



AM Village – A unique capability workshop

The European Defence Agency (EDA) organises the **Additive Manufacturing Village**. This brings together experts from industry, the armed forces and academia to explore how additive manufacturing can be used to enhance European Union defence capabilities.

Why it matters?

Additive Manufacturing (AM), more widely known as 3D printing, is seen as a technology that can greatly reduce the extra logistical work for military forces deployed on operations. In civilian industry, AM is already used to produce components and parts. Within the armed forces it is in the early stages of adoption.

The benefits are clear. Imagine essential military equipment components produced not in months, but in days, or even hours, and sometimes directly on the battlefield. AM, or 3D printing, is transforming military logistics and operational readiness by allowing faster production of spare parts, tools, and customised equipment as needed.

AM Village is neither a trade fair, nor a conference. It is not a sales event. As a space for thinking and working, it brings together European military AM experts, researchers, academics, and companies from the defence and AM industry. The goal is to show how additive technologies can be applied operationally, sustainably, and in a coordinated European manner, both for current capabilities and future scenarios. Participants can jointly determine what is needed technically, organisationally, and from a regulatory standpoint.

Aim and ambition

AM Village is a five-day workshop designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice in military additive manufacturing. Its aims are to:

- Address military requirements for AM and explore industrial solutions.
- Foster collaboration among EU Member States, industry, and academia.
- Enable participants to share practical and theoretical experiences to support AM implementation across armed forces.

A European Capability

AM Village combines expert briefings, workshop sessions, demonstrations, and practical implementation to create a working atmosphere rich in both depth and strategic context. Its value emerges not from isolated insights but from the shared overall picture. AM is a building block that only improves military effectiveness when integrated within logistics, regulatory frameworks and industrial production systems.

AM Village thrives on people talking to each other: military end users contribute operational perspectives, identifying concrete challenges and expectations. Industry, in turn, puts technological approaches into context, with experience, and focusing on development status. AM Village is a place of genuine discussion. This cooperation ensures the development of realistic solutions and roadmaps, maximising the operational value of additive manufacturing.

Strategic Impact

- Reduces the military logistic footprint by consolidating multiple parts into single components.
- Enhances operational readiness through rapid, field-deployable manufacturing.
- Supports lifecycle sustainment of equipment, including older or out-of-production systems.
- Strengthens EU defence cooperation by fostering knowledge exchange and joint capability development.

Benefits for Member States

- Access to best practices in AM and military logistics integration.
- Direct engagement with industry and academic experts to accelerate innovation.
- Opportunity to test and validate AM solutions in realistic operational scenarios.
- Contribution to the EU's strategic goal of a more agile, capable military.

AM Villages so far:

- 1st AM Village 2023, Ede, Netherlands – 9 EU Armed Forces, 40 enterprises, 220 participants
- 2nd AM Village 2024, Tournai, Belgium – 12 EU Armed Forces, 55 enterprises, 380 participants
- 3rd AM Village 2026, Albacete, Spain – 15 EU Armed Forces, 160+ enterprises, 800 participants