

A roadmap to bring appropriate and improved technologies into operational use

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Geneva Feb 10, 2004

Brainstorming meeting on Mine Action Technologies

Aim

To develop a roadmap to bring as soon as possible appropriate mine action technologies into operational use, taking into account real needs of end-users, priorities and the state of maturity of technologies.

Mine Action Technology is NOT ONLY mine clearance!

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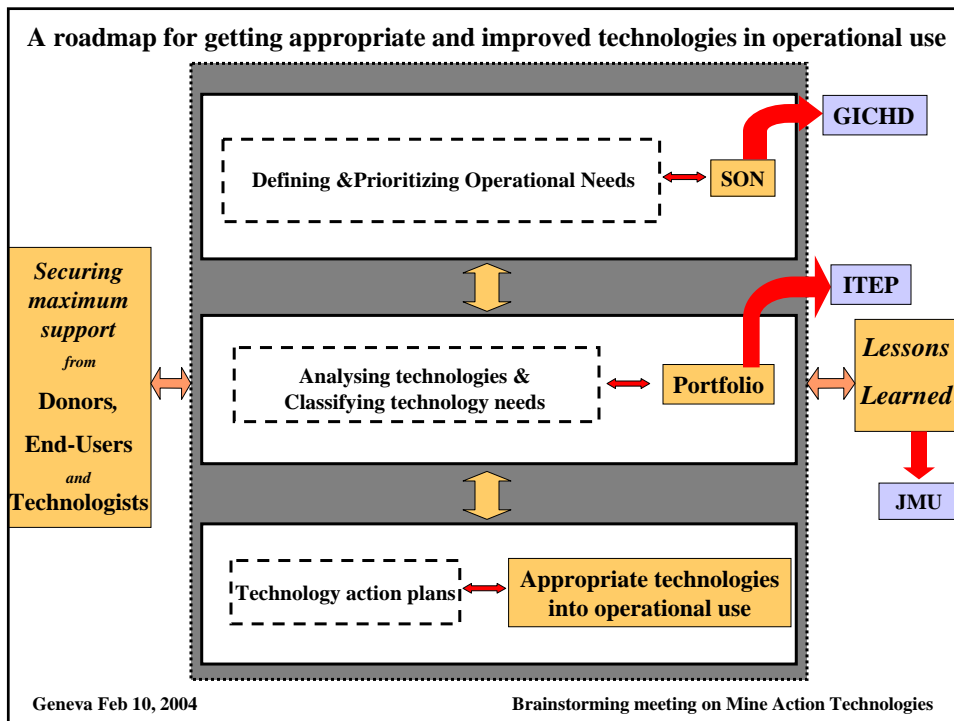
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Roadmap objectives

- To establish a list of **prioritized operational needs (SON)**
- To establish a **portfolio** of priority technological projects, based on real operational needs
- To establish **technology action plans** in conjunction with end-users
- To facilitate **procurement process**. Thereby getting appropriate and improved mine action technologies **into operational use**
- To identify means to secure **maximum support** to enhance technologies
 - from **Donors**, understanding benefits of appropriate and improved technologies
 - from **End-Users**, in terms of understanding and openness, and
 - from **Technologists** in terms of understanding end-users' real needs.

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Statement of operational needs

It is expected that organizations (such as GICHD, UN and NGO's) who are close to end-users, continue to facilitate in defining operational needs (SON). They should, when appropriate:

- **increase the quality of the knowledge** regarding end-users' real needs
- **enhance the transfer of this knowledge** towards technological organizations such as the International Test & Evaluation Programme (ITEP)

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Portfolio of prioritized projects: end-users' involvement

It is expected that Organizations (such as the International Test & Evaluation Programme (ITEP)), who are close to technologists, continue to facilitate testing and assessing mine action technologies. They should:

- **increase the involvement of end-users** in the test & evaluation process in order to improve the confidence of end-users in appropriate and improved mine action technologies
- **include cost / effectiveness considerations** in their test and evaluation reports and share this information with end-users
- **welcome direct requests issued by end-users and donors**

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Portfolio of prioritized projects: importance of a cost / benefit analysis

Equipment testing should be subject to an estimated cost-benefit analysis. To take into consideration:

- **A description of the costs** of the technology (including ALL the extras like training, down-time, transport costs etc).
- **A description of the potential scenarios** where the technology will be useful, including financial analysis of how much is being spent currently in these regions on mine clearance
- **A realistic delivery date** for the first small batch for testing – and a contractually agreed price.
- **A detailed cost-effectiveness analysis** which shows comparison with existing methods when appropriate

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Recommendations to Donors

Donors should consider increased support for appropriate or improved technologies. Possible provisions could include:

- **Contractual obligation** for donor-supported, mine-clearance to make available at a fair price the facilities, staff, access, etc for large-scale field trials of appropriate or improved tools and equipment.
- **Emphasis on contracts based on IMAS** using the best available technology for clearance, by insisting that demining organisations demonstrate an objectively measurable steady improvement in efficiency, not simply retaining existing methods.
- **Funding** to secure end-users participation to meetings and trials.

Donors must be willing to invest in emerging and improved technologies now, for the best results in the near future!

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Conclusion

Work still needs to be done ...

During the next meeting of the informal expert group on Mine Action Technologies in June !

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For more information ...

- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
<http://www.gichd.ch>
- International Test & Evaluation Programme (ITEP)
<http://www.itep.ws>
- James Madison University – Mine Action Information Center (JMU/MAIC)
<http://maic.jmu.edu>

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