

## EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

### DEFENCE RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION PAPERS AWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023

To further expand the envelope of technological knowledge, provide access to emerging trends to its participating Member States (pMS), and capture innovative ideas, the European Defence Agency (EDA) aims to engage on a global scale with R&D communities and innovators. One of the incentives that EDA will exploit are prizes to stimulate innovative ideas in defence with potential impacts either on future defence capabilities or filling existing capability gaps.

Furthermore, with the establishment of the Strategic Compass for EU Defence and Security in March 2022 and the creation of the *Hub for EU Defence Innovation (HEDI)*, EDA is tasked to foster innovative solutions following a systematic approach towards cutting-edge military capabilities. HEDI is to serve as a platform to stimulate and facilitate cooperation on defence innovation while ensuring synergies with related European Commission activities, notably the EU defence innovation scheme, coherence of output with NATO innovation and other EU Defence Innovation organizations.

HEDI's services include the launch of *Best Papers Awards*, as a systematic approach for the identification of innovators and innovations. Other activities planned in the framework of HEDI includes promoting early career researchers in the defence sector. EDA plans to target this activity by launching an *EDA Research, Technology, and Innovation Papers Award*. The award would consist in a two-months *call for papers* at the beginning of the year, a simplified evaluation process by April and award ceremony at the EU Defence Innovation Day in May. Winners will be requested to pitch the ideas included in their papers at the event.

EDA Defence Research, Technology and Innovation Papers Award will serve as an effective facilitator to accelerate activities in areas where increased innovation and endeavour are crucial. Furthermore, the sponsoring of these papers award will provide visibility to EDA as an agency that supports participating Member States (pMS) across all stages of capability development and ensures that the agency is proactive in addressing pMS' expectations and requirements. With the Papers Award, EDA reaches out to R&D communities (including industry, academia, and RTOs) and challenges them to consider the identification and exploitation of new and emerging technologies for a defence context and promote them within the EDA framework.

The scope of this Papers Award is to promote and support the work of early career researchers by introducing their work to the defence community. The expectations from this call for papers is to promote Research, Technology and Innovation by looking for a different way to cover current defence needs and gaps. Participants to this call for papers would be requested to think "out of the box".

#### Prize:

This contest will reward a total of 3 innovative and valuable defence-related papers covering the following topic:

- ***Innovative Technologies, Processes and Applications for Enhanced Future Defence Capabilities.***

The earmarked budget for the three best papers is EUR 12 000 (EUR 4 000 each), plus EUR 3 000 per representative (EUR 1 000 each) for the invitation to the EU Defence Days 2023 planned for 30 of May.

Expected results: The prize winners are expected to propose ideas which would, if implemented between now and 2035, contribute to improve and enhance specific EU defence capabilities.

## Eligibility criteria

The contest is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons established within the European Defence Agency participating Member States. When applying the rules of access to the competition, it is the state where the applicant is established which is to be considered. As regards a natural person, it is the State in which the person has their domicile.

## Award criteria

The prize will be awarded to the papers demonstrating a solution that best addresses the qualitative criterion defined in the evaluation process and evaluated by a special committee (further clarification will be published in the Rules of Contest). This criterion is summarised as follows:

- **Criterion 1. Quality.** Quality of the papers will be assessed in terms of the spelling, grammar, contents' structure, articulation, expressions used and technical terminologies. The use of the provided template is mandatory. Papers over a threshold defined by the evaluation committee will be published in a referenced booklet.
- **Criterion 2. Impact.** Papers should demonstrate the innovativeness and disruptiveness of the ideas described and their potential application to defence. Papers should clearly explain their ideas (objectives, approach, methodology and results) and draw conclusions that demonstrate the scientific value of the work. Dual use applications with a concrete spin-in to defence should be described in detail as will be positively assessed. Knowledge in the field and potential cross-domain-fertilization (proven concept in one domain to be applicable in another) will be positively assessed.

## Indicative timetable of contest

Stages	Indicative period
Opening of the contest	Q1 2023
Deadline for submission of applications	Q1 2023
Evaluation	Q1 2023
Award of the prizes	Q2 2023

## **Type of Action**

Prize

## **Indicative timetable**

The specific rules of the contest will be published in 2023 by the European Defence Agency, which will directly launch and manage the contest and award the prize.