

## *Impact of Disruptive Technologies on Defence*

A European Defence Agency conference  
under the auspices of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU  
20 April 2021 – virtual event

### Programme

*\*speakers subject to final confirmation*

09h00	Welcome Coffee – Registration	
9h15	High-Level Group Picture	Keynote Speakers and Panellists
09h30	Porto City Welcome Remarks	Rui MOREIRA Porto Mayor
09h35	Opening Remarks	João Gomes CRAVINHO Minister of Defence of Portugal
09h45	Opening Remarks	Jiří ŠEDIVÝ EDA Chief Executive
10h00	Dual-use Emerging Technologies and their Impact on Security and Defence	Stephen QUEST European Commission, Director General Joint Research Centre
10h20	Disruptive Technologies as enablers for Disruptive Capabilities	Petter BEDOIRE Chief Technology Officer Saab Group
10h40	Keynote Speech (to be defined)	General André LANATA NATO Supreme Allied Commander Transformation
11h00	Coffee Break & Exhibition Visit	Opportunity for Press Interviews
11h30	<b>Panel SESSION 1</b> <u>Disruptive Technologies and the Expected Impact on Defence</u> <i>Emerging disruptive technologies are expected to revolutionise future military capabilities, strategy and operations. Technologies most commonly regarded as EDTs include AI, big data, quantum technology, robotics, autonomous systems, new advance materials, blockchain, hypersonic</i>	Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. MGen Corte-Real ANDRADE, Portugal R&amp;T Director</li><li>2. Jean-François RIPOCHE, EDA RTI Director</li><li>3. DG DEFIS*</li><li>4. Pablo GONZALEZ, Chairman</li></ol>



	<p><i>weapons systems and biotechnologies applied to human enhancement.</i></p> <p><i>This session will set the scene and discuss Europe's interest to develop such disruptive technologies and their expected impact on defence capability development.</i></p> <p><i>How will defence change? How to integrate such technologies faster in military capabilities? Which are the main blocking points?</i></p>	<p>of ASD DRDT Working Group, Director NATO &amp; EU Defence Programmes, Indra</p> <p>5. MGen Herminio MAIO, MPCC Chief of Staff</p>
13h00	Lunch, Networking and Exhibition Visit	
14h00	<p><b>Panel SESSION 2</b></p> <p><u>Artificial Intelligence</u></p> <p><i>AI is one of the technology trends most frequently discussed these days and considered essential in research and innovation strategies development. Defence is lagging behind civil applications and this gap in the military capability has to be taken seriously into account. Areas like decision making, situational awareness and mission planning will change dramatically with the evolution and integration of AI in the military systems and equipment. This session will discuss the required need for a European strategy to implement AI in defence and the derived opportunities for multinational cooperation that this integration entails.</i></p>	<p>Panellists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Auke VENEMA, R&amp;T Director, The Netherlands</li> <li>2. Alípio JORGE, Coordinator for the national strategy for AI, Portugal</li> <li>3. Jonas ANDRULIS, CEO Aleph Alpha GmbH</li> <li>4. Research institute on AI *</li> <li>5. Panagiotis KIKIRAS, EDA TIU Head of Unit</li> </ol>
15h30	Coffee Break	
16h00	<p><b>Panel SESSION 3</b></p> <p><u>Autonomous Systems</u></p> <p><i>AS will have a broad impact on defence operations, providing a wide range of operational benefits for combat and combat support missions, by introducing autonomy in areas such as mobility, targeting, intelligence and health management. Furthermore, they will reduce the number of personnel at operational risk and enable new missions that otherwise would not be acceptable due to its high risk for soldiers.</i></p> <p><i>Several technological, institutional, legal, normative and economic challenges still need to be addressed before AS can be sufficiently useful and relevant to the armed forces.</i></p>	<p>Panellists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kusti SALM, National Armaments Director, Estonia</li> <li>2. José Santos VICTOR, Director of Instituto de Sistemas e Robótica, Portugal</li> <li>3. Joachim SCHAPER, Head of AI and Big Data at Porsche Engineering Services GmbH</li> <li>4. Paolo ARRIGHI, Leonardo</li> <li>5. Mário MARTINHO, EDA CapTech Ground Systems Moderator</li> </ol>



	<i>This session will discuss such challenges and the strategies to overcome them, as well as synergies to increase the EU cooperation in the development of the AS of the future.</i>	
17h30	Closing Remarks	
17h30	Closing Remarks	Vasco HILÁRIO National Armaments Director, Portugal
17h45	Closing Remarks	Jean-François RIPOCHE EDA RTI Director
18h00	End of the Conference	