



Reaching for the sky

a competitive European industrial base for world class aerial capabilities



Overall context

OVERALL CONTEXT

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

Military Aerospace is economically significant – as well as delivering the defence capabilities that Europe requires; it represents over 55% of Europe's Defence Industrial Base. 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.



EDA's ROLE

Lisbon Treaty

Under the provisions on the Common Security and Defence Policy (Article 42) it is stated that the European Defence Agency shall “contribute to identifying and, where appropriate, implementing any measure needed to strengthen the industrial and technological base of the defence sector, shall participate in defining a European capabilities and armaments policy, and shall assist the Council in evaluating the improvement of military capabilities”.

EDA Steering Board tasking

The European Defence Technological Industrial Base Strategy endorsed by EDA Defence Ministers 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 increasingly 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. EDA is engaged in a dialogue with stakeholders on 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. UAS and unmanned aerial technologies have been identified by EDA Member States as priority areas.

NEXT STEPS

Safeguarding Europe's future aerial capabilities will take time and the concerted effort of all aeronautic stakeholders. An important contribution to this work will be the roadmap and implementation plan activity which EDA plans to launch in the following weeks.

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