

## Multinational Projects

Multinational projects are a concrete illustration of the Smart Defence initiative, a new way of cooperation among NATO nations.

As defence budgets are under pressure, Smart Defence represents a renewed emphasis on multinational cooperation in order to provide cost-effective security in a period of economic austerity.

### I. An Initial package of Smart Defence multinational projects

At the Chicago Summit, Allies will present an initial package of over twenty multinational projects that will deliver improved operational effectiveness, economies of scale and connectivity between their forces. Smart Defence projects will be funded by participating nations.

Examples include:

1. **NATO Universal Armaments Interface.** This project will enable fighter jets to use munitions from various sources and nations. It will facilitate the flexible use of available munitions across the Alliance and promote multinational cooperation. The air operation over Libya has demonstrated the importance of such a project.
2. **Remotely controlled robots for clearing roadside bombs.** Based on experience gained in Afghanistan, the project will identify the best remotely controlled robots for route clearance operations. This equipment avoids exposing military personnel to explosive devices. The project will promote joint procurement of state-of-the-art equipment and facilitate multinational cooperation on deployment.
3. **Pooling Maritime Patrol Aircraft.** This project will bring different Maritime Patrol Aircraft from various nations into a multinational pool to be available to all participating nations, and, upon request, to other nations as well, thus enabling a more flexible use of available assets.
4. **Multinational Cooperation on Munitions.** The project promotes sharing munitions, in particular precision-guided munitions, in multi-national arsenals. Precision-guided munitions that allow precise targeting are very expensive. Based on the lessons learned from the air operation over Libya in 2011, national stockpiles cannot always be immediately re-supplied. Therefore more flexible exchange of munitions among allied nations is needed.
5. **Multinational Aviation Training Centre.** Building on operational experience gained in Afghanistan, this project will provide top quality training to helicopter pilots and ground crews. The training will focus on the deployment of helicopter detachments in support of NATO operations as well as preparing Aviation Advisory Teams which provide training to Afghan National Security Forces.
6. **Pooling & Sharing Multinational Medical Treatment Facilities.** A project to develop standardised modular medical facilities for effective and efficient multinational deployments in support of operations. This will allow Allies to make the best possible use of existing medical assets.
7. **Multinational Logistics Partnership for Fuel Handling.** The project optimises the provision of fuel to deployed forces through a multinational partnership.
8. **Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR).** Enhanced cooperation will provide for a more powerful network linking national and NATO surveillance assets (such as AWACS and AGS), collaborative training and education programmes for intelligence specialists and better procedures for the exchange of information. Cooperation in this area aims at enhancing the collection, processing and sharing of key information in support of political and military decision makers.



9. **Multinational Logistics Partnership - Mine Resistant Ambush Vehicle (MRAP) maintenance.** The project will facilitate economies of scale on maintenance of deployed equipment.
10. **Deployable Contract Specialist Group:** The project will develop the creation of a pool of contract specialists with expertise in NATO procedures to establish and monitor contracts in theatres of operations.

## II. Continued multinational cooperation on strategic programmes

Smart Defence will give an impulse to other projects that depend on multinational cooperation. The Chicago Summit will be an opportunity for strengthening them.

1. **NATO's Missile Defence capability:** At the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, NATO Heads of State and Government decided to develop Ballistic Missile Defence as a collective capability for the Alliance. Through multinational cooperation, Allies can achieve more and better protection from ballistic missiles than any one Ally could provide alone. The United States is providing the majority of assets at this stage. Several European Allies have agreed to host elements of the US system. European nations will also provide complementary assets such as Patriot missiles and radar-carrying ships. And NATO as a whole is providing the communication network and the missile defence command within its Air Command in Ramstein, Germany.
2. **Alliance Ground Surveillance programme (AGS).** 13 Allies are coming together to provide a capability which will benefit the whole Alliance. This is a system that will employ drones with sophisticated radar systems to provide a picture of ground conditions from high altitude. No single nation in Europe can afford such a capability on its own. The system will be made available to the Alliance in the 2015-2017 timeframe.
3. **NATO Air Policing.** Building on NATO's experience including in the Baltic States, Allies will promote air policing on a regional basis. Cooperation in this area offers an example of Alliance solidarity through avoiding additional defence spending on capabilities already adequately available in the Alliance. It allows economies of scales through the pooling and sharing of existing or future air assets. This approach is of particular importance for Allies faced with the replacement of aging aircraft in the coming decade.

## III. Past experience with multinational cooperation

NATO Allies are not starting from scratch. They have a long experience of working together. Here are some examples of long-standing multinational cooperation:

1. **Air Policing in the Baltics:** NATO Allies take turns to provide peacetime air policing over the Baltic States. By doing so, the Baltic Allies do not have to spend money on fighter aircraft and can invest in other capabilities in support of NATO operations.
2. **The Strategic Airlift Capability** initiative has brought together 10 Allied and 2 Partnership for Peace nations in a consortium to procure and operate C-17 heavy transport aircraft. By doing this together, these nations have acquired an important capability that individual members of the consortium could not obtain individually.
3. **The Strategic Airlift Interim Solution (SALIS).** A multinational consortium of 14 NATO member countries and 2 partner nations pooled resources to charter special aircraft that give the Alliance the capability to transport heavy equipment across the globe by air. The airlift consortium charters Antonov An-124-100 transport aircraft capable of handling 'outsize' (unusually large) cargo.
4. **AWACS.** NATO operates a fleet of seventeen Boeing E-3A 'Sentry' Airborne Warning & Control System (AWACS) aircraft, which provide the Alliance with an immediately available airborne command and control, air and maritime surveillance and battle management capability. This is one of the few military assets that are owned and operated by NATO.

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