Europe requires; it represents over 55% of Europe's Defence Industrial Base. Economically significant, the sector directly employs around 200,000 people with high-tech jobs spread across Member States. It comprises important system integrators and a dynamic and innovative supply chain rich in SMEs. Annual turnover is in the region of 45bn euro. This technically advanced area drives high added value in other sectors contributing to technological progress and innovation through its spill-over effects and is a key component of a strong European DTIB. Maintaining and strengthening European key aerospace capabilities would contribute to maintaining competition in world markets and Europe's freedom of action in its external policies.

However Europe's military aeronautics sector is facing some tough challenges. How will it preserve the capability to provide the high tech aerial capabilities Member States' forces require with reduced R&T investment and constrained procurement budgets? EDA believes European collaboration must be an important part of the solution.



## Reaching for the sky: a competitive European industrial base for world class aerial capabilities

A strategy to maintain Europe's excellence in military aviation, through:

- promoting European technological excellence and leadership in military aerospace
- improving the effectiveness of military expenditure, through cost-effective European collaboration
- identifying the key industrial capabilities to meet Europe's future needs
- developing key technologies and skills
- enhancing the competences that make Europe a challenging partner
- exploiting military and civil synergies.



# European Aerial Capabilities Seminar: scope

## EDA Steering Board tasking

The European Defence Technological Industrial Base Strategy, endorsed by the Steering Board in Defence Ministers formation, recognised that there was a need to determine “which key industrial capabilities must be preserved or developed in Europe” and it was subsequently agreed that work on identifying key industrial capabilities should begin with Future Air Systems (FAS). FAS with its ambition to conclude a strategy for a sustainable European military aerospace industry for 2035 with an immediate focus on underpinning important helicopter and UAS capabilities offers the opportunity for a more systematic and comprehensive approach.

## EDA's objective

Europe is at a cross-road. Further investment in co-operative European aerospace development programmes including in collaborative Research and Development should be a priority. However, with defence budgets increasing under pressure and Member States looking for savings progress can only sensibly take place with a commitment to improved, more efficient, forms of collaboration which maximise the output from constrained defence investment. The seminar's main aim is to contribute to the mandate assigned by the EDA Steering Board by engaging in a dialogue with stakeholders on some of the collaborative policies, plans and programmes which could aid European decision makers safeguard European industry's ability to competitively respond to future military capabilities requirements.

### Location:

ILA Berlin Air Show 2010 - International Aerospace Exhibition  
ILA Conference Center, Hall 4, Room HOTEL

Date: 8/06/2010, 13.15 > 17.00



## More info

Information on European Aerial Capabilities: [iandm@eda.europa.eu](mailto:iandm@eda.europa.eu)

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