

HIGH TECH REACHES EUROPEAN SHORES

NEW RADAR TOOLS TO SNUFF OUT ILLEGAL BORDER TRAFFIC

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Amid increasing reports of drones and other light aircraft being used to smuggle drugs into Europe, the European Commission took steps to abate the issue by financing the ALFA (Advanced Low Flying Aircrafts Detection and Tracking) project. ALFA was a 36-month project which commenced in the beginning of 2017. The mission? Use new technologies to augment current radar systems so that small and low flying aerial vehicles have no chance of flying undetected on the Spanish and Portuguese maritime borders.

A team of engineers, coders and law enforcement specialist from six European countries united to study the problem and develop solutions. The charge of the group included small aircraft detection, threat analysis, tracking and landing site prediction. Also important for the project was to make sure the new solutions could be retrofitted to existing police surveillance equipment.

The ALFA system consists of radars, cameras and other sensors that are specifically designed to detect small aircraft and drones.

By adding new technologies like micro-Doppler for detecting and classifying targets, the consortium remained committed to presenting future proof solutions.

The ALFA consortium reports that the combined systems are fully functional - bringing them a big step closer to the broad market. Of course, there is more to do but the ALFA project has become a key component in the mission of securing the borders of Europe. The final tests were conducted in real life scenarios from the coast of Portugal at Cacela Velha.

For more information about the ALFA project, visit our web site or contact the coordinator directly:

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