

Audit of the Armed Forces telecommunications key ICT project

Defence Group

Key facts

The Armed Forces telecommunications key ICT project (TC A) aims to provide the Armed Forces' system network with [REDACTED] data transport and voice communications. In six procurement steps, troops are to be re-equipped and the new system replaced by 2035. The procurement volume is around CHF 1.6 billion, of which CHF 786 million in credits has been approved.

The Swiss Federal Audit Office (SFAO) audited the TC A project for the fourth time.¹ The focus was on the replacement of the integrated telecommunications system and potential synergies with the Federal Office for Civil Protection (FOCP). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition, the SFAO audited the implementation of five recommendations made in the audit reports mentioned.

The project management and supervision are target-oriented and thus allow the commissioned procurement steps to be implemented. The project environment is difficult, which has resulted in delays, higher costs and the reworking of plans. There are challenges in setting up test infrastructures that have not yet been planned but are necessary for the system tests with the new digitalisation platform (NDP) [REDACTED]. There is also a need for clarification as regards potential synergies with MSC.

External influences are leading to higher expenses and costs

The Armed Forces Staff ensures the planning of the investment volume as a line task. It has commissioned the TC A project to carry out individual procurement steps. Four of the six planned procurement steps were commissioned, and two of these have already been completed. The Joint Operations Command and armasuisse are implementing the project in a targeted way using close monitoring and management. Internal reporting and reports to the Federal Council and Parliament are plausible and clear.

External influences such as inflation and material availability, as well as the ongoing procurements, are causing extra costs and delays. The project must plan and finance the integration of its subsystems into the Armed Forces NDP and the establishment of an integral test infrastructure. The TC A project planning is currently being reworked.

¹ The audit reports on the Armed Forces telecommunications key ICT project (audit mandates 16613, 17619 and 19258) are available on the SFAO website.

