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DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLISH SPACE CAPABILITIES

Abstract

Implementation of innovative defense technologies into the armaments and military equipment to be acquired for the Polish Armed Forces is the main mission of Inspectorate for Implementation of Innovative Defense Technologies (I3TO). I3TO reached full operational readiness in September 2014. It is subordinated to the Polish Minister of National Defense and directly supervised by the Secretary of State. The main objectives of I3TO are: a) identification and monitoring of innovative technology development in order to implement it into the military armament and equipment, b) supervision of research and development (RD) projects aimed at application of new technological solutions into the armed forces to increase their operational capabilities. The Inspectorate's goal is to monitor the process of finding new space technologies which can be developed in the field of effective exploitation of space and satellite technologies for the needs of the Polish Armed Forces and review execution of ESA's and EDA's selected research programs and projects. That is why I3TO is involved in work of task groups within the programs of space research and exploitation. The main task for the Inspectorate is identification, analysis, collecting and sharing of data on perspective defense technologies and taking into account scientific research included in Priority Scientific Research Directions in the Ministry of National Defense. In the near future, the Polish Armed Forces plan to develop/acquire national satellites (military/dual-use). The budget has been allocated for the purpose. That step will bring Poland closer to being independent and a more attractive partner for the allied armed forces. In our research we found that to ensure reliable, secured and cost-effective services, there is also a need to start thinking about building our own capabilities of observation and tracking of space objects (particularly satellites and debris), collision migration between satellites and orbit (Space Surveillance and Tracking SST), or situational awareness of other countries' activities through space monitoring (Space Situational Awareness SSA) in order to create and feed a national catalogue. Summarizing, Poland has gained science and technology background, what established proper businesses environment for collaboration between interested parties - the Polish Armed Forces and NATO partners, industry and science centers.