

AIR, SYSTEMS

(FR) Next Generation Medium Helicopter (NGMH)

(established in May 2023)

For Public Release

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Several initiatives have been launched very recently about next generation rotorcrafts capabilities: the NATO project Next Generation Rotorcraft Capability (NGRC), (MoU signed in June 2022 by UK, IT, FR, DE, NL, EL) the EDF 2021 project European Next Generation Rotorcraft Technologies (ENGRT), assigned to FR, IT, DE, NL, EL, ES, FI and SE Industry.

The ENGRT project is essential to organize EU industry and insure the European Sovereignty in the future generation of rotorcrafts for the next decades. This EDF project addresses at this stage mainly research and technology, some of them possibly usable for earlier upgrade of existing platforms. At the same time, some EU existing fleets may still have an important potential flying maybe until 2050+. This is e.g. the case of the NH90, the result of a cooperation program with deep EU roots: France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands launched it in 1992. Today, it involves 11 States, among which 8 EU MS (FR, IT, DE, FI, SE, BE, NL, ES). As renewal perspectives for MEDIUM-SIZE MULTI-ROLE HELICOPTER based on NGRC or ENGRT will likely not occur before 2040+, so current capabilities must undergo a modernisation process in order to remain suitable for 2030+ missions and operations.

In this context, the present NGMH project aims at creating a dedicated forum for pMS to discuss in a consistent way the EU operational needs both on the upgrade of the EU existing fleets (e.g. NH90) and on the European Next Generation Rotorcraft, in order to harmonize the needs and the calendar of EU countries on future capabilities of rotorcrafts. For example, the modernization and extension of NH90 until 2050+ could be possible only if it is shared among several countries to ensure that the size of the NH90 fleet will remain sufficient to allow affordable development, production and maintenance costs.

This forum aims to address both the renovation of existing fleets and the introduction of the next generation of rotorcraft, to ensure consistency between their operational use, their schedule, their interoperability (in case of co-existence), and the possible sharing of technological developments between them. Regarding existing fleets (e.g. NH90), the project will identify obsolete components, provide coherent solutions, and initiate a reflexion on which upgrades are required for the assets to deliver on future missions and operations (connectivity, collaborative combat, manoeuvre, penetration, survivability, and armament capabilities). In doing so, existing fleets will remain suited to 2030+ missions and operations until or in complement of the arrival of next generations rotorcrafts. Moreover, it is essential to identify a common road map between pMS for renovation of existing fleets to avoid parallel short-time modernization projects by each pMS, which would be very inefficient for the cost, the industrial capability and the availability of the fleets.

The project will identify the needs of pMS until 2050+ and will identify shared, consistent and affordable roadmaps for both the modernisation of existing fleets and the next generation rotorcraft to ensure a high level of EU rotorcraft capabilities during the whole period 2030-2050+.

OBJECTIVES/PRODUCTS

To create a dedicated forum to prepare the future of EU military rotorcrafts in the medium and long term. This will include both the discussions on new rotorcraft platforms and the mid-life renovation of existing helicopters (e.g. NH90) in order to ensure the coherence of EU rotorcraft capabilities and technological developments. These discussions are necessary for consistent modernisation pMS' fleets and preparation of the next generation rotorcrafts. This forum aims to provide coherent solutions for future EU rotorcraft capabilities among the development of new platforms and the upgrade of existing ones (e.g. NH90). The analysis of obsolete components of existing fleets and the development of new connectivity, manoeuvre, penetration, survivability, collaborative and armament capabilities will allow the NGMH pMS to face modern threats and meet missions and operations prerequisites from 2030 to 2050+ in a coherent and affordable way. Elaborate common requirements on viable options and calendar.



FR, FI, IT, ES

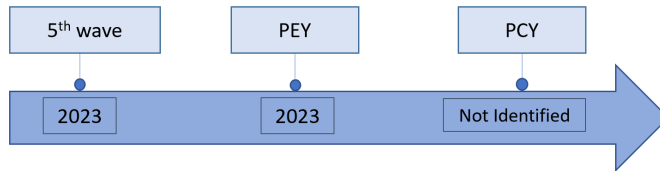


DE, EL, HU, SE

IDEATION
INCUBATION
EXECUTION
CLOSING**Contribution to
the more binding
commitments**
Yes**Capability
Perspective****EU CDP priority**
Air Superiority**CARD references**
Medium Multi-
Role Helicopters**Operational
Viewpoint****HICG**
Helicopter
Transport
Medium, AVN-
HTM**EDA support**
No

INDICATORS

Project Execution Year (PEY) and Project Completion Year (PCY):



DELIVERABLES ACHIEVED

- No deliverables achieved yet.

CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS

- Draft common capabilities requirements and a joint calendar to achieve both the existing fleets (e.g. NH90) modernisation and the next generation rotorcraft in a consistent way.
- Draft Harmonisation of standards and requirements to ensure short-term capability and long-term affordability for the modernization of existing fleets and long-term capability and affordability for the next generation rotorcraft.
- Provide an analysis of EU participate Member states future demand concerning existing and new tactical platforms.