The Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe

At a glance
A European association

ASD is the voice of Europe’s aeronautics, space, defence and security industry, representing directly or indirectly (through our national association members) over 3,000 companies of all sizes from 18 countries. Headquartered in Brussels with our space division (i.e. ASD-Eurospace, based in Paris), our association actively supports the competitive development of our industries in Europe and worldwide by advocating common positions and providing technical expertise to institutions and member companies.

An industry that matters

Our members form a unique, diverse and buoyant ecosystem that is of strategic importance for Europe. They are major contributors to the European economy with an annual turnover of €260 billion, representing roughly 890,000 highly skilled employees*. Our companies constantly work with cutting edge technologies and push the boundaries of what is possible. Integrating new technologies into complex systems, our members drive innovation and develop highly competitive products that are key enablers for mobility, security and defence.

Revenue
€260 billion

Direct jobs in Europe
890,000

R&D investment
€18+ billion

* Source: ASD 2020 Facts & Figures
A broad European footprint

National association members

- Austrian Aeronautics Industries Group – AAI
- Austrian Defence Industry Association – WKO
- BSDI - Belgian Security and Defence Industry and Agoria
- Bulgarian Defence Industry Association – BDIA
- Association of the Czech AeroSpace Industry – ALV
- Defence and Security Industry Association of the Czech Republic – AOBP
- DI – Danish Defence and Security Association
- Finnish Defence, Aerospace and Security Industries – AFDA
- French Aeronautics and Space Industries Association – GIFAS
- French Defence Industry Council – CIDEF
- German Aerospace Industries Association – BDLI
- Federal Association of the German Security and Defence Industry – BDSV
- Hellenic Aerospace Security and Defence Industries Group – HASDIG
- Italian Industries Federation for Aerospace, Defence and Security – AIAD
- Dutch Industries for Defence and Security – NIDV
- Norwegian Defence and Security Industries Association – FSI
- Association of Polish Aviation Industry – SPPL
- AED Cluster Portugal
- Spanish Association for Defence, Security, Aeronautics and Space – TEDAE
- Swedish Security and Defence Industry Association – SOFF
- Turkish Defence and Aerospace Industry Manufacturers Association – SaSaD
- UK Aerospace, Defence, Security and Space Industries Group – ADS

Direct company members
Build transnational consensus

Our sectors consist of companies of all sizes across Europe, from small and medium sized enterprises to big transnational system integrators. Given their variety, our companies have sometimes different interests and priorities. At the same time, they all share the same strategic objectives, i.e. to be innovative and competitive in European and worldwide markets. This enables ASD to reach consensus on key issues for our sectors and to speak with one voice on behalf of all our members.

Provide technical expertise

As the voice of European industry, ASD maintains a close and regular dialogue with all European institutions and agencies, such as the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Defence Agency (EDA). ASD also cooperates with the Joint Undertakings SESAR and Clean Sky and represent European industry at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). To all these interlocutors, we provide technical expertise on policies, projects and regulatory initiatives. Relevant areas are, for example: aviation safety and security, design-, maintenance and production organisation approvals, bilateral aviation safety agreements, environmental standards and chemical safety legislation.

Advocate industry’s interests

Our industries are global leaders in key strategic sectors. They develop hi-tech products with long life cycles and operate in highly regulated markets, where competitors from third countries often benefit from strong public support. To ensure fair competition and an international level playing field, our industries need a strong partnership with the European Union (EU) and its Member States. To achieve this, ASD informs all EU policies that are relevant for maintaining Europe’s industrial leadership in aeronautics, space, defence and security.

Produce economic data

Each year, ASD publishes key statistics on the European aeronautics, space, defence and security industry. Generally recognised as the main source of information about our sectors, the ASD “Facts & Figures” sets out the strength of our industries and their contribution to European growth in terms of jobs, turnover and research investments.
Support business ethics

ASD is a founding member of the International Forum on Business Ethical Conduct (IFBEC), which defines global principles for the fight against corruption, use of advisors, management of conflicts of interest and respect for proprietary information. IFBEC members commit themselves to apply and promote these principles in their corporate business practices.

Develop standards

At ASD, we produce through hundreds of experts international standards that are used worldwide by industry, customers, governments and international organisations, such as NATO. We cover logistic support analysis, preventive and scheduled maintenance, feedback from field analysis, training, and many other issues. For example, S1000D applies to the procurement and production of technical publications, while S2000M is used for material management processes. Our standards are applied in both the military and civil domains, updated every two years and based on Data Exchange Modules, to allow digital exchange of data.

Deliver an international language

Simplified Technical English (STE), ASD-STE100, is a controlled language developed by ASD to ensure a comprehensive understanding of maintenance documentation by worldwide users. Over one hundred countries are certified users of STE in commercial aviation. The European Defence Standards Reference recommends STE for technical documentation on defence to all Member States participating in the EDA.

Enhance global regulation

Through the global aerospace industries associations (ICCAIA), ASD supports the work of the ICAO. As a UN Agency, ICAO develops international Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) for a safe, efficient, secure and sustainable civil aviation sector. Most importantly, it defines global standards for international civil aviation in the field of environment (noise and emissions) and air navigation, used by the 193 ICAO Member States.