General Scope

Originally forecasted for 3 years, Phase I of the NATO Trust Fund project in Ukraine was beset by a number of problems, primarily caused by the ongoing political volatility in Ukraine. This led to a series of major reassessments to the original aims and required an extension of the project from 36 to 64 months.

The original aims and the actual achievements are summarised below:

- Development of Capability and Capacity
  - Establishment of a Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) demilitarization facility in Western Ukraine – Achieved Jan. 2007
  - Establishment of a Conventional Ammunition (CA) demilitarization in Western Ukraine – Abandoned Jul. 2007 following local industry own investment and local authority veto.

- Destruction of:
  - 1,000 MANPADS – Achieved Sept. 2006
  - 15,000 tonnes of CA – Achieved Apr. 2011
  - 400,000 SALW – Achieved Apr. 2011

The cost of the project increased from an original EUR 7,968,725 to EUR 10,880,000.
Achievements

**MANPADS Destruction**

This element of the project was fully completed in 2006. The original plan to disassemble missiles was trialled in December 2005 and, although technically possible, it was found to be not cost effective. MANPADS were finally destroyed by open detonation at the State Scientific Institute for Chemical Research in Shostka. Destruction of the missiles began with a formal opening ceremony on 20 June 2006 and was completed with a closing ceremony on 20 September 2006. A total of 1,000 missiles and 500 Gripstocks (firing units) were destroyed.

**SALW Destruction**

This element of the project was fully completed in 2011. SALW were dismantled and destroyed at a purpose-built facility in Kamyanets-Podilskyi using two special furnaces funded by EU/EC. After initial good progress this was eventually suspended in April 2008 after a total of 131,993 weapons had been destroyed. This was as the result of objections from a number of Ukraine government ministries. Discussions between the GoU, Lead Nation, EC and NSPA throughout 2008 and 2009 failed to resolve the impasse, although a further 54,502 SALW were eventually destroyed. In May 2010 GoU finally endorsed the release of the additional weapons. NSPA agreed a plan to complete the destruction of the balance of SALW and conventional ammunition with the Lead Nation. The 400,000th SALW was destroyed on 28 April 2011.

**Ammunition Destruction**

This element of the project was fully completed in 2011. The original plan to establish a new demilitarization facility in Kalinivka was vetoed by local authorities. NSPA received an unsolicited "destruction of the ammunition at its facility in Hrechany and at the State Scientific Research Institute for Chemical Products (SSRIC) Shostka. This proposal was supported by NSPA and accepted by the Lead Nation. Initially a contract for 6,000 tonnes was issued in August 2009, expanded to 8,000 tonnes in March 2010 and then for the full 15,000 tonnes in September 2010. The last ammunition was destroyed on 05 May 2011.

**Explosive Waste Incinerator (EWI)**

It was agreed in October 2007 to site an EWI at the Donetsk State Plant for Chemical Products. The change of venue required modification of the equipment which arrived in Ukraine at the end of 2008. There then followed over 9 months of bureaucratic procedures with national, regional and municipal authorities to get type approval of the equipment. In addition, it was discovered that high levels of mercury present in the types of ammunition to be processed required an enhancement to the planned Pollution Abatement System, funded by the EU/EC, by the addition of a Mercury Control System. This was sourced and built in 2009 and subsequently arrived in Ukraine in April 2010. This equipment commissioned in November 2011 considerably increases Ukraine’s capability for future demilitarization activity and is the most technically advanced and capable EWI that exists.