



## AFGHANISTAN: TRUST FUND PROJECT ON TRACK

February 2009



On 7 May 2008, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between NATO and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for the implementation of a project to assist the Afghan Army with the Physical Security and Stockpile Management of their ammunition. NAMSA has been appointed as the Executing Agency for the project which was developed as a result of the Afghanistan-NATO Declaration of 6 September 2006.

This project, valued at 6.3 MEUR, should span over two years. Belgium, Canada and Luxembourg are the lead nations, and Bulgaria, Czech Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States are the other contributing nations.

NAMSA opened an office in the ISAF base at Kabul Afghanistan International Airport (KAIA) soon after the deployment on 1 July 2008. The project management team consists of a project manager, an Afghan project field assistant and a Liaison Officer provided by the Afghan National Army (ANA).

One of the aims of the project is to build a series of new ammunition storehouses and an Ammunition Process Building to improve the ANA's storage capacity and to enable the ANA to inspect and repackage ammunition in a controlled environment. The process building may also help the ANA to conduct small scale demilitarization of surplus and unserviceable ammunition. The site of the construction is adjacent to Chintallah, an existing ammunition depot on the western outskirts of Kabul.

\* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia by its constitutional name.



Area proposed for the extension to the existing depot. Photo: NAMSA

On 2 December 2008, a Bidders' Conference was held for construction companies intending to bid on the project. The conference included a project brief and a site visit to the depot to enable the bidders to see the terrain of the site.



Bidders being briefed on some of the Technical aspects. Photo: NAMSA

In addition to the construction and improvement of facilities, the project has two other elements, the first being the identification of the training requirements for the ANA ammunition staff, and the second being the development of a National Action Plan in conjunction with the ANA in order to assist with the management of ANA stockpiles which includes surplus and unserviceable ammunition.