

CBRN Detection and Identification

Letter of Intent ¹ signed	Implementing arrangements ² signed	Delivery
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Participants



What is the scope of CBRN Detection and Identification?

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Detection and Identification High Visibility Project³ provides participants with a framework that enables them to explore, identify, initiate and implement joint development and procurement of CBRN detection and identification equipment.



Fuchs (Fox) CBRN reconnaissance vehicle used by the British Army.

Multinational effort

The CBRN Detection and Identification High Visibility Project originated from the Enabling Multinational Cooperation in the CNAD⁴ work strand. Under this approach, individual capability areas are being systematically assessed with a view to identifying promising cooperation opportunities. The 2020 cycle of this work strand has focused on CBRN defence and identified concrete cooperation opportunities addressing CBRN protection, detection and identification, as well as CBRN defence facilities.

Based on this analysis and subsequent negotiations, Albania, Belgium, Greece, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom, and the United States launched the multinational CBRN Detection and Identification High Visibility Project through the signature of a Letter of Intent in the margins of the October 2021 Defence Ministers' meeting.

Why is it important?

COVID-19 has painstakingly demonstrated how important it is to protect Allied forces against any kind of CBRN agents. The associated defence capabilities are critical for ensuring that Allies are able to conduct operations even in the case of pandemics, industrial disasters, or the use of weapons of mass destruction by states or non-state actors. Besides providing Allied forces with protective equipment, it is also crucial to ensure that appropriate CBRN detection and identification equipment is available in order to determine which areas are contaminated by which type of CBRN agents without risking the lives of Allied personnel, and to achieve this in a timely and reliable manner. The CBRN Detection and Identification High Visibility Project therefore aims to bring Allies together for developing and procuring more sophisticated solutions by leveraging advances in research and development, and the application of emerging technologies.

How does it work?

Under the Letter of Intent, participants will develop the specifics of the envisioned cooperation with an initial focus on defining key common requirements. The cooperation allows for launching multiple multinational activities in parallel, addressing the joint development or procurement of specific CBRN detection and identification systems in line with the participants' preferences.

1 Initial non-binding document outlining participants' will to explore the area in question further.
 2 Legally binding document specifying details of cooperation.
 3 High Visibility Projects are multinational initiatives tailored to address key capability areas, usually launched at Defence Ministers' level.
 4 Conference of National Armaments Directors – senior NATO committee responsible for promoting armaments cooperation among nations.

Did you know?



1. Chemical, biological and radiological detection and identification each require different technologies due to the specifics of these substances.
2. Detectors are designed to indicate the presence of CBRN substances, while identification equipment is responsible for the recognition of the specific CBRN substances detected.