

**2020**



**CCM ARTICLE 3 EXTENSION  
REQUEST  
BY THE REPUBLIC OF  
BULGARIA**



Republic of Bulgaria

March 2020, Sofia

# CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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## Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<i>CONTACT</i> .....	2
<b>SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<i>DURATION OF THE PROPOSED EXTENSION</i> .....	4
<i>RATIONALE AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION: SUMMARY EXPLANATION OF THE PROPOSED EXTENSION, INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL MEANS AVAILABLE TO OR REQUIRED BY THE STATE PARTY, AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, THE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFYING IT</i> .....	4
<i>OUTLINE FOR HOW AND WHEN STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION WILL BE COMPLETED - SUMMARY WORK PLAN FOR THE PERIOD OF EXTENSION</i> .	6
<i>QUANTITY AND TYPE OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVE SUBMUNITIONS HELD AT THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CONVENTION FOR THAT STATE PARTY AND ANY ADDITIONAL CLUSTER MUNITIONS OR EXPLOSIVE SUBMUNITIONS DISCOVERED AFTER SUCH ENTRY INTO FORCE</i> .....	7
<i>QUANTITY AND TYPE OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVE SUBMUNITIONS DESTROYED DURING THE 8 YEARS AFTER THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THIS CONVENTION FOR THAT STATE PARTY</i> .....	8
<i>Private companies</i> .....	8
<i>QUANTITY AND TYPE OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVE SUBMUNITIONS REMAINING TO BE DESTROYED DURING THE PROPOSED EXTENSION AND THE ANNUAL DESTRUCTION RATE EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED</i> .....	8
<i>Cluster munitions (CMs) owned by the Bulgarian Armed Forces:</i> .....	8
<i>Retained CM and explosive submunitions:</i> .....	9
<b>SECTION 2: DETAILED NARRATIVE</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<i>ORIGINS OF THE ARTICLE 3 CHALLENGE TO MEETING THE DEADLINES</i> .....	10
<i>First phase</i> .....	10
<i>Second phase</i> .....	11
<i>EXISTING NATIONAL STORAGE AND STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION CAPACITIES</i> .....	13
<i>NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE</i> .....	14
<i>RESOURCES MADE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT PROGRESS MADE TO DATE</i> .....	15
<i>METHODS AND STANDARDS USED</i> .....	15
<i>NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE REMAINING CHALLENGES</i> .....	16
<i>HUMANITARIAN, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS</i> .....	17
<i>INSTITUTIONAL, FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL, AND HUMAN MEANS AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND/OR NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MEET REMAINING CHALLENGES</i> .....	17
<i>AMOUNT OF TIME REQUESTED AND REASONING BEHIND THE AMOUNT OF TIME REQUESTED</i> .....	18
<i>DETAILED WORK PLAN COVERING THE AMOUNT OF TIME REQUESTED, WITH MEASURABLE BENCHMARKS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:</i> .....	18
<i>How much storage and stockpile destruction is planned for each year of the extension period?</i> .....	18
<i>What annual costs are projected, including a breakdown of costs?</i> .....	24
<i>What are the expected sources of funding necessary for implementation of the plan?</i> .....	24
<i>What are potential challenges and/or risk factors that may negatively affect the realization of the plan?</i> .....	24
<i>CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY IMPEDE THE ABILITY OF THE STATE PARTY TO DESTROY ALL STOCKPILES DURING THE PROPOSED EXTENSION</i>	25
<i>PICTURES OF THE BULGARIAN ARMED FORCES' CLUSTER MUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVE SUBMUNITIONS</i> .....	26

# CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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## **Introduction**

The Republic of Bulgaria ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in April 2011. For the Republic of Bulgaria CCM entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011. Under its provisions, the Republic of Bulgaria undertakes to destroy or to ensure the destruction of all cluster munitions (CM) within eight years. Accordingly, the deadline for the destruction of the Bulgarian cluster munitions stockpiles was 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019. Due to circumstances outlined below, the Republic of Bulgaria was not in position to complete the cluster munitions destruction within the aforementioned eight years period. In January 2019 a request was submitted by the Republic of Bulgaria to the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of all its cluster munitions stockpiles in accordance with Article 3.2 of the Convention. Following an assessment of the document, the 9<sup>th</sup> MSP agreed that the Republic of Bulgaria should provide an updated extension request including a detailed project management and work plan to be considered at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review Conference, by 1 October 2020.

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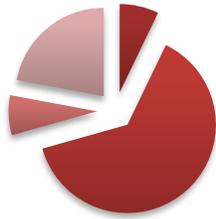
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Section 1: Executive summary

Lot 1 ESs



- RBK 250 ZAB 2,5 SM
- RBK 500 ZAB 2,5 SM
- Submunition type ZAB-2,5
- BKF PTM-3

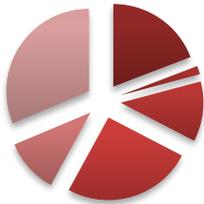
Lot 2 ESs



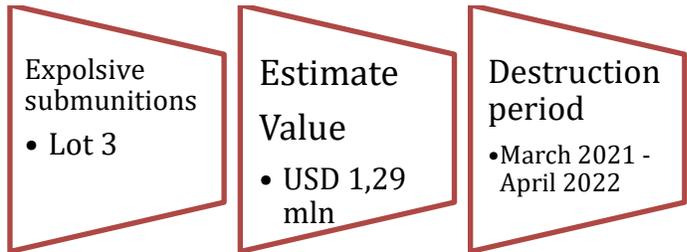
- RBK 250 PTAB-2,5 M
- BKF PTAB-2,5
- Submunition type ZAB-2,5



Lot 3 ESs

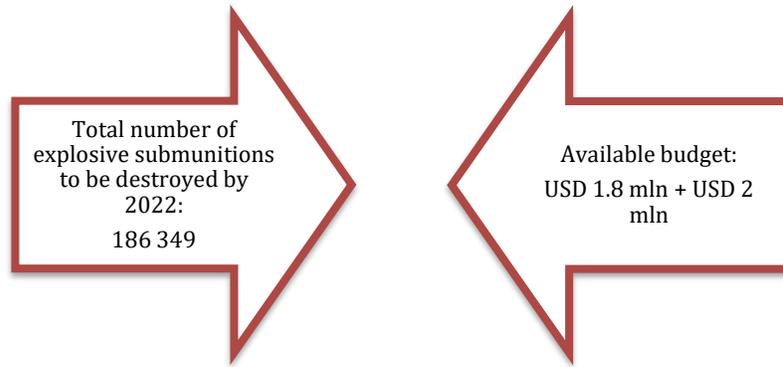


- RBK 500 SHOAB-0,5 M
- RBK 500 SHOAB-0,5
- RBK 500 AO-2,5 RT
- BKF AO-2,5 RT
- BKF AO-2,5 RTM
- RBK 250-275 AO 1 SCh
- RBS 100 AO 25 33



## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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\*Charts including the rate of destruction of the explosive submunitions to be updated every quarter starting in July 2020

### ***Duration of the proposed extension***

Based on the analysis of the current situation and recent developments, Bulgaria is on the opinion that the process of destruction of the cluster munitions stockpiles on the national territory could be completed by October 2022.

Hence, the Republic of Bulgaria would like to submit an extension request for a period of 24 months in order to meet its Article 3 obligations.

### ***Rationale and resource mobilization: Summary explanation of the proposed extension, including the financial and technical means available to or required by the State Party, and, where applicable, the exceptional circumstances justifying it***

The Bulgarian Armed Forces do not have the relevant equipment, facilities, technologies and trained qualified personnel required for the destruction of their own cluster munitions stockpiles on the national territory.

In order to meet the CCM obligations under Article 3, in 2013 the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria (MoD) and the US Embassy in Sofia signed a technical agreement for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions. The United States provided and transferred financial resources (**USD 1, 8 mln**) to NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) for the destruction of up to 875 tons of Bulgarian cluster munitions.

A project contractor was selected in cooperation with NSPA, but the Bulgarian competent authority twice denied a license for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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munitions. The reasons for this denial was the lack of capacity of the contractor to meet the requirements of the Law on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

This situation led to a significant delay, and therefore the work on the project for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions stockpiles was only renewed in 2017. The following year (2018) NSPA and the MoD agreed upon and approved a Statement of Work (SoW) (annexed) as the main element of the tender procedure for selection of a project contractor.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019 a contract was signed between NSPA and the Italian company "Esplosenti Sabino" Srl. for the destruction of cluster munition stockpiles in possession of the Bulgarian Armed Forces. An estimate of the available at the time financial resources indicated that they suffice solely for the destruction of the cluster munitions listed under Lot 1 and Lot 2 outlined in Table 1 in *Detailed narrative* section of the Extension request.

A kick-off meeting between all stakeholders was organized on 31<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August in Sofia to discuss all the aspects of the future implementation of the CM destruction project.

To facilitate the transportation and destruction processes, the Ministry of Defence initiated in September 2019 three additional processes:

- A law amendment to allow the transportation of the CMs outside the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, to a State Party to the Convention – adopted in December 2019;
- A tripartite agreement between the MoD, the project contractor and the transport subcontractor – signed in January 2020;
- A memorandum with the US Embassy in Sofia to secure additional funding of up to **USD 2 mln** for the destruction of the CMs allocated in Lot 3 – signed in February 2020.

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

---

Upon the successful completion of the aforementioned three processes, the commencement of the transportation and destruction activities is set for April 2020.

### ***Outline for how and when stockpile destruction will be completed - Summary work plan for the period of extension***

According to SOW, the contractor should perform the safest and most cost-effective destruction of the cluster munitions within frameworks and conditions required by MoD and agreed with NSPA. The destruction will be performed outside the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, in Italy - a State Party to the Convention.

The Bulgarian cluster munitions and explosive submunitions (ES) of total number **6862** CMs and **186349** ESs have been divided into three (3) lots according to the priorities outlined in Table 1 in ***Detailed narrative*** section of the Extension request.

The contract between NSPA and the Italian company “Esplosenti Sabino” Srl. encompasses the destruction of cluster submunitions allocated to Lot 1 and Lot 2. The process itself should be completed within 10 months after the commencement of the transportation and destruction activities as the kick-off date is set for April 2020. The transportation should occur over the period of eight (8) months and the destruction must be completed no later than two months after the collection of all cluster munitions.

The complete contractual program for the destruction of the Lot 1 and Lot 2 explosive submunitions is to be implemented in the period April 2020 - February 2021.

The destruction activities will start as soon as the cluster munitions arrive at the Destruction Plant, first with Lot 2 and then Lot 1.

Under the provisions of the contract NSPA reserves a unilateral right to order any, all or none of the cluster submunitions listed under Lot 3 within 12 months after contract award and under the same terms and conditions.

The total number of the explosive submunitions in Lot 1 and Lot 2 is almost equal to those in Lot 3. Therefore, the Bulgarian authorities envisage the process of destruction of the Lot 3

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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explosive submunitions to take up to 12 additional months for its finalization between March 2021 and April 2022.

Up to 6 months are scheduled for the verification processes of the project for the destruction of the Bulgarian Army's cluster munitions and any contingencies (should they arise).

### ***Quantity and type of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions held at the entry into force of the Convention for that State Party and any additional cluster munitions or explosive submunitions discovered after such entry into force***

Cluster munitions and submunitions held at the entry into force of the Convention:

*Table A*

Name	Number of CM	Number of explosive submunitions	Gross weight (t)	Net weight (t)
<b>Owned by the Bulgarian Armed Forces</b>				
RBK 250 PTAB-2,5 M	478	20 076	160.13	118.54
RBK 250 ZAB 2,5 SM	60	2 880	15.6	12
RBK 500 ZAB 2,5 SM	86	25 542	45.58	37.41
RBK 500 SHOAB-0,5 M	36	19 656	19.08	14.76
RBK 500 SHOAB-0,5	3	1 695	1.59	1.23
RBK 500 AO-2,5 RT	201	12 060	92.46	76.179
BKF AO-2,5 RT	2 166	25 992	172.2	136.46
BKF AO-2,5 RTM	912	10 944	71.136	56.544
BKF PTM-3	740	8 880	61.05	48.1
BKF PTAB-2,5	1 965	23580	143.45	110.04
RBK 250-275 AO 1 SCh	214	32 100	78.11	58.85
Submunition type ZAB-2,5		2 939	6.7597	6.7597
RBS 100 AO 25 33	1	3	0.1	0.1
9N123K	8	400	N/A	N/A
<b>Owned by "EMKO" LTD</b>				
RBK 250-275 AO-1 SCh	25	3750	N/A	N/A
RBK 250 PTAB-2,5 M	10	420	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	6 905	190917	N/A	N/A

Explosive submunitions discovered after entry into force:

*Table B*

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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Name	Number of CM	Number of explosive submunitions	Gross weight (t)	Net weight (t)
Submunition type PTAB-2,5		2	0.0037	0.0037

### ***Quantity and type of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions destroyed during the 8 years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party***

For the reasons explained above, the Bulgarian Armed Forces have not been able to effectively launch the process of destruction of the cluster munitions stockpiles.

However, as of March 2020 all legal and administrative procedures have been completed and all required export and import licenses and transport permits have been obtained. So, the stage has strongly been set for commencement of the project activities in April 2020.

#### Private companies

In 2018, the Bulgarian private company “EXPAL BULGARIA” JCS managed to destroy all **52 000** explosive submunitions type DPM85 for artillery shells, cal. 155 mm, PAT794, owned by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Slovenia.

Another Bulgarian private company “EMKO” LTD has successfully completed the process of destruction of 25 Air bombs RBK 250-275 AO-1 SCh and 10 Air bombs RBK 250 PTAB-2,5 M, previous owned by the company, by April 2019.

By mid-2019 “EXPAL BULGARIA” JCS has finalized the destruction of **3760** 4.2 OF mines for mortar GRM 20, M20G, imported from Cyprus in 2014.

### ***Quantity and type of cluster munitions and explosive submunitions remaining to be destroyed during the proposed extension and the annual destruction rate expected to be achieved***

#### Cluster munitions (CMs) owned by the Bulgarian

As outlined in Table 1, the total number of CMs and explosive submunitions to be destroyed under the clauses of the contract with NSPA is **6862** CMs and **186349** ESs.

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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The implementation of the contractual program for Lot 1 and Lot 2 is to take place in the period April 2020 - February 2021.

Additional 12 months between March 2021 and April 2022 will be necessary to finalize the destruction activities for Lot 3.

*Retained CM and explosive submunitions:*

As stated in the 2017 CCM Article 7 Annual Report, the Republic of Bulgaria retained 400 explosive submunitions, 9N24, for training purposes of the Bulgarian Armed Forces.

Back in June 2019, 50 explosive submunitions, 9N24, were launched during annual trainings and exercises of the Bulgarian Armed Forces. Another 100 explosive submunitions, 9N24, have been planned for 2021.

### **Section 2: Detailed narrative**

#### ***Origins of the Article 3 challenge to meeting the deadlines***

The Republic of Bulgaria ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) in April 2011 and it entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011. According to Article 3 (2) each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all cluster munitions (CM) as soon as possible but not later than eight years after the entry into force of this Convention for the country. For the Republic of Bulgaria the deadline was 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

In December 2011, an intergovernmental meeting was held to discuss proposals and options for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions.

The activities regarding the process of destroying the cluster munitions stockpiles of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria can be separated in two phases.

#### ***First phase***

The first phase began in 2012 when the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the U.S. Embassy in Sofia negotiated the provision of financial resources for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions.

In 2013, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria and the US Embassy in Sofia signed a technical agreement for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions. Thus, the United States provided and transferred financial resources (USD 1, 8 mln) to NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) for the destruction of up to 875 tons of Bulgarian cluster munitions. Subsequently a tender procedure was conducted in order to select a project contractor.

In 2014, a private company was designated as a project contractor for the destruction of the Armed Forces' cluster munitions.

The implementation of this contract was postponed due to inconsistency between the CCM cluster munitions definitions and the ones outlined in the Law on Arms, Ammunition,

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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Explosives and Pyrotechnic Products. On this basis, the Ministry of the Interior refused to grant permission to the project contractor.

In order to find a proper solution to the definitions issue and to fulfill the commitments undertaken by the Republic of Bulgaria, in November 2015, the National Assembly adopted a Law on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

However, due to non-compliance with the technical requirements of the new Law, the project contractor was denied a license for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions for a second time. The contractor company did not have at its disposal the requisite facilities, means and technologies to execute the destruction of the cluster munitions and explosive submunitions owned by the Bulgarian Army. Thereupon, the contractor company was unable to fulfill its part of the contract with NSPA and the contract itself was terminated at the end of 2016.

Generally, finding a credible project contractor posed a major challenge due to the Soviet origin of the munitions. An option at that time was to have the destruction conducted by a contractor in a third country, non-state party to the Convention, which had the necessary technical knowledge and practice in the field. However, the Convention's provisions outline that the destruction can be done only on a State Party' territory.

The outcome of the first phase led to the conclusion that the destruction of cluster munitions is most likely to take place outside the territory of Bulgaria, in a State Party of the Convention.

### Second phase

Given the 2013 technical agreement between MoD and the US Embassy in Sofia for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions, in 2017 the project for the destruction of Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions was reinstated in cooperation with U.S. Government and NSPA.

In January 2018, the Bulgarian Law on Cluster Munitions was amended so that material resulting from the destruction process, whether of commercial value or a waste stream

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

---

requiring further treatment, becomes ownership of the contractor when the destruction of CM stockpiles takes place outside the Bulgarian territory.

By the end of 2018 NSPA and the MoD agreed upon and approved a Statement of Work (SoW) as the main element of the tender procedure for selection of a project contractor.

Taking into consideration the available financial resources and the financial assessment of the proposed bids, the proposal for a contract comprises only the destruction of the explosive submunitions listed under Lot 1 and Lot 2 outlined in Table 1 in *Detailed narrative* section of the Extension request.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019, following the successful completion of the tender procedure for selection of a project contractor, a contract was signed between NSPA and the Italian company “Esploidenti Sabino” Srl. for the destruction of those cluster munition stockpiles in possession of the Bulgarian Armed Forces allocated to Lot 1 and Lot 2. However, under the contract provisions NSPA reserves a unilateral right to order all the explosive submunitions listed under Lot 3 within 12 months after contract award and under the same terms and conditions.

A kick-off meeting between representatives of the relevant Bulgarian institutions, NSPA, the U.S. Embassy in Bulgaria, the contractor company “Esploidenti Sabino” Srl. and the Bulgarian subcontractor transport company “Tempus Link” LTD was organized on 31<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August in Sofia. All stakeholders discussed in detail the aspects of the future implementation of the CM destruction project.

Based on these deliberations, in September 2019 the Ministry of Defence commenced three separate initiatives to guarantee the successful execution of the whole cluster munitions destruction process.

Firstly, since a foreign company was selected as a contractor, a need for an amendment of the Law on Cluster Munitions was identified, since the Law treats transportation and destruction as two separate activities. When the process of destruction is conducted outside the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, a legislative possibility should be provided to issue a transportation license to legal entities acting as a transportation subcontractor and

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

---

registered as traders in a CCM State Party. In December 2019 the National Assembly adopted the amendment in question.

Subsequently, in January 2020 a Logistics Coordination Arrangement on Destruction of Cluster Munitions was signed between the MoD, on the one hand, and the Italian company “Esplosenti Sabino” Srl. and the Bulgarian transportation subcontractor “Tempus Link” LTD, on the other.

In parallel, the abovementioned stakeholders have managed to obtain all the requisite export and import licences and internal transport and transit permits. Thus, the way was paved for the commencement of the actual implementation of the transportation and destruction activities of the cluster munitions in April 2020.

In September 2019, the Ministry of Defence launched a negotiation process with the United States to secure additional financial resources for the destruction of the cluster munitions allocated in Lot 3. The negotiations led to signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of State and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria regarding Assistance for Destruction of Conventional Weapons (MoU) in February 2020. According to its provisions, the United States should provide up to **USD 2 mln** to facilitate the destruction of the cluster munitions in the possession of the Bulgarian Ministry of Defence and its subordinate structures.

### ***Existing national storage and stockpile destruction capacities***

In 2018, the private company “EXPAL BULGARIA” JCS managed to destroy all **52 000** explosive submunitions type DPM85 for artillery shells, cal. 155 mm, PAT794, owned by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Slovenia.

In December 2018, “EXPAL BULGARIA” JCS obtained a license, granted by the Bulgarian authorities, for the destruction of **3760** 4.2 OF mines for mortar GRM 20, M20G, imported from Cyprus in 2014. The process of destruction was finalized by mid-2019.

However, the private company does not have the required facilities to carry out the process of destruction of the cluster munitions and explosive submunitions owned by the Bulgarian

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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Armed Forces, as the latter significantly differ in numbers and types from the Slovenian and Cypriot ones.

The cluster munitions of the Bulgarian Armed Forces are held in the following military bases:

*Table C*

Ser	Military Base (MB)		Approximate CM Distribution		Road Distance to Ports (km)		Explosive sub munitions
	Number	Location	tons	US Tons	Varna	Burgas	
<b>Air Force</b>							
<b>1</b>	MB 26810	Popovica	283	309	350	225	55925
<b>Joint Force Logistics Brigade</b>							
<b>2</b>	MB 32830	Asen	181	201	330	230	34 055
<b>3</b>	MB 22720	Smyadovo	210	230	115	130	66 129
<b>4</b>	MB 22780	Dolno Kamarci	195	211	430	380	30240

### ***Nature and extent of the progress made to date***

The project for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions, financed by the U.S. government, was delayed due to reasons of normative and technical character, as the first project contractor, selected in cooperation with NATO Support and Procurement Agency, was twice denied a license for the destruction of the CM stockpiles.

As stated in Detailed narrative's "Origins of the Article 3 challenge to meeting the deadlines Part", in 2017, the project for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions stockpiles was reinstated. In July 2019 a contract was signed between NSPA and the Italian company "Esplosenti Sabino" Srl. for the destruction of Bulgarian army's cluster munition stockpiles listed under Lot 1 and Lot 2 outlined in Table 1 in ***detailed narrative*** section of the Extension request.

As of March 2020, a Logistics Coordination Arrangement on Destruction of Cluster Munitions is signed and all required export and import licenses and transport permits have been obtained. The start of the transportation and destruction activities is set for April 2020.

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

---

### ***Resources made available to support progress made to date***

According to the 2013 technical agreement signed between the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria and the US Embassy in Sofia, the United States has provided financial resources worth **1, 8 mln USD** for the destruction of the cluster munitions stockpiles of the Bulgarian Armed Forces. When a contract with the Italian company “Esplosenti Sabino” Srl. was signed in July 2019, the financial assessment showed that the funding at hand would not be sufficient for completion of the whole project and Lot 3 would be underfunded.

Subsequently, a negotiation process was instigated. In February 2020 a Memorandum of Understanding with the US Department of State was signed to ensure the additional funding for the destruction of the CMs in Lot 3 of up to **USD 2 mln**.

As of March 2020, the project for the destruction of the cluster munitions stockpiles of the Bulgarian Army is fully funded.

### ***Methods and standards used***

According to the Statement of Work, the contractor shall complete the demilitarization operations associated with each consignment, as evidenced by the signed certificate of demilitarization (COD), within four months following the date on which the contractor collects the ammunition from the MoD nominated location. The contractor shall have sufficient processing capacity to process the ammunition, which is subject to this SOW within the agreed timeframe.

Demilitarization is defined as the process to achieve full destruction of the item such that the ammunition has been destroyed and that no part, material or explosives can be reused for its original intended purpose. Demilitarization of ammunition will be effected by applying procedures developed by the contractor, using tools and equipment provided and maintained by him.

The contractor shall demilitarize the ammunition and dispose of the residues following established industrial standards for the processes to be performed. Demilitarization is considered completed when all the residues from the demilitarization process have been recycled or destroyed.

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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Explosive materials shall be disposed of, where applicable, by cost-effective means consistent with the least possible negative impact on the environment. Explosives may be destroyed, converted into other products or recycled for civilian use. However, explosives shall not be recycled for military use.

The demilitarization operations shall make the optimum use of Resource Recovery and Reuse (R3) to ensure maximum environmental protection/benefit of recovered materials.

In the implementation of this SOW, the contractor shall not use destruction by Open Burning (OB) or Open Detonation (OD) methods.

Ammunition parts and components to be disposed of as scrap must be destroyed by permanent deformation and must be free of toxic and hazardous materials. No part shall be in a condition that will permit re-use for its original intended purpose.

More detailed information regarding the methods and standards to be used can be found in SOW Section 6 – DEMILITARIZATION.

### ***Nature and extent of the remaining challenges***

All the details, concerning the successful implementation of the whole project for the destruction of the cluster munitions stockpiles of the Bulgarian Army, have been specified. The process itself will commence in April 2020.

However, on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 the World Health Organization declared the current outbreak of Coronavirus disease 2019, or COVID-19, a global pandemic. In a common and unparalleled effort to impede the spread of COVID-19, most European governments have taken extreme and unprecedented measures such as states of emergencies, quarantines, lockdowns and closing states borders. The duration of these extraordinary measures remains uncertain.

As the storages and demilitarization plant of the contractor are placed in Italy, the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic country in Europe, our overall assessment is that the present crisis situation may lead to some consequent delays of the transportation and destruction activities.

### ***Humanitarian, economic, social, and environmental implications***

The cluster munitions are safely stored in military bases of the Bulgarian Armed Forces and do not pose a threat to the civilian population.

With regard to the environmental considerations during the implementation of the project for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions stockpiles, the Statement of Work states that the contractor shall establish and maintain systems that protect the environment from contamination, pollution or other adverse impacts resulting from the demilitarization work. The contractor's environmental protection measures shall be, as a minimum, in accordance with national, regional and local laws and regulations.

Demilitarization techniques that involve uncontrolled emissions of the by-products deriving from the burning or detonation of explosive materials, including Open Burning/Open Detonation, are not permitted under this project, even if such techniques are permitted by the national regulations of the country in which the demilitarization takes place.

The contractor is responsible for all safety aspects and for the implementation of all European environmental standards and regulations.

### ***Institutional, financial, technical, and human means and resources available and/or necessary in order to meet remaining challenges***

The project for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions is funded by the U.S. government, which already provided the sum of **USD 1, 8 mln** and is to provide additional **USD 2 mln**.

Points of Contact (POC) are listed in the Statement of Work to assist the transportation within and from Bulgaria. The POCs are from the following institutions: Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Ministry of Interior and Bulgarian Customs Agency.

The Bulgarian Military Police will escort the cluster munitions during movement on the territory of Bulgaria.

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

---

Further information regarding the institutional, financial, technical, and human means and resources available can be found in the Statement of Work.

### ***Amount of time requested and reasoning behind the amount of time requested***

As outlined above, the contract with the Italian company “Esploidenti Sabino” Srl. encompasses the destruction of cluster submunitions allocated to Lot 1 and Lot 2. The transportation and destruction activities are set to begin in April 2020 and are to be completed within 10 months after their commencement. Therefore, we anticipate finalizing the destruction of the explosive submunitions in Lot 1 and Lot 2 by February 2021.

The combined gross weight and number of the explosive submunitions in Lot 1 and Lot 2 corresponds to those of the ESs allocated in Lot 3. Accordingly, the Bulgarian authorities envisage the process of destruction of the Lot 3 explosive submunitions to take 12 additional months for its completion up to April 2022.

Up to 6 months are scheduled for the verification processes of the project for the destruction of the BA’s cluster munitions and any contingencies (should they arise).

We envisage that by the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties in 2022 the Republic of Bulgaria will be reporting the completion of the process of destruction of the cluster munitions stockpiles.

Therefore, the Republic of Bulgaria would like to submit an extension request in order to meet its Article 3 obligations for the timeframe of 24 months until 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.

### ***Detailed work plan covering the amount of time requested, with measurable benchmarks, including, but not limited to:***

*How much storage and stockpile destruction is planned for each year of the extension period?*

Table 1

Priority/L	No	UN No	Class or	All	Net weight

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

		Name			Number of CM	Number of explosive submunitions	Gross weight	Net weight	NEQ	
							(t)	(t)	(t)	
1	1	<b>RBK 250 ZAB 2,5 SM</b>	0010	1.3G	60	2 880	15.60	12.00	*	200
	2	<b>RBK 500 ZAB 2,5 SM</b>	0010	1.3G	86	25 542	45.58	37.41	*	435
	3	<b>Submunition type ZAB-2,5</b>	0010	1.3G		2,939	6.76	6.76	*	2.3
	4	<b>BKF PTM-3</b>	0370	1.1E	740	8 880	61.05	48.10	23.70	65
		<b>Subtotal:</b>			<b>886</b>	<b>40241</b>	<b>128.99</b>	<b>104.27</b>	<b>23.70</b>	
2	1	<b>RBK 250 PTAB-2,5 M</b>	0370	1.1E	478	20 076	160.13	118.54	12.60	248
	2	<b>BKF PTAB-2,5</b>	0370	1.1E	1,965	23580	143.45	110.04	14.90	56
	3	<b>Submunition type PTAB-2,5</b>	0370	1.1E		2	0.0056	0.0056	0.00126	2.8
			<b>Subtotal:</b>			<b>2443</b>	<b>43658</b>	<b>303.58</b>	<b>228.59</b>	<b>27.50</b>
3	1	<b>RBK 500 SHOAB-0,5 M</b>	0370	1.1E	36	19 656	19.08	14.76	2.10	410
	2	<b>RBK 500 SHOAB-0,5</b>	0370	1.1E	3	1 695	1.59	1.23	0.20	410
	3	<b>RBK 500 AO-2,5 RT</b>	0370	1.1E	201	12 060	92.46	76.18	9.80	379
	4	<b>BKF AO-2,5 RT</b>	0370	1.1E	2,166	25 992	172.20	136.46	21.20	63
	5	<b>BKF AO-2,5 RTM</b>	0370	1.1E	912	10 944	71.14	56.54	8.90	62
	6	<b>RBK 250-275 AO 1 Sch</b>	0370	1.1E	214	32 100	78.11	58.85	2.20	275
	7	<b>RBS 100 AO 25 33</b>	0370	1.1E	1	3	0.10	0.10	0.02	100
			<b>Subtotal:</b>			<b>3553</b>	<b>102450</b>	<b>434.67</b>	<b>344.12</b>	<b>44.42</b>
		<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>6862</b>	<b>186349</b>	<b>867.25</b>	<b>676.98</b>	<b>95.62</b>	

The Bulgarian cluster munitions are to be destroyed under a contract between NSPA and the Italian company “Esplosenti Sabino” Srl. The contractor company is skilled in environmentally friendly demilitarization activities since the 70’s and has specialized in disposal of cluster munitions since 2003 acting as a prime contractor with its own storages and demilitarization plant placed in Italy. In March and April 2019, the company has completed the process of destruction of 25 Air bombs RBK 250-275 AO-1 Sch and 10 Air bombs RBK 250 PTAB-2,5 M, previously owned by the Bulgarian private company “EMKO” LTD.

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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The Italian company “Esploidenti Sabino” Srl. possesses all the requisite capabilities to successfully implement the process of destruction of the Bulgarian Army’s cluster munitions stockpiles.

The cluster munitions of the Bulgarian Armed Forces have been divided into three (3) lots according to the priorities in the Table 1 above. However, the contract with “Esploidenti Sabino” Srl. warrants only the destruction of the CMs allocated in Lot 1 and Lot 2 due to the underfunding of the project at the time of the contract signing in July 2019.

The process of destruction of Lot 1 and Lot 2 CMs will commence in April 2020.

For the execution of the Complete Contractual Program (see Table 2) for the destruction of Lot 1 and Lot 2 explosive submunitions is envisaged a period of **ten (10) months**. All the transportation activities are to be concluded within **eight (8) months** and will be executed by a subcontractor - the Bulgarian company “Tempus Link” LTD. According to the transportation schedule, the total quantity of trucks required to complete the transportation activities is 46 trucks. Three convoys per month, each convoy consisting of three trucks, will transport the CMs from the Bulgarian depots to the contractor’s Demilitarization Plant. The international transport to Italy will be crossing only countries members of both - the European Union and NATO.

The destruction activities will begin as the first collection of cluster munitions arrives at the Demilitarization Plant in Italy and must be finalized no later than **two (2) months** after the collection of all cluster munitions. Due to the recent demilitarization performances of the same Bulgarian cluster munitions (those of “EMKO” LTD), the contractor working lines are perfectly set-up for accepting the items and ready to start.

The Complete Contractual Program (transportation and destruction activities) for Lot 1 and Lot 2 explosive submunitions is to be concluded by February 2021.

The process will start with CMs in Lot 2 and then those in Lot 1.

The detailed Complete Contractual Program, presented by the contractor, for each typology of cluster munitions includes:

*Table 2*

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

<b>Complete Contractual Program</b>										
<b>Month</b>	Cal. Week	Date	Con voy	Lot 1				Lot 2		
				Line 10 <sup>1</sup>	Line 20 <sup>2</sup>	Line 30 <sup>3</sup>	Line 40 <sup>4</sup>	Line 10 <sup>5</sup>	Line 20 <sup>6</sup>	Line 30 <sup>7</sup>
<b>APR 2020</b>	16	13.04.2020	1					87		2
	17									
	18	27.04.2020	2					35	110	
<b>MAY 2020</b>	19	04.05.2020	3					90		
	20									
	21	18.05.2020	4					90		
	22	25.05.2020	5					45	112	
<b>JUN 2020</b>	23									
	24	08.06.2020	6					86		
	25									
	26	15.06.2020	7					45	153	
<b>JUL 2020</b>	27									
	28	06.07.2020	8						224	
	29		9						224	
	30	27.07.2020	10						448	
	31									
<b>AUG 2020</b>	32									
	33									
	34									
	35	24.08.2020	11						448	

<sup>1</sup> Air Bomb RBK 250 (ZAB 2,5 SM)

<sup>2</sup> Air Bomb RBK 500 (ZAB 2,5 SM)

<sup>3</sup> Submunition type ZAB-2,5

<sup>4</sup> Air Bomb BKF PTM-3

<sup>5</sup> Air Bomb RBK 250 (PTAB 2.5 M)

<sup>6</sup> Air Bomb BKF (PTAB 2.5)

<sup>7</sup> Submunition type PTAB-2,5

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

<b>SEPT 2020</b>	36									
	37	07.09.2020	12						188	
			13				64		58	
	38									
	39	21.09.2020	14				224			
40										
<b>OCT 2020</b>	41	05.10.2020	15				224			
	42									
	43	19.10.2020	16				228			
	44									
<b>NOV 2020</b>	45	02.11.2020	17		29					
	46									
	47	16.11.2020	18		19	2939				
	48									
<b>DEC 2020</b>	49	30.11.2020	19		36					
	50									
	51	14.12.2020	20	60	2					
	52									
<b>TOTAL</b>				60	86	2939	740	478	1965	2

Table 3 shows in detail the contractor's Daily Destruction Rate for each typology of cluster munitions.

*Table 3*

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

Lots	Designation	Contract		Daily Rate	Total Working Days
		Quantity			
2	<b>Air Bomb RBK 250 PTAB-2,5 M</b>	CMs	478	10	48
	<b>Air Bomb BKF PTAB-2,5</b>	CMs	1965	30	65
	<b>Submunition type PTAB-2,5</b>	ESs	2	300	0
1	<b>Air Bomb RBK 250 ZAB 2,5 SM</b>	CMs	60	6	10
	<b>Air Bomb RBK 500 ZAB 2,5 SM</b>	CMs	86	6	6
	<b>Submunition type ZAB-2,5</b>	ESs	2939	300	10
	<b>Air Bomb BKF PTM-3</b>	CMs	740	6	125

At the first day of every month, the contractor will be presenting Production Status Report that summarizes the demilitarization status, records the type and quantity of ammunition that has been received at the contractor's storage site as well as the type and quantity of scrap that has been generated.

Regarding Lot 3, as already mentioned, under the provisions of the contract NSPA reserves a unilateral right to order any, all or none of the cluster submunitions listed under Lot 3 within 12 months after the commencement of the activities and under the same terms and conditions.

The Bulgarian MoD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the US Department of State, thus securing additional up to **USD 2 mln** for the destruction of the Lot 3 cluster munitions. As the signing of the MoU was in February 2020, we state that a detailed work plan for Lot 3 will be provided on a later stage.

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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Still, as the quantity of cluster munitions in Lot 1 and Lot 2 corresponds to those in Lot 3, we anticipate the process of destruction of the Lot 3 cluster munitions to require up to 12 additional months for its finalization until April 2022.

Up to 6 months are scheduled for the verification processes of the project for the destruction of the Bulgarian Army's cluster munitions and any contingencies (should they arise).

The Republic of Bulgaria will continue to provide regularly national reports under Article 7 of the Convention which will demonstrate the progress made so far in the process of CMs destruction.

### *What annual costs are projected, including a breakdown of costs?*

The current budget for the implementation of the project for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions stockpiles is **USD 1,8 mln** plus the additional up to **USD 2 mln** as set the provisions of the newly-signed Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of State and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria.

The estimated breakdown of costs (including transportation) is as follows:

The total contract value for the destruction of the explosive submunitions (see Table 1) in Lot 1 and Lot 2 is **USD 1,4 mln**.

The estimate value for Lot 3 is **USD 1,29 mln**.

### *What are the expected sources of funding necessary for implementation of the plan?*

As stated above in the Extension request, the U.S. Government has already provided **USD 1,8 mln** for the destruction of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions and is to provide additional up to **USD 2 mln** as set in the newly-signed Memorandum of Understanding.

### *What are potential challenges and/or risk factors that may negatively affect the realization of the plan?*

As the current crisis situation around the world regarding the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, we assess that some delays may occur thus affecting the commencement of the transportation process.

## CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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### ***Circumstances that may impede the ability of the State Party to destroy all stockpiles during the proposed extension***

See Detailed narrative's "Nature and extent of the remaining challenges" Part.

***Pictures of the Bulgarian Armed Forces' cluster munitions and explosive submunitions***



BKF AO-2,5RT



BKF AO-2,5RTM

# CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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BKF AO-2,5RTM



BKF AO-2,5RTM

# CCM Article 3 Extension Request

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RBK - 250 ZAP-2,5



RBK-250 ZAP-2,5



RBK-250 PTAB - 2,5M



RBK-250 PTAB - 2,5M