

# Conference on the Role of SMEs in the Supply Chain

First Findings

**EU2009.CZ**

# General

- Small Businesses Act – Good Political Guidance, expectations are high
- Expected positive impact of the EC Defence Package to stimulate fair competition, proper implementation is crucial and create primes' competitive supply chain
- Important to stimulate competition below the prime level
- SMEs are vital for competitive EDTIB
- Reduction of Protectionism

# Centers of Excellence – Opportunity for the SMEs

- Grouping / SMEs clusters can be an answer to some of the SMEs problems;
- Clusters should be Industry Driven with maximum level of Flexibility. Industry must follow the market rules;
- Clusters from R&T Centers (Universities) to Final Assemblers
- Importance of R&T SMEs (Invention creates Innovation)

# Centers of Excellence – Opportunity for the SMEs

- CoE – Chance for the Long - Term Vision
- Financing - Broader portfolio of Products and Sources of Financing, Record of former Partnership;
- Find solutions between the Industry, Banks and Governments for Financing for the long term. The solution should not be limited to the SMEs only.
- Full transparency in defence procurement is essential

# SMEs and Security of Supply

- Consolidation of Security of Supply
- Confidence in SoS – whole lifetime in any Conditions (life cycle is the key issue)
- Measures for SMEs sustainability (including role of the Primes) – Technology - Innovation - Transfer;
- Sharing Responsibility for SoS
- Certification of Companies
- Intra Community Transfer

# SMEs and Security of Supply cont.

- ASD Aeroportal and the Agency IT Platform proved to be useful (should continue the development and keep it Armaments Cooperation Driven, consolidate existing and currently developed modules)
- SoS Arrangements – possible on G2G level only, to extend to the Industry
- Establishment of the Common Portal for the SMEs – Interconnection of existing Databases
- Ensure qualified personnel / Competence
- Three dimensions of SoS
  - Governmental (European, Out of Europe), Industrial

# Way Ahead

- Consolidation of findings
- Input to the Presidency Conclusions & Recommendations
- Distribution to all Participants
- Presentation to the Autumn EDA SB NADs