

Future Acquisitions For the Norwegian Defence Sector 2022–2029

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1. Introduction

The Norwegian Long-Term Defence Plan outlines the continuous development of the Norwegian Defence Sector with respect to organisation, infrastructure (garrisons and bases), personnel (numbers, composition and qualifications) and materiel (existing equipment and new acquisitions). The Government outlines a direction towards a more capable and sustainable defence force better able to face future challenges and the changing security environment. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) maintains the National Investment plan for the defence sector through continuous planning in different timeframes from four to twenty years ahead. The National Investment Plan itself is evaluated and updated several times per annum based on changing requirements, resources and progress within on-going acquisitions. The Investment Plan outlines the basis for all major procurement activities in the short- term (4 years) and the medium-term (8 years) perspectives. MoD issues The Investment Plan at least once a year.

The Government acknowledges the defence industries contribution to the Armed Forces' capabilities. The defence industry provides the Armed Forces with support from the provision and maintenance of military equipment through delivery of a wide range of support services.

A central feature in the annual updating of the Investment Plan is the preparation and publication of an unclassified overview of long-term requirements and objectives. This publication does not examine each planned project in detail but establishes a platform for in-depth discussions between the Defence Sector and industry. Hence, industry can get an early overview of potential future investments. The intent of giving this insight to commercial entities is to present the possibility for single or cooperative initiatives that can support the needs of both the Defence Sector and the Industry. Having a proven and highly skilled industry is also fundamental for being able to compete in the international defence market, a market that in many ways remains closed. Infrastructure projects are only described in the text through the document. Details in the tables will be included in a later edition.

The investment projects are subject to decisions and approval by the MoD and the Parliament.

The projects listed in this publication have not yet been approved for implementation, as they have status as planned projects. It is necessary to emphasise that any project not yet formally approved may subsequently be terminated or changed without any further explanation or liability.

Details related to a small number of classified and sensitive projects are being withheld.

Projects that are approved will not be addressed in this publication, but are listed in the charts presented in chapter 4. Information about major projects in this category can be found, among other places, on the home page of the Norwegian Defence Materiel Agency (NDMA).

This publication is only available as an electronic document on the Defence Sector's website <http://www.regjeringen.no>, and will not be published in paper format. An English version is published due to the statutory objectives and principles of procurement regulations, regarding competition and equal treatment.

2. National Defence Industry Strategy

Spring 2021, the Parliament endorsed a White Paper on a new National Defence Industry Strategy.¹ An English short-version of the strategy was released in the summer of 2021.

An increasingly complex security environment with rapid technological advancements creates challenges that require actions to protect our national security and prosperity. The Norwegian defence industry is strategically important for Norway and is vital for our national security interests. In order to provide operational support and capabilities for the Norwegian Armed Forces, we need a viable and predictable defence industry. The Norwegian defence industry is one of world's leading producers of niche products, and one of the core elements of the new industrial strategy is to improve the Norwegian defence industry to become even more competitive globally.

In order to have a competitive industry the National Defence Industry Strategy has prioritized eight technological areas, which provides the industry with a clear direction for future developments and national needs. The strategy highlights the importance of innovation, technology, national and international cooperation, and addresses the most important elements to maintain a future-proof Norwegian defence industry.

The eight prioritized technological areas are as following:

1. Command and control systems, information, decision support and combat systems
2. Systems integration
3. Autonomous systems and artificial intelligence
4. Missile technology
5. Underwater technology
6. Ammunitions, propulsion technologies and explosives
7. Material technology developed for military use
8. Life cycle support for military land, air and sea systems

¹ Meld. St. 17 2020 – 2021, «Samarbeid for sikkerhet – Nasjonal forsvarsindustriell strategi for et høyt teknologisk og fremtidsrettet forsvar»

Additionally, the Government will seek to take advantage of emerging disruptive technologies nationally and as part of international cooperation.

The strategy puts forward a holistic approach on how incentives are included in the acquisition process of defence equipment. The incentives are adjusted to each phase of the life cycle, from research and development to procurement and sustainment. The strong cooperation between the defence sector, defence industry and academia has been essential in achieving innovation and exploitation of new technology. The defence sector must cooperate with relevant industry from other sectors that are in lead of their respective technological areas. Cooperating with leading actors in academia and the civilian industry and engagement in collaborative development brings new technology that will help modernize the Norwegian Armed Forces.

The Ministry of Defence will facilitate and strengthen international cooperation to ensure the Armed Forces' access to critical capacities and enhance global market access for the Norwegian industry. Bilateral and international cooperation is a crucial measure for success. The strategy further highlights the need to develop and reinforce the cooperation with small- and medium size businesses, which provide relevant technology, services and products. A stronger international procurement and industrial cooperation strengthens Norway's contribution to support national and international ability to deliver technology, systems and expertise in demand.

Norway has adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The defence sector is also committed to implement goals relevant for the defence sector. Promotion of transparency, accountability, integrity and fighting corruption are strongly emphasised. Several mitigating actions are successfully across the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

3. Investments in the Norwegian Defence Sector

The Norwegian Defence Sector consists of the Norwegian Ministry of Defence (MoD) and its subordinate bodies; the Norwegian Armed Forces, the Norwegian Defence Estates Agency, the Norwegian Defence Materiel Agency and the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment. All new investment projects within the Defence Sector are approved by the MoD, and subordinate bodies execute the planning and procurements according to existing procedures. An important tool is the PRINSIX project model that describes phases, decision points and roles/responsibilities. This project model ensures a uniform execution of procurements. The MoD has established several investment domains to oversee and provide guidance through all the phases of procurements. Projects are typically conceived in two ways. One is the top-down approach, which largely deals with the major weapon systems resulting from strategic planning processes. The second way is the bottom-up approach, which deals with smaller requirements typically initiated by the services and users. At an early stage, the proposal is known as a Project Idea (PI), which is assessed by the portfolio manager, who presents recommendations to the investment committee, led