

ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER

ALFA, a European cooperative research project, has officially started on **1st January 2017** with a set duration of 36 months. It receives funding from the European Union under grant agreement number 70002.

ALFA: ADVANCED LOW FLYING AIRCRAFTS DETECTION AND TRACKING

Protecting European borders against drug trafficking is crucial. Of primary importance is the increasing use of small aircraft vehicles that allows for almost undetected border crossings, especially coastal borders. Therefore, a system that improves existing surveillance and significantly increases the detection probability, particularly of small aircraft vehicles, is needed. Moreover a prediction of the landing or dropping zone of the aircraft is required.

The ALFA surveillance system, to be developed within the framework of this project, is offering these capabilities. It will bridge the existing capability gap of current operational surveillance systems for border control.

The main objective of the project is the **development of a system for timely detection, classification and understanding of the intentions of suspected air targets**. ALFA will be executed in close cooperation with two principal end users in the consortium, namely the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Portugal (Guarda Nacional Republicana – GNR) and Spain (Dirección General de la Guardia Civil – GC). The major advantage of their active participation is that the ALFA system will be demonstrated in a realistic environment. ALFA will contribute to the following EU strategic goals:

increase of the EU
internal security

reduction of cross
border crime

interdiction of drug
trafficking

assistance for
prosecution of
drug trafficking
criminals

confiscation of
drugs and aircraft

interdiction of
weapon and illicit
substance
trafficking

Dissemination and exploitation measures concerning the project's results will ensure the maximisation of the project's impact. Project results will be spread by giving talks at conferences and trade shows, by writing articles for technical and academic publications so that the research results can be used to create value within all participating organizations and thus their competitive advantages can be improved.

The consortium of the ALFA project brings together an European team of recognized organizations from various backgrounds, making it well-positioned to achieve its objectives. All in all there are 9 partners from 6 different European countries (Austria, The Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Germany) including 3 industrial partners, 1 SME, 1 university, 2 research institutions and 2 government agencies.

The partners are:

- TECHNIKON Forschungs- und Planungsgesellschaft mbH, Austria
- Nederlandse Organisatie voor toegepast-natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek ,The Netherlands
- INOV INESC Inovação, Portugal
- Thales Nederland B.V., The Netherlands
- Engineering – Ingegneria informatica spa, Italy
- Ministerio da Administracao Interna (Ministry of Internal Affairs) - Guarda Nacional Republicana, Portugal
- Atos Spain SA, Spain
- Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany
- Ministerio del Interior - Dirección General de la Guardia Civil, Spain

For more information visit <http://www.alfa-h2020.eu> [coming soon]

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ALFA:

Advanced Low Flying Aircraft Detection and Tracking



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