



# EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

Brussels, 8 January 2008

PRESS RELEASE

## EDA AWARDS CONTRACT FOR UAV AIR TRAFFIC

### INSERTION ROAD MAP

(BRUSSELS, 8 JANUARY 2008)

The European Defence Agency announced today that it had awarded a contract worth Euro 500,000 with a consortium of defence and aerospace companies to develop a detailed roadmap for integrating Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) into European airspace so that they can fly routinely with other air traffic by the end of 2015 at the latest.

The contract was awarded to the Air4All consortium, consisting of BAE Systems with BAE Systems Operations Platform Solutions, Alenia Aeronautica, Dassault Aviation, Diehl BGT Defence, EADS CASA, EADS Defence & Security Germany, Galileo Avionica, QinetiQ, Rheinmetall Defence Electronics, SAAB AB, Sagem Defence Systems and Thales Aerospace as Co-contractors.

The project will help European stakeholders such as airworthiness authorities, air traffic management bodies, procurement agencies, industry and research institutes to develop a joint agenda for common European UAV activities, leading to specific projects addressing security and commercial -- as well as defence -- uses of UAVs.

"This is a key initiative for Europe that provides a nucleus for setting realistic goals that will lead to Unmanned Aircraft Systems operating in total harmony with other airspace users," said Project Director Dave Kershaw on behalf of the Air4All consortium.

"We have an established, highly talented and qualified team with a total of over 350 years of relevant experience in the field of civil and military certification, qualification and operations. The team looks forward to working with the EDA and key European stakeholders, such as regulatory

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authorities (EASA and EUROCONTROL), EUROCAE and the European Commission, to deliver a quality strategic route map that put Europe at the forefront of creating safe routine use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems," he added.

EDA Chief Executive Alexander Weis said: "We are very pleased to see so many of the leading companies in Europe taking part in this consortium, which gives us confidence that we are well on the way to making real progress in this critical area, which is of great interest to our participating Member States."

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## - Background information -

The European Defence Agency (EDA) was established by the Council on 12 July 2004. It is designed "to support the Council and the Member States in their effort to improve European defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the ESDP as it stands now and develops in the future". More specifically, the Agency is ascribed four functions, relating to:

- a) defence capabilities development;
- b) armaments cooperation;
- c) the European defence technological and industrial base and defence equipment market;
- d) research and technology.

These functions all relate to improving Europe's defence performance, by promoting coherence in place of fragmentation.

The EDA is an Agency of the European Union. High Representative Solana is Head of the Agency, chairman of the Steering Board, which acts under the Council's authority and within the framework of guidelines issued by the Council.