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# Spanish Air Force integrates a system that captures drones without shooting them down

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It has purchased an Israeli model that allows it to take control of hostile aircrafts and land them safely. The objective is to avoid collateral damage at high visibility events



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The Spanish **Air Force** expands its arsenal of systems to deal with the [threat of drones](#), which in different civilian and military scenarios have become a key element to take into account when ensuring the security of Armed Forces facilities.

The Procurement Directorate of the Air Force Logistics Support Command has awarded Target Tecnología, a company located in Alcobendas (north of the city of Madrid) a contract for "**Procurement of the ENFORCEAIR2 C-UAS system**, complementary to the CROW system."

In fact, the **Spanish company** acts as a representative of a company headquartered in the **Israeli city** of Ra'anana, **D-Fend Solutions**. This Israeli company provides EnforceAir2 anti-drone system, which is now going to be adopted by the Air Force. The system is supplied to the Air Force through Target Tecnología.

### *Complementary to Indra's system*

Air Force officials were looking for a new anti-drone system to **complement the 'Crow' system**.

Several units of this system have been purchased from **Indra**, and the Spanish Air Force [used it](#) to protect the airspace around the Torrejón air base, where planes of heads of state and government landed and took off for the **NATO Summit in Madrid**, in June 2022. It has also been deployed in Mali.

### *Avoids collateral damage at large events*

"In the current context of the existence of aerial drones of various kinds that may pose a **threat to the development of state and aerial activities and to the population in general**, the need arises for the Air and Space Army to have systems that offer an acceptable level of C-UAS (Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems) protection against this threat", as stated in the tender documents, to justify the investment of 490,000 euros.

According to the Logistics Support Command Procurement Directorate, "Existing C-UAS [anti-drone] systems offer different capabilities from each other. Only by complementing each other they can be effective in covering a wide range of **threats and situations**".

The Air Force has turned to D-Fend Solutions' 'EnforceAir2' anti-drone system, because it "has a unique capability in the market to mitigate risks by **taking control of the UASs, landing them safely** and thus avoiding collateral damage in scenarios such as high-visibility events".

This type of anti-drone technology " **effectively complements the shortcomings of other systems** chosen by the Air Force as part of its C-UAS system and **there is no valid technical alternative.** "

It is emphasized at several points that "the EnforceAir2 C-UAS system is unique in the market in terms of its technical capabilities in high-visibility events, as certified by its manufacturer through the filing of associated patents."

This reference to the "effective and **without collateral damage in high visibility events**" is repeated, so it can be assumed that this will be the objective of the system incorporated by the Air Force.

### *Dismantling the emergency plan*

D-Fend Solutions sent a letter to the Air Force to certify the intellectual property of the 'EnforceAir2' system through several patents.

It was reported that "EnforceAir, the proven C-UAS product from D-Fend Solutions, features the **world's leading cyber and anti-drone RF-based takeover technology**".

Furthermore, "the system, either in autonomous or manual mode, detects, locates and identifies malicious drones in the airspace and then neutralizes the threat by allowing the operator to take full control of the drone and **safely land it in a predefined area**".

The system offers different capabilities, such as the "unique ability to **disconnect a drone from its remote control**" and to do so "**without returning it to its takeoff location or initiating an emergency plan,**" which is particularly important "in case a drone needs to be stopped without deviating its course".

This also allows "taking control of a drone **regardless of its distance**" to the 'EnforceAir2' system.

### *Kamikaze drones, artillery, or deception*

The **proliferation of drones** is a phenomenon that has been emphasized in the military sphere with the war in Ukraine, but it has been a concern to authorities for years, as they need to [shield civilian infrastructures](#) as well as [protect military units](#).

For example, in the area surrounding the **Zarzuela Complex** years ago, [drone overflights](#) were detected at night, which triggered alerts for the **threat to the king's safety**.

Through agreements with companies, or in exercises of the [Army](#), the [Royal Guard](#) and the Air Force for example, the Ministry of Defense has been testing for years different alternatives of systems which could neutralize drones.

Among the options, the use of [drones that collide with or launch nets on hostile drones](#) has been suggested, but also systems similar to the one now being acquired by the Air Force: 'spoofing' technology that [takes control of the hostile drone](#) to direct it to a place where it can be safely captured.

Mechanisms for using [artillery capable of shooting down the drones](#) that pose a threat have been tested and developed, including the option of deploying [trained eagles](#) to intercept certain small, remotely piloted aircrafts.



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