

Impact of Nanotechnology on European Defence Capabilities and EDA's work

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The European Defence Agency supports the Member States and the Council in their effort to improve European defence capabilities, current and future ones. Therefore, EDA acts as a catalyst, promotes collaborations, launches new initiatives and introduces solutions to improve defence capabilities. It is also a key facilitator in developing the capabilities necessary to underpin the Common Security and Defence Policy of the Union. The European Defence Agency is ascribed four functions, being one of them promoting defence Research and Technology.

Research and Technology in EDA supports medium and long-term European Capabilities needs through different R&T activities, from the identification of emerging technologies, to the definition of technological priorities or the establishment of research projects. These activities help to stay up-to-date in a high tech environment, while maximizing the impact by researching together.

Furthermore, designing materials will create many opportunities and challenges for defence systems development and maintenance. Due to the fast evolution of nanotechnologies, getting ready can only be achieved via cooperation with civil sector, in dual-use areas, and devoting special attention to military specific technological applications.

Different R&T groups at EDA, so called CapTechs, cover areas with relation to nanotechnologies, with the objective to promote and manage research activities in this domain. CapTechs on Components, Materials or CBRN Protection are responsible for activities on nanomaterial technology applications for defence, such as nanocoatings for naval and air applications, nanostructured materials and textiles for protection or high performance applications, or nanosensors for CB detection.