

CBRN Protection Equipment

Letter of Intent ¹ signed	Memorandum of Understanding ² signed	Delivery
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Participants



What is the scope of CBRN Protection Equipment?

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Protection Equipment High Visibility Project³ will provide participants with a framework for exploring the joint development, procurement, upgrading and life-cycle management activities of individual protective equipment and collective protection systems.

Multinational effort

The CBRN Protection Equipment 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, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States launched the multinational CBRN Protection Equipment 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. One of the most important cornerstones of preserving combat effectiveness is the provision of effective individual protective equipment and collective protection systems for military units in sufficient quantities. The CBRN Protection Equipment High Visibility Project is a key tool for this endeavour as it aims to establish a multinational framework addressing this need, while delivering increased interoperability and cost savings through multinational economies of scale.



A US collective protection system called Joint Expeditionary Collective Protection.



Polish SOF soldiers wearing protective masks during NATO exercise Trident Juncture 2015.

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.

How does it work?

Under the Letter of Intent, participants will develop the specifics of the envisioned cooperation framework. The ambition is to create a permanent mechanism under which participants can conduct joint development and procurement of the full range of CBRN protection equipment in regular intervals.

Did you know?



1. Individual protective equipment usually consists of protective clothing, protective masks, decontamination and first-aid kits, chemical detectors and dosimeters in order to provide individuals with protection against CBRN agents.
2. Collective protection systems provide safe environments (e.g. in buildings, tents, containers, ground vehicles, ships and aircraft) protected against CBRN agents, which allow personnel to carry out their tasks and rest without wearing individual protective equipment.