

Land Battle Decisive Munitions (LBDM)

LOI ¹ signed	MOU ² signed	1 st delivery	Further deliveries
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Participants



What is LBDM?

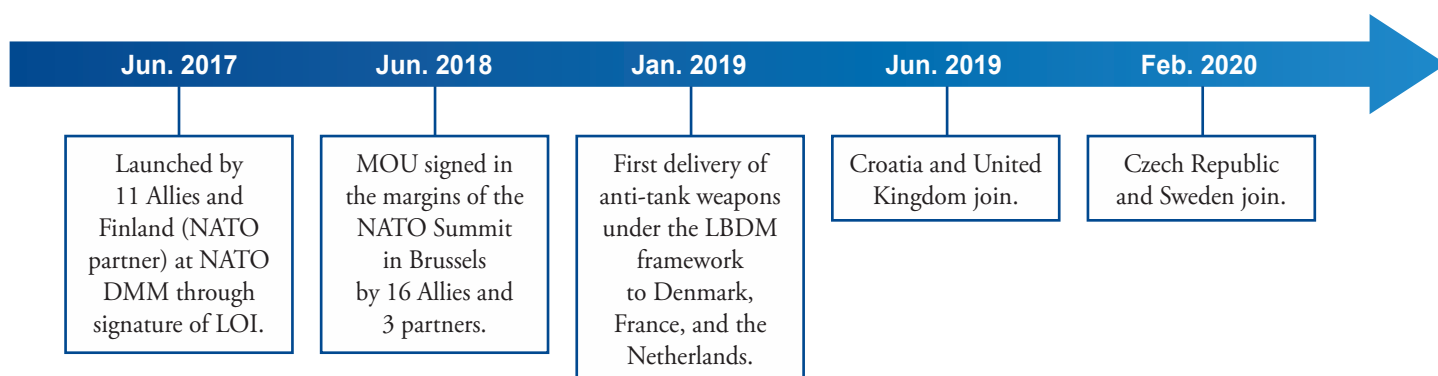
The Land Battle Decisive Munitions (LBDM) initiative provides a framework to acquire key munitions for the land domain.

Multinational effort

The LBDM project aims to increase flexibility in stockpile management by decreasing legal and technical constraints for participants to exchange munition. It was launched in June 2017 by 11 Allies and NATO partner Finland during a Defence Ministerial Meeting (DMM) when a Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed. At the 2018 NATO Summit held in Brussels on 11-12 July, a Memorandum of Understanding between 16 Allies and 3 partners was signed.



Soldier using anti-tank weapon.



It created the legal basis for the participants to jointly acquire and warehouse a wide range of land munition. A working group to identify future munition acquisition, establish mechanisms to jointly acquire munition and improve munition related life cycle cooperation has been set up.

Why is it important?

The LBDM project will ensure NATO Allies have the right munition stockpiles available. As NATO troops train together, fight together, and increasingly use the same equipment, Allies also increasingly welcome the possibility to purchase and store equipment together. There are many benefits of multinational cooperation in this area. In the short term, the participants benefit from lower costs, making this project a first step towards a more efficient procurement strategy. In the long-run, the project aims to make sure participants have increasingly the same munition in stock, which they can then also share amongst each other in case of need. This will allow our forces to operate even more seamlessly.

¹ Letter of Intent – initial non-binding document outlining participants' will to explore the area in question further.

² Memorandum of Understanding – legally binding document specifying details of cooperation.

What does it include?

LBDM as an overarching term includes both self-propelled and non-self-propelled munition types.

The self-propelled munition type consists of both ground and air-launched missiles. The engine and guidance system enable the missiles to change their flight path, increasing precision and efficiency. These include:

- rockets,
- land combat missiles and air defence missiles,
- rotary-wing-launched air-to-ground missiles.

The non-self-propelled munition type does not have an engine. These include:

- most tank and cannon munitions,
- mortars and artillery.

Did you know?



1. Having 23 participants makes the LBDM initiative the largest amongst the High Visibility Projects. As it features three partners, it is a prime example of the importance of NATO's partnerships.
2. The largest caliber gun ever built was an American mortar, nicknamed Little David. It had a caliber of 914mm (36 inches). This Little David mortar was a prototype for testing only and never did see combat.
3. The Land Battle Decisive Munitions initiative, together with its sister munition projects Maritime Battle Decisive Munitions (MBDM) and Air to Ground Precision Guided Munition (A2G-PGM) are covering all three domains: Land, Maritime and Air.

Public Diplomacy Division (PDD) – Press & Media Section

Tel.: +32(0)2 707 5041

E-mail: moc@hq.nato.int

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