



EDEN 1st PRESS RELEASE

EDEN: the largest collaborative European project against CBRNE Events

1st of September 2013 marked the start of the 3-year European project EDEN, which is characterized by a highly innovative approach to develop CBRNe research activities in the EU, linking end-users, researchers and industrial experts. The focal points of the project are three large-scale Demonstration actions scheduled at the end of the research activities to validate the solutions sought in EDEN project.

The project demonstration outputs will aim to allow capabilities to be shared among multi-national CBRNe stakeholders, which is paramount in cross-border incident management and over time will allow for a build-up of common capability across European boundaries.

In a world facing an increased risk of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and explosive (CBRNe) incidents or threats caused by man-made or natural hazards, CBRNe Security has become a high priority in the European Union and beyond over the past decade. The recent allegations of chemical weapons use during the Syrian conflict, the huge explosion at the AZF fertiliser factory in Toulouse in 2001 and the deadly *E.coli* outbreak which hit Germany in May 2011 are some examples of CBRNe incidents which have led to a high number of casualties and caused significant socio-economic damage.

The EDEN (End-User Driven Demo for CBRNe) Demonstration Project, funded by the European Commission 7th Framework Research Programme on Secure Societies, represents the biggest research effort ever made in the CBRNe area in the European Union, with the primary objective to provide solutions to improve CBRNe resilience and allow enhanced interoperability and effectiveness between CBRNe operators.

The EDEN project comprises a consortium of thirty-six members across fifteen different countries (in the EU and associated countries) co-ordinated by BAE Systems. The consortium includes six main categories of CBRNe players: end-users, major stakeholders, large system integrators and solution providers, SMEs (Small Medium Enterprises) with innovative solutions, universities and RTOs (Research and Technology Organisation). The project, with a total investment of 36.5 million euro, marks an unprecedented effort from the European Commission to support R&D on the Security theme.

With this project the European Commission intends to bring to an upper level of maturity the resilience capacity of the EU society when it comes to CBRNe events. The project will build on the

results and successful completion of previous projects (PRACTICE, DECOTESSC1) and is finalized to test in the field, with key demonstrations actions, the validity of the solutions sought. The 36 partners of the EDEN Consortium will cooperate to achieve the development of a "multi-faceted system of systems approach" that will provide an EU-tailored solution able to enhance interoperability between CBRNe operators.

A distinctive feature of the EDEN project is the activation of its End-User, SME and Suppliers Platforms. These are open bodies where end-users, SMEs or industry that are external to the EDEN Consortium can actively take part in the project with advice and feedback. Suppliers and SMEs can offer their equipment, technologies and services relevant for CBRNe contingency plans to the EDEN project, for inclusion in the EDEN Store and for potential demonstration during the project.

Currently, the End User Platform includes 60 end users from 20 countries, the SME Platform 34 SMEs and the Supplier Platform 19 suppliers. All platforms are expanding their capabilities by recruiting new organisations via the contact points below. At the same time EDEN welcomes links with other related projects.

The results of EDEN will be made public through a fair scheduled at the end of the project that will take place in Brussels.

Information about the project and Platforms can be followed through a dedicated website at <http://www.eden-security-fp7.eu/> which will be fully operative from the beginning of 2014.

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