Balkan Regional Approach to Air Defence (BRAAD)
What is BRAAD?

BRAAD – The Balkan Regional Approach to Air Defence is a joint effort by NATO and Partner nations, and multiple organizations within NATO, for the provision of air defence capabilities to the nations in the Balkans Region.

The NATO Headquarters International Staff, Defence Investment (DI) Division, the NATO Support Agency, and the NCI Agency are participating in the effort, which was initiated in 2010.

The key goal of this regional approach is to achieve an optimized and cost-effective air defence system through the application of knowledge and experience existing within NATO, coupled with joint procurement for cost savings throughout the entire lifecycle of the required assets.

Air surveillance, communications, and command and control (C2) are critical elements of air defence and are the focus of BRAAD. The number and locations of radars (air surveillance) and radios (communications) is the key to achieving the coverage required, which can only be utilized when effectively integrated into a C2 architecture.

The NATO HQ/DI Analytical Air Defence Cell performed several studies for the Balkan nations, including an investigation into an optimized radar (air surveillance) and radio (communications) deployment for the region. This approach to sharing data and assets provided the framework for the Balkan nations to consider joint procurement of a reduced number of assets when compared to an individual national approach.

To initiate this approach to joint procurement, the BRAAD Air Surveillance and Communications Requirements Study (Pre-Acquisition Study) for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – a Tier 2 Smart Defence Project – has been established with Croatia taking on the role of the Lead Nation, and NATO’s Air and Missile Defence Committee being the Sponsor Committee for the project. The Pre-Acquisition Study will provide costed options and recommendations for the procurement of air surveillance and communications assets.

The key enabler for obtaining an optimized air surveillance capability in the Balkan region is joint procurement and data sharing, not only between NATO and Partner nations, but also between the Partner nations.

At the completion of the Pre-Acquisition Study, the nations will have an opportunity to launch a joint regional BRAAD Acquisition Project potentially including other nations in the region that are interested to join. A similar air surveillance study has already been completed by the Agency for Albania in 2012.

The BRAAD Pre-Acquisition Study

The overall aim of the study is to provide the technical and cost input for the decision process to cost effectively meet NATO Minimum Military Requirements for the Balkan region with respect to Ground-Air-Ground (GAG) communications and air surveillance. The output of the Study will be a single Study Report with separate national annexes for each nation.

1. Study scope

The study covers aspects of a joint procurement ranging from requirements capture and harmonization, through coverage analysis to through life support and procurement approach. The initial costing is based upon four nations procuring one radar each; however the impact of procuring fewer radars will be assessed.

Study scope outline

The study will include the benefits and mechanisms for data sharing and take into account any phased approach required to integrate into the current and planned NATO C2 architecture.

Air surveillance scope

National requirements capture and site survey
• Operational / manning / C2 / low level coverage / Air Policing / Search And Rescue / civil-military data sharing
• Harmonization of requirements across the nations

NATO Minimum Military Requirements
• Basic Volumetric Coverage and Air Policing

![Scope of the BRAAD Pre-Acquisition Study Tier 2.76 Smart Defence project](image)

- Radar coverage and redundancy modelling
  - Regional and national (low level) coverage
  - Effects of weather
  - Classes of radar

- High level discussion of the regional C2 architecture
  - Data exchange / Interoperability with NATINAMDS / phased approach

1 Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
Balkan Regional Approach to Air Defence

Analysis of Operation & Maintenance aspects
- Operation / Control, Display and monitoring / manning / Contractors Logistic Support / training
- Cost analysis and recommendations for the assessed options
- Coverage modelling
- Capability trade-off against number of GAG sites
- High level technical description of the systems required
- Discussion of architectural implications for offered solutions to support Air Policing
- Cost analysis and recommendations for the assessed options

2. Legal Arrangements

The Legal arrangements enabling the execution of the BRAAD Pre-Acquisition Study include a Technical Arrangement between Lead Nation Croatia and the NCI Agency, and signature of a Multilateral Agreement between Croatia and the 3 Partner nations.

NCI Agency support to the nations in South Eastern Europe

BRAAD is a very important project in the regional context; however it is not the only cooperation initiative between the NCI Agency and the nations in South Eastern Europe. Our Agency supports multiple nations in this region both on bilateral and multilateral basis in acquiring and enhancing of their C4ISR capabilities.

Support to SEDM, SEEBRIG and SEESIM. In October 2012, Ministers at the South-Eastern Europe Defence Ministerial (SEDM) agreed to a support package to sustain the multinational South-Eastern Europe Brigade (SEE BRIG) in carrying out a wide range of missions, including disaster management, and ensure full interoperability with NATO in operations. This is a practical example of the NCI Agency’s support for a regional approach to Smart Defence and example of support to the Connected Forces Initiative. Further support is offered to the South Eastern Europe Simulation (SEESIM) for provision of the training and exercise tools that can be used in virtualized systems for Computer Aided Exercises.

NCI Agency track record of providing AirC2 capabilities to nations

- Air surveillance radar acquisition for Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland;
- Sensor procurement support programme for Lithuania;
- Air Command and Control System (ACCS) Deployable Radar and Passive Sensors acquisition;
- ACCS Extension/ACCS Software Based Element (ASBE) multinational support;
- Integrated Command and Control (ICC) support;
- Ship-Shore-Ship Buffer (SSSB) multi-national support;
- CRC System Interface (CSI) multinational support.

About the NCI Agency

The NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency provides interoperable Communications and Information Systems and services connecting forces, NATO and Nations, where and when required.

The NCI Agency is the provider of NATO-wide IT services and state-of-the-art C4ISR capabilities, including Cyber and Missile Defence. In strengthening the Alliance, the Agency applies industry best practices and provides a full lifecycle approach: from analysis and concept development, through experimentation and Capability Development, to operations and maintenance for both missions and exercises. The NCI Agency is a key pillar of NATO Secretary General’s Smart Defence and Connected Forces initiatives.

The Agency was established on 1 July 2012, as part of a broader NATO reform, through the merger of the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency (NC3A), the NATO Air Command and Control System Management Agency (NACMA), the NATO Communication and Information Systems Services Agency (NCSA – except Deployable CIS), the Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence (ALTBMD) Programme Office and elements of NATO Headquarters Information and Communication Technology Service.
Smart Defence – Share to win

Smart Defence is a renewed culture of cooperation that encourages the nations to cooperate in developing, acquiring and maintaining military capabilities. Benefits of joint procurement for BRAAD:

- Harmonized requirements
- Cost savings in procurement process
- Cost savings in equipment cost
- One radar type for all nations, enabling:
  > Streamlined operator and maintainer training across nations
  > Collective Contractor Logistics Support for all radars
  > Collective spares pool
  > Interoperability

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