MARSUR
Maritime Surveillance Networking

Demonstration 30 June 2011
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Speaking points

Introduction:

- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

- Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to this demonstration.

- As outlined by the Chief Executive, the aim of this afternoon is to present to you what 15 pMS have achieved in promoting collaboration at a European level on a most relevant and pressing maritime operational requirement.

- This afternoon is about demonstrating major synergies and real added value by applying smart ideas and not about the requirement for major financial investments.

- Personally, I would describe the MARSUR project as transformational. Its focus has not been purely technical. I would describe it as a project that has promoted a change of mindset and that it has been supported by technical tools.

- The involvement of industry has been very important, but has not been the driver or much less been a key driver. That driver has been information sharing to better enable our security.

- Industry has not had to deliver new server farms or 100s of km of fiber optics. What is has done is translate the military requirements into a technical solution which utilizes national network infrastructure that already exists

- MARSUR is going to initiate a cultural change in the daily process of all involved: a change that brings a routine exchange of information between various actors. It will be an exercise of establishing and retaining trust and confidence between all the actors involved.

- Also, and very importantly, MARSUR has the potential to become the Defence layer of an inter-agency cooperation at EU level.

- As just mentioned by the Chief Executive, work in the maritime surveillance field was initiated by a Steering Board decision in November 2005, requesting that we "establish the situation concerning current Defence assets and propose options for future collaborations, focusing in particular on the interface with European security and border control" [...],

- The corresponding MARSUR Network work strand, the topic of today's demonstration, was actually launched in November 2006 – 41/2 years ago. The Steering Board requested EDA "to continue work on the three identified MARSUR key areas (Networking, Tactical UAVs, Identification of small targets), in conjunction with the EU Agency FRONTEX."

- The actual expert's work started with the drafting of a Common Staff Target, which basically stated what the 15 MS represented around this room intended to achieve.

- This aim was defined as: "to develop a solution that fulfills the need for a coherent common Recognized Maritime Picture (RMP) for CSDP maritime missions and tasks, whilst maximizing inter pillar (still existing at that time) interoperability through the use of best practice."

- So from the very beginning the focus was on a smart solution and not on new networks.

- We were looking for tangible output and not process.

- And, from the very beginning a link between the civilian and the military world was required. A link supporting CSDP operations and simultaneously Homeland Security issues.

- And this is exactly where we had to further improve the cooperation with our civilian partners. Indeed, the Agency is not in a position to impose anything on anybody and least of all the Commission or any EU Agency. The positive influence that the Agency can have is only based on our expertise being that provided by our member States.

- So one of our major tasks was to create a link between what could be made by the Defence Community and what was already developed by the Commission.

- To duplicate the Commission's work is not, and can never be, an option.

- Our Wise Pen Team of 5 retired admirals, who were contracted by the Agency from Summer 2009 until December last year have been a key enabler in this regard.

- They looked at the overall problem of maritime surveillance from an external perspective, applying their huge range of professional experience from national and NATO key positions and operations.

- Their reports have been staffed and acknowledged beyond the EU remit and are now quoted in numerous governmental and think-tank publications.

- Moreover, their way of working contributed significantly to fostering excellent relations with the Commission Directorate Generals involved in the Maritime Surveillance field.

- Their theme was promoting a change of mind set. They did this through establishing strong links between all stakeholders. They emphasized flexibility to allow cooperation on the basis of "supported and supporting actors" as appropriate, importantly respecting responsibilities and legal constraints. They wanted to avoid centralization. And all this is exactly what we are implementing in MARSUR.

The technical support

- Let me make some brief comments on the technical aspects of the project.

- As I've said. we started from scratch by defining what we wanted, and then we continued by defining how we wanted to achieve it.

- This work was done by your national military experts. And this way of doing business seems to be the success factor in multinational cooperation, as other successful projects in the EDA framework have also shown.

- Success comes from National experts starting the definition of ways and means in cooperation from the very beginning – instead of linking up national experts in a multinational project when national ways and means have already been defined and a compromise solution is then sought.

- On compromises, I remind you of the Arabic saying: That a camel is a horse designed by compromise.

- The work of your experts has been supported by some technical studies which were funded from the EDA Operational Budget.

- Swedish firm SAAB/FOI and Spanish firm GMV (supported by German ESG and Skysoft Portugal SA) have done the first two studies on an architecture design and on translating military requirements into technical specifications.

- The final study, actually the current experimentation study, was done by a consortium led by Swedish CentricLabs supported by German CSC and Swedish B near IT.

- And they did a really good job, in organizing and coordinating the technical progress in the 6 demonstration member states. Based on our experience, we at EDA acknowledge how hard this sometimes can be!!!

- This also highlights another benefit you can draw from EDA, we are a neutral partner who contract in perfect transparency on behalf of our MS.

- To get to today, over three years, we have invested in total less than € 1M of EDA Operational Budget, and of course the resources committed by the supporting MS, and we have obtained an open non-proprietary technical solution. An interface

which is now owned by all EDA pMS because we own the Intellectual Property Rights.

- I now should stress some of the features of the network.

- Once again, we are connecting existing national military networks. We are not duplicating or reinventing them. Therefore, we are providing an affordable low cost solution for each newcomer in the Network as it stands now.

- Basically no additional staff are needed, as your systems are already operated, mostly 24/7.

- We avoid a centralized solution and consequently any major governance issue. Each contributor decides for themselves what they want to share with whom and to what extent.

- The amount of and the fusion of the information available on and through the network is also a national responsibility. You decide for yourself how big the advantage of the network will be and how you can benefit from it.

- You can benefit on operations and at home in your countries.

- On operations the network can support our maritime forces through better Situational Awareness. The tactical and operational situation in the Theatre of Operations can be established with input from local third parties and combined with relevant information from the European Homeland.

- At home, the MARSUR Network can significantly contribute to better awareness of maritime related threats and risks.

- The network will foster inter-agency coordination, collaboration, and cooperation. Applying an approach centred on the "need to share information", we think, will facilitate securing the greatest benefit from the network.

- Maritime business is global and has many facets. Therefore, the MARSUR network cannot be a stand-alone military solution.

- To benefit most from it requires its extension to a wider range of civilian, military and commercial stakeholders.

- The necessary protection of classified and sensitive information to make this happen is just a technical problem with answers that already exist.

- Bearing this in mind, the MARSUR network can be the military contribution to the EU Commissions Common Information Sharing Environment. One of its several different layers.

- To sum it up: the MARSUR Network you will see today will serve CSDP operations. It will contribute to a better quality Common Recognized Maritime Picture. Thus it

will enable better informed decision making at all levels. From the tactical up to the political level.

- Simultaneously, the network will contribute to more and better national maritime surveillance. It will enable early warning, identification and tracking of threats approaching our European homeland from the sea.

- Today you will see that it works and what it can do already.

- I hope that having seen this success you will agree that the network needs to be kept operational beyond today; it can easily be technologically improved, expanded to more pMS and stakeholders and fully integrated into the European Common Information Sharing Environment.

- Having said all of this - You are the key decision makers or advisors who can make that happen.

- And on that note, I handover to Pasi Staff who will take you through the demonstration.