Land Battle Decisive Munitions (LBDM)

What is LBDM?
The Land Battle Decisive Munitions (LBDM) High Visibility Project, includes all munition defined by participating Allies and partners as decisive for operations in the land domain.

Multinational effort
The LBDM High Visibility Project initiative provides a framework for the acquisition and life-cycle management of key munitions for the land domain. It was launched in June 2017 by 11 Allies and a NATO partner during a Defence Ministerial Meeting when a Letter of Intent was signed. At the 2018 NATO Summit held in Brussels on 11-12 July, a Memorandum of Understanding among 16 Allies and 3 partners was signed.

The Memorandum of Understanding created the legal basis for the participants to jointly acquire a wide range of land munitions. A management group has been set up to identify future munition acquisitions, establish mechanisms to jointly acquire munitions, and improve munition-related life cycle cooperation. Actual cooperation activities are carried out in munition-specific subgroups established by the management group.

Why is it important?
The LBDM High Visibility Project can help NATO Allies to 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 munitions 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 Initial non-binding document outlining participants' will to explore the area in question further.
2 Legally binding document specifying details of cooperation.
3 Multinational initiative tailored to address key capability areas, usually launched at Defence Ministers’ level.
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 ammunitions,
- mortar and artillery ammunitions.

Did you know?

1. Having 23 participants makes the LBDM initiative the largest amongst NATO’s 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 saw combat.

3. The LBDM High Visibility Project, together with its sister munition projects, Maritime Battle Decisive Munitions (MBDM) and Air Battle Decisive Munitions (ABDM) are covering all three traditional military domains: Land, Maritime and Air.