

First of a kind assessment trial of systems for hidden threat detection

Detection of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and landmines is an important capability that enables the armed forces to protect the soldiers and increase their survivability. Next to the development of detection technologies conducted in the framework of four different EU-funded projects (DeterMine, AIDEDex, CONVOY and TICHE), a fifth EU-funded project, HiTDOC, aims at designing and developing appropriate, standardized test procedures and methods to objectively evaluate the performance of the four system solutions. HiTDOC organises a yearly Hidden Threat Detection Challenge where the threat detection systems are tested against realistic threat targets and military relevant scenarios.

The first field trial of the EDF Hidden Threat Detection Challenge was conducted on 23–27 September in Sweden. During this trial, the systems were tested against a variety of threat targets buried in and placed along different tracks. Although the detection systems are still in development, the trial was very successful. All teams could test integrated solutions involving a large variety of sensors. The data collected by the participating teams will enable them to further develop their detection systems. Many valuable lessons were learned, both for HiTDOC and for the participating teams. The experience gained will lead to further improvements in the next campaign.



Example of AIDEDex sensor system.



Example of CONVOY sensor system.



Example of TICHE sensor system.



Example of DeterMine sensor system.



This project has received funding from the European Defence Fund (EDF) under grant agreement EDF-2022-101121350-HiTDOC. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or The European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

