

Dear Sir/Madam,

Europe Economics is currently undertaking a study for the European Commission on the contribution of, and potential problems faced by, SMEs and cross-border cooperation in **defence R&D supply chains**.

I provide below a summary of the aims of this study and a description of the support we are seeking.

### Aims of the study

Our study is focused on the innovative capacity of the European defence industry, with specific attention to the role of SMEs and cross-border cooperation.

Although SMEs may be present at different stages of the supply chain, this study focuses on R&D programmes. In particular, the aims of the study are to:

- estimate the role and contribution of SMEs and cross-border engagement in defence R&D programmes;
- identify any specific barriers faced by SMEs;
- identify any barriers to cross-border cooperation (both to SMEs and more broadly); and
- develop policy options to overcome identifiable problems (and assess the suitability and potential impact of different policy options).

### Stakeholder support

We would be very grateful for the cooperation of both primes and SMEs for the purposes of this study, specifically with regard to the following:

#### Support from primes on:

- Role and contribution of SMEs in their defence R&D supply-chains.
- Extent of cross-border cooperation (including any quantitative data if possible).
- Potential reasons for limited engagement with SMEs in R&D programmes.
- Potential reasons for limited engagement with non-national suppliers in R&D programmes.
- Types of instruments that could be used to overcome any identified problems.

#### Support from SMEs on:

- Their role and contribution in defence R&D supply-chains, both domestically and abroad.
- Potential reasons for limited engagement in defence R&D programmes.
- Potential reasons for limited engagement in non-national defence R&D programmes.
- Types of instruments that could be used to overcome any identified problems.

We would like to thank parties in advance for any support they may be able to provide to this study. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me using the details below.

Kind regards,

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