A 1962 bi-lateral Mutual Weapons Development Master Data Exchange Agreement (DEA), facilitated through the US State Department, authorized the exchange of information between the US military and the German government. In 1990, the scope of the DEA was broadened to include data on environmental technologies.

Vision of the DEA environmental efforts:

To establish robust systems that sustain compliance, avoid risk and pollution, and promote innovative environmental technology solutions among the DoD components, other nations' militaries, and industry.

Goals of the DEA environmental efforts:

To exchange data on environmental research and technologies, evaluate the effectiveness of current technologies and consider new technologies for future demonstration projects, balance available resources against needs to achieve cost-effective investments, reduce environmentally-related operating costs, and field environmental solutions focused on clean up.

Objectives of the DEA environmental efforts:

To resolve high-priority environmental needs and address current requirements and to match needs, expertise, and resources where maximum benefit can be obtained, demonstrated, and applied

Criteria for DEA projects:

All DEA projects must be of mutual interest, be stand-alone, be complementary, and be carried out by each country to confirm efficacy or regulatory acceptance. Termination by one country must not invalidate the efforts of the other, and funding cannot be exchanged; it must come from the respective countries to fund their own efforts within the mutually beneficial projects. Through the demonstration and validation of both ongoing and new, cutting-edge technologies chosen to address specific environmental problems, technical resources can be maximized and cost-effective investments can be achieved.

The DASA(ESOH) directs the facilitation of the US efforts within the environmental technology annexes of this agreement: