

### **Space-related items in Germany's new 100 billion € *Special Fund Bundeswehr***

As a consequence of the illegal Russian military invasion of the Ukraine the German Government recently announced its intention to establish a 100 billion € special fund to maintain existing capabilities of the Bundeswehr (the German armed forces) and enable further investments into it to strengthen German defence and alliance capabilities.

As part of the discussion to establish the necessary domestic legal framework, which is expected to come into force soon, the powerful Budget Committee of the German Bundestag released a *Recommended Resolution and Report* document, including an annexed draft *Economic Plan 2022 of the Special Fund Bundeswehr* (<https://dserver.bundestag.de/btd/20/020/2002090.pdf>). This draft lists several space-related items to be financed via the special fund:

- the section on *Research, Development and Artificial Intelligence* estimates expenses of around 422 million € for three items, including *land and sea-based robust navigation under NAVWAR conditions (LaSeRoNN)* and *mobile robust navigation under NAVWAR conditions (MobiRoNN)*. NAVWAR stands for NAVigation WARfare. It remains unclear how much of the earmarked fund will go towards these two space-related items. The remaining item focuses on *Surveillance and Securing of Large Areas Using AI* that could be a costly endeavour.
- the section on *Procurement Dimension Leadership Capability/Digitalisation* estimates expenses of around 20.742 billion € for eight items, including *Satellite Communication (SATCOMBw) Stages 2 and 3*. Stage 2 refers to the current satellite system. Stage 3 is the planned successor. The document does not detail how much of the earmarked fund would flow towards this space-specific item.
- the section on *Procurement Dimension Air* estimates expenses of around 33.408 billion € for eleven items, including *System Space Surveillance and Situation Centre with Expansion Stage 2* and *Space-based Early Warning System (TWISTER) EVF*. TWISTER refers to the 'Timely Warning Interception with Space-based TheatER surveillance' project under the EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). EVF is the German reference to the European Defence Fund (EDF). How much the German Government will spend on those two space-specific items in particular is unknown. Most of the earmarked fund will likely flow to the purchase of hardware such as fighter jets and helicopters.

None of these space-related items suggests significant changes to German military investments in the space sector. Also, all these items, primarily serving military support functions, are reasonable investments for the Bundeswehr.

The one item that the German Government should consider adding to future iterations of this Economic Plan is the creation and maintenance of a dedicated hub for the integration of space-related systems and exchange of space-derived data and information with allies, including at EU and NATO level. This can increase Germany's defence and alliance capabilities, including resilience, and also help the Bundeswehr identify gaps and keep up-to-date with space-related military developments elsewhere.