

Lead Nations



United Kingdom

Other Contributors



Czech Republic



Germany



Hungary



Ireland



Italy



Japan



Norway



Slovakia



Switzerland



Turkey



United States

Background

The fourth NATO/PfP Trust Fund project in Serbia follows a request for assistance from Serbia to NATO for the destruction of surplus conventional ammunition, initially estimated as up to 8,000 tonnes.

The aim of the project is to assist the Serbian MoD's main ammunition facility (MoD owned TRZ Kragujevac) to demilitarise Serbia's remaining stocks of surplus ammunition.

The MEUR 4.11 project will support TRZ Kragujevac develop additional demilitarisation capacity and fund up to MEUR 2.4 of industrial demilitarisation.

The MoD is already processing some munitions at TRZ Kragujevac and will continue to do so. The facility has a knowledgeable and capable workforce with sound experience of ammunition disposal but requires assistance to further develop its capacity.

Progress

As at June 2019, the project had provided over MEUR 1.2 worth of improvements and new equipment, including a new fire engine, ambulance and forklift truck.

Ammunition demilitarisation activity has been significantly reduced because of the serious industrial accident at TRZ Kragujevac on 28th February 2017. Until the main process buildings are returned to full operational capacity and after the normalization of the COVID-19 pandemic health crisis - spring 2020 - only limited quantities of munitions have been demilitarised in unaffected process areas.

The MoD has funded the construction of the main processing building with the project funding the new melt out building at MEUR 0.84.

Milestones

- Summer 2011 – Serbian authorities request to NATO HQ to consider the establishment of a new Trust Fund for the de-struction of up to 8.000 tons of surplus ammunition.
- 16 July 2013 – Project Presented to NATO PPC (EAPC)
- 2013-2016 – Negotiation of legal agreements. Detailed pre-p-ations at TRZ Kragujevac.
- 24 March 2016 – Final formal approval and project start.
- 12 October 2016 – NATO Trust Fund Official Opening
- 7 June 2018 – extension of the project to Summer 2019 and increase budget to MEUR 4.11
- cost amendment (budget increase to 5.6 MEUR) and time extension (March 2022)

Financial information

- Estimated budget: MEUR 4.11
- Request to increase to 5.60 MEUR awaiting approval.
- Current contributions: 5.13 MEUR

The processes will maximize the value of recycled materials and employ environmentally responsible techniques.

The project has been developed in close consultation with MoD so that there is flexibility to match the type and quantity of am-munition to be demilitarised with the level of funds received.

The project could not start until all of the legal agreements were in place. Concluding these negotiations took significantly longer than anticipated and were finally completed on 24 March 2016. The contractual and technical negotiations proceeded smoothly allowing the initial operational demilitarisation to start in early October 2016.

Around 521 tonnes (MEUR 1.25) of ammunition has been demilitarised so far with a further 245 tonnes over the next 12 months.

Future Plans

Continue demilitarisation of suitable ammunition types for the processes available at TRZ Kragujevac.

Support the MoD and TRZ Kragujevac recover full capacity and provide the equipment foreseen in the original project proposal. A proposal to extend the project by two years to spring 2022 and in-crease the budget to MEUR 5.60 is under final approval at NATO HQ. This will allow time for the demilitarisation of the original quantity of surplus ammunition and additional tasks to support the MOI under the Western Balkan initiative.



The new main processing and 'Melt-out' buildings ready for MoD acceptance June 2019



Ammunition processing facility at TRZ Kragujevac November 2013



Govt owned TRZ Kragujevac facility



Mr. Milan Pavlović, Head of Technology Department, briefing Min Def and Ambassadors at the Opening Ceremony October 2016



Minister of Defence Mr. Zoran Đorđević speaking at the Opening Ceremony October 2016



Handover of keys for the ambulance (Mr Orhan Muratli, Deputy Director Logistics NSPA and Lt Col Dušan Kovarbašić, TRZ General Manager)



Emergency Fire Vehicle handed over to MoD/TRZ 18th May 2017

For further information

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