

# European Satellite Communications Procurement Cell (ESCPC)

## ESCPC overview

The overall aim of the ESCPC is to unify the procurement of commercial SatCom capacity in order to reduce costs, promote ease of access and improve efficiency to deliver a better connectivity to armed forces of the EU Member States. Recent lessons learned from operations ATALANTA and EUFOR Chad-CAR are excellent illustrations of the need to set up and run a cell specialised in space based connectivity services.

The role of the ESCPC consists in acting as a booking office, promoting a service catalogue delivered by a provider EDA has selected in November 2009 and stimulate the future business with contributing Member States.

This project is the first of its kind (Service provision, so non-standard arrangement). It's a 3-years pilot project where EDA is ready to start operations. EDA will act as the Contracting Authority for tailored on-demand services (SatCom) that will be invoiced to contributing Member States. So far, France, Italy, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom contribute to this project.

ESCPC is one of the first projects delivering real services to improve EU defence capability for today's national and CSDP operations. It will provide a wireless connectivity solution between theatres and headquarters. Therefore it can be considered as a particular service in the portfolio of outsourced logistic services supporting any national, EU-led or coalition operation within the EU and abroad. As a matter of fact, the ESCPC is linked to the TPLS (Third Party Logistics Support) Platform the Agency is putting in place.

It represents a quick win of Pooling & Sharing and EDA is expecting contributing Member States (cMS) commitments and other Member States to join.

It will primarily serve EDA participating Member States' national needs, CSDP operations.

It may also serve interested third parties such as the EU Satellite Centre, the European Space Agency, FRONTEX, EEAS and could be extended to the civil community of users.

## ESCPC dates

The ESCPC was adopted as an Ad Hoc Category B Project by a Steering Board Decision on 15 October 2009.

Romania joined the ESCPC in September 2010.

The Project Arrangement has been sent out for staffing in October 2010. France has provided comments in December 2010. United Kingdom signed the Project Arrangement in January 2011. Taking into account the French comments, a new version of the Project Arrangement has been sent out for staffing in July 2011.

The Project Arrangement is open for signature since 22 December 2011.

Signatures of the Project Arrangement are expected in 1st quarter 2012.

Initial Operational Capability is foreseen in 2nd quarter 2012.

