



## New radars for air bases

(30 November) Airspace over the SVK Air Force bases will be safeguarded by new radar systems. These are to replace the non-compliant ones, as their service life ended three years ago already. The contract was put out to competition, with ELDIS Pardubice LLC being selected as the winning bidder. The Ministry of Defence and ELDIS Pardubice LLC signed the Framework Contract for Delivery of Three Sets of Airport Surveillance Radar Systems. The contract is worth €23,740,694.40, VAT included.

Given that SVK Air Force assets are embedded within the NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defence System (NATINAMDS), the aim of the project is for the SVK Air Force bases to deliver safe and secure air traffic control (ATC) and air navigation services (ANS) in line with the Civil Aviation Act and the NATO standardisation agreements.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď commented: "Equipment after its service life is probably another serious problem in our Armed Forces only second to the poor state of infrastructure. As a result, we are seeking to remedy the situation by making effective, targeted, transparent and economic investments."

The MOD is to procure three sets of airport surveillance radar systems through ELDIS Pardubice LLC, as follows: Surveillance Radar Element (SRE), Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) and Precision Approach Radar (PAR). Based on the signed Framework Agreement, the first radar system will be delivered to the Transport Wing Kuchyňa by the end of 2021.

The negotiated procedure was selected as a public procurement procedure for the new airport surveillance radar systems. The competition was announced twice and in both cases the contract notice was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). ELDIS Pardubice LLC was the only company to have submitted a bid in both cases.

## Selecting 3 best offers

(2 December) Acting in line with a respective government resolution, the MOD is to submit the proposed solution for replacement of the SVK Air Force's 3D radar systems to the Security Council and the Government by 31 Dec 2020. Earlier, the MOD notified the bidders, informing them that they must supply additional information under this competition. The information is being assessed by subject matter experts in Defence.

Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď said: "In the questionnaire attached to the Request for Government Proposal (RfGP) we requested that more detailed information be provided on this G2G procurement and on the SVK industry's role in delivering the contract over the whole service life of the radar systems. So, we asked the bidders to provide a specific form of guarantee – a letter of confirmation, one that would bind them to cooperating with our defence industry."

On 26 Oct 2020, the MOD notified five countries (the French Republic, the State of Israel, Hungary, the United States of America and the United Kingdom) that they were required to provide additional information no later than 27 Nov 2020.

Once the Tender Evaluation Panel has completed the evaluation process, the Defence Minister will present the three best offers for replacement of the SVK Air Force's 3D (medium-, short-, very short-range) radar systems to the Security Council and the Government.

## Credibility of SVK Armed Forces remains stable at over 70%

(3 December) The credibility of the SVK Armed Forces has in the long term remained stable with high levels of public trust, as confirmed by the Armed Forces Reputation Survey conducted on behalf of the MOD since 2001. As results show, 72.6% of respondents reported having trust and confidence in the Armed Forces. The survey was based on a representative sample of 1,200 respondents and was conducted from 27 Oct to 2 Nov 2020. Defence Minister Naď said: "Our MOD and Armed Forces are the only ones to have – regularly, continually and in the long run – evaluated the SVK public opinion on their areas of activity. Feedback from members of the public is truly important for us. I am very pleased we can conclude this time as well that our Armed Forces have once again defended their strong position as one of the most trustworthy institutions and I believe this will continue into the future." The public are aware of the SVK military's response to the pandemic. "The survey shows that 69.5% appreciate the actions of SVK service personnel in the fight against COVID-19," highlighted Mr Naď. The survey suggests that 67.6% support the SVK Armed Forces, 79.4% say they can rely on soldiers in handling natural disasters, and 81.3% confirm that Slovakia needs the Armed Forces. That infrastructure and equipment have since long been neglected is also reflected in answers, as only 39% are in no doubt about the quality of military equipment and 54.2% think of the quality of military equipment as being comparable to other V4 armed forces. The MOD was also interested in the opinions of the SVK public on Slovakia's membership in NATO and the EU. Over half the public (57.7%) believe our membership in the EU is a guarantee of Slovakia's security and stability, while a majority (58.8%) agree that our membership in NATO reinforces Slovakia's international standing.

■ Skier Adam Žampa, member of the Dukla Banská Bystrica Military Sports Centre, finished 7th place in the 2nd round of the World Cup giant slalom in Italy's Santa Caterina Valfurva on 5 Dec. His brother Andreas placed 24th.

■ The SVK Armed Forces Personnel Office evaluated the suitability of reservists for the Active Reserves on 4 Dec. Of the 58 applications submitted, 32 reservists have met the requirements for the Active Reserves and they are to join the 129 personnel already serving in the Active Reserves. Today, Active Reservists are trained by Military Police, 5th Special Forces Regiment, 21st Mechanised Battalion, Engineer Battalion and CBRN Battalion. Next year, they will also be trained by the Defence Staff, HQ SVK Army and HQ 1st Mech Bde.

■ A 13th Mechanised Battalion serviceman, dressed in a St Nikolaus (Santa Claus) outfit, visited the Centre for Children and Families in Levice, bringing sweets to them. As it was not possible for him to meet kids due to the pandemic measures in place, the bags full of sweets and special treats were taken over by Director of the Centre Ms Zuzana Králiková.

■ The Institute of Military History (VHÚ) has successfully carried out two EU-funded projects in 2013-2020, ensuring their sustainability. The VHÚ Cultural Heritage Digitalisation project saw 25,125 digital files with about 300,000 pages made available to e-researchers as of 30 Nov 2020. The aim of the second project was to upgrade information-processing and technical devices to enhance the quality of research by VHÚ.

■ The European Defence Agency Conference, held on 3-4 Dec, addressed the EU's new Strategic Compass to set a clear direction for European defence policy. The Compass builds on the 2016 EU Global Strategy, because the Strategy is less specific on many areas. Intense work is underway on the EU's new Strategic Compass. Current developments and conclusions of the Conference can be accessed at <https://twitter.com/EUDefenceAgency>.

■ The MOD has issued a traffic warning to motorists as three Allied road movements by Croatian troops are scheduled to take place across Slovakia from 7 to 13 Dec 2020. The MOD stresses that the Allied transits have been approved in line with SVK Public Health Authority-issued guidelines. Over the same period, the SVK Armed Forces will conduct convoy movements from/to: Martin – Trenčín and back, Martin – Nemecká and back, and TC Lešť – Nitra.

## New soldiers take Oath of Allegiance at Training and Mobilisation Base

(1 December) A total of 199 new soldiers (29 women) took the Oath of Allegiance at the Training and Mobilisation Manning Base Martin on 27 Nov 2020. The ceremony was

attended by Commander SVK Army Brig Gen Ivan Pach, Chief of Staff for Operations Support (Defence Staff) Col Pavol Tököly, SVK Armed Forces CSEL Sgt Maj Marcel Kaniak, and other guests. Addressing the new soldiers, Col Pavol Tököly said: "As with all modern armed forces of the 21st century, the SVK Armed Forces need the ability to respond flexibly to today's security challenges. You had an opportunity to see this for yourselves during this initial military training (IMT), as we reacted together to the pandemic developments, whether it be



## Cooperation on military aviation



(30 November) Alongside Czechia and Poland, Slovakia will cooperate on military aviation with Hungary too. This means that if airspace of one State Party is violated, assets of another State Party may be utilised in response to such violation of airspace. The bilateral agreement was signed by SVK Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď and HUN Defence Minister Tibor Benkó at the MOD. Mr Naď made a remark about him launching the preparatory process for the Agreement as early as 2010, at a time when he held the post of Director General of the then Defence Policy, International Relations and Legislation Department in the Ministry of Defence. "Our long-term goal was to engage all V4 countries in cross-boarder cooperation on joint airspace protection, in other words, to extend the area of operations for Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) aircraft within NATINAMDS to include all four states," he added.

The Ministers also summarised the main areas of NATO and EU cooperation so far. On developments regarding the SVK military's response to COVID-19, the head of the SVK MOD briefed his Hungarian partner on Op Shared Responsibility. On behalf of the SVK Government, Mr Naď thanked the HUN Government for offering civilian medical staff to help with Phase 1 of Slovakia's mass population testing for COVID-19.

## Minister meets CZE Ambassador

(3 December) Defence Minister Jaroslav Naď received the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Slovakia, His Excellency Mr Tomáš Tuhý who was accompanied by Czech Defence Attaché Maj Gen Ján Gurník on his visit to the SVK Ministry of Defence. The SVK-CZE bilateral engagement in the field of defence and security was the central theme of the talks. At the meeting, Minister Naď provided an updated to Ambassador Tuhý on the modernisation programmes of the SVK Armed Forces and presented how the MOD was managing the procurement of radar systems for the SVK Air Force.

## Waste stored safely

(1 December) In storing biological waste from the mass testing as part of Op Shared Responsibility, the MOD acts absolutely responsibly, safely and fully in line with the requirements for storage of hazardous waste, as set out in Ministry of Environment regulations. The SVK Armed Forces are storing the waste from COVID-19 test sites at the Mokrad military facility. Neither the MOD nor the Central Military Hospital (CMH) carry on waste disposal operations. "We store the waste temporarily and hand it over to a person authorised to deal with it," he explained. This waste can be stored for a period of up to one year. Therefore, there is no need to dispose of it in a hasty manner, but it is important to find a most advantageous solution, ecologically and economically. In this way the MOD wants to help the CMH, which has 300 tonnes of medical waste to be disposed of by a contractor.

by suspending the training or by deploying some of you on Op Shared Responsibility."

Pte Miroslav Vasilko was named Best IMT Graduate and the Base Commander had his name entered into the Chronicle of the Unit as the highest moral recognition for the best soldier of the intake. SVK Armed Forces CSEL Sgt Maj Marcel Kaniak named Sgt 1st Class Justín Sušienka as Best IMT Instructor. CHOD Gen Daniel Zmeko presented a Letter of Thank You to 25 new soldiers. During Op Shared Responsibility, the soldiers worked as operators on the Information Gathering Group at the Regional Point of Command (RPC) Martin and markedly contributed to the success of the mission.