



**European Defence Agency**  
**Call for Applications 21.RTI.PRZ.099**

**“EDA Defence Innovation Prize 2021”**

Innovative solutions & technologies on Human-Machine Interfaces enabling Human-Machine-Teaming for Defence.

**RULES OF CONTEST**

# 1. THE INNOVATION FOR DEFENCE PRIZE

## 1.1. OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Through this “**EDA Defence Innovation prize 2021**” contest, the European Defence Agency (**EDA**) aims to stimulate engagement of all R&T communities and innovators<sup>1</sup> in order to accelerate access to emerging and potentially disruptive research and if possible, to identify areas in which additional investment is needed to fully address future defence capability needs.

The objective of the contest is to reward innovative defence-related ideas which could be in the future implemented through a collaborative R&T effort within an EDA framework.

It is expected that the prize will stimulate involvement of innovative industrial and research entities within the EDA R&T framework and will contribute to the generation of new defence research projects by exploiting all the possible defence research funding instruments, in accordance with their respective provisions.

The contest will also provide a good opportunity to small and medium sized enterprises, research organizations, universities, and companies, non-traditionally involved in defence R&D activities, to demonstrate their know-how, maximize dual-use synergies and to form valuable partnerships with key players in the defence field.

This contest will reward innovative defence-related ideas addressing the area of “Innovative solutions & technologies on Human-Machine Interfaces enabling Human-Machine-Teaming for Defence.”, covering the following topics:

- Gesture commands,
- Head and tracking; eye gesture and wide area eye tracking,
- Voice commands and 3-D audio,
- Immersive technologies such as virtual and augmented reality,
- Wearable human-machine-interfaces
- Human multi-asset interaction
- Haptic control and feedback
- Virtual Assistants
- Crew Monitoring System such as brain computing interface and pilot sensing and monitoring
- Stress and health monitoring
- Autonomous decision-making functions such as human-AI interaction

Some examples of where the innovation on these technologies would enable Human Machine Teaming for Defence operations are:

- Medical and Casualties Evacuation
- Supply Chain and Precision Air Drop
- Intelligence, Surveillance and Recognition

The prize winner is expected to propose ideas which would, if implemented between now and 2030, contribute to improve and enhance specific EU defence capabilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Albeit no defence specific expertise and/or background is required to participate to the contest, participation from entities already involved in defence related activities is not excluded.

## 1.2. REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be original ideas from applicants. They may propose new or improved ways to implement existing solutions, combine them, or adapt them to a different context or target group, but they cannot be exact copies of those.

The applicants must demonstrate the novelty of their solution, in comparison with those already developed/implemented by themselves or by others in their context.

The applicants are also expected to indicate how the participation in the contest may benefit their idea (e.g. prize, mentoring, networking, visibility or other related benefit).

The proposed ideas need to be innovative, implementable through a collaborative project, and affordable in development and exploitation.

Ideas shall be related to the prize topic (section 1.1) and might include, but are not limited to:

- Proposal of development of new technologies and techniques;
- Creation of new engineering processes, operational doctrine, services and capabilities;
- Application and/or adaptation of existing technologies to a different problem or domain.

## 1.3. AMOUNT OF THE PRIZE

EDA will award of the prize to the best ideas in the light of the award criteria set out below, with a total value of 30 000€. In addition, EDA will cover the travel expenses and accommodation, for the winner (up to two representatives) to attend the award ceremony for an amount of up to 1 000€ per representative.

Subject to the quality of admissible proposals and the budget availability, EDA could consider awarding additional prize (s).

## 1.4. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

The contest has been conceived to offer more than the financial prize. In particular, other incentives will include:

- The winner(s) will have the possibility to promote their ideas through a dedicated article in one of the issues of the EDA magazine (Defence Matters);
- The final award ceremony will be delivered in a formal EDA ceremony with press release coverage;
- The Innovation prize will receive significant coverage on the EDA website and social medias (the name of the winner(s) will be published on EDA channels);
- The prize winner(s) will be given access to the EDA network of experts, having the opportunity to form valuable partnerships to leverage on some of the EDA (e.g. the winner will be also provided with the opportunity to present the idea to the CapTech for potential implementation through a MS funded Cat A or Cat B Project) and EU R&T funding opportunities.
- All the proposals received (including the winner(s)) will be presented to the CapTechs Moderator in a dedicated workshop to explore the applicability of their proposals to the CapTech's areas of responsibility.

## 2. THE PROCEDURE

This contest is governed in accordance with Article 37 (1) of the Council Decision (EU) 2016/1353.

### 2.1. PREPARATION OF APPLICATIONS

EDA shall not reimburse expenses incurred in preparing and submitting applications in response to this contest.

### 2.2. FORM AND CONTENT OF APPLICATION

- Applications shall be perfectly legible and correct so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures.
- Applications shall be clear and concise. They must be consistent with all the requirements and instructions laid down in the rules of contest.
- Applications shall be written in English.  
Applications shall consist of the following sections:

Section	Content
<b>Section one (Administrative Information)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Application Submission Form</u> (EDA will use the contact details provided in the application submission form to contact the applicants about the contest. EDA is not responsible for inaccuracies in the details which have been submitted by the applicants)</li><li>• Legal Entity Form</li><li>• Financial Identification Form</li><li>• Exclusion Criteria form</li></ul>
<b>Section two (Application)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Application</li></ul>

### 2.3. CONTACTS BETWEEN THE APPLICANTS AND EDA

#### Before the final date for submission of applications

With regard to clarifications or corrections, contacts between EDA and the applicants before the final date for submission of applications may take place only in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:

\* EDA may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission or other clerical error in the text of the contest documents.

This information will be published solely on EDA's website under the link used to access the contest documents.

\* Potential applicants may request clarifications regarding the contest documents.

The requests for additional information must be made in writing only through the dedicated functional mailbox ([procurement@eda.europa.eu](mailto:procurement@eda.europa.eu)).

Insofar as it has been requested in good time, the answers to the requests for additional information will be published solely on EDA's website (under the link used to access the contest documents) as soon as possible and no later than six days before the submission deadline of applications.

Applicants are encouraged to formulate, at least six calendar days before the time limit to submit applications, any remark, complaint or objection they would have in relation to all aspects of these contest documents in order that EDA can evaluate the need for corrective measures and implement them before the submission of applications.

EDA is not bound to reply to requests for additional information made less than six working days before the deadline for submission of applications.

Any other contacts are prohibited and can lead to the exclusion of the applicant.

#### After the opening of applications

Contacts between EDA and the applicants after the opening of applications may take place only in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:

- If clarification or additional evidence in relation to the administrative information is required.
- If clarification is requested or if obvious clerical errors in the proposal need to be corrected, provided that the terms of the proposal are not modified as a result.

In the above cases, the contracting authority may contact the applicant and request a response within a time-limit stipulated in its request.

Any other contacts are prohibited and can lead to the exclusion of the applicant.

## **2.4. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS-TIMELINES**

Applications shall be solely submitted by e-mail to the following e-mail address: [21.RTI.PRZ.099@eda.europa.eu](mailto:21.RTI.PRZ.099@eda.europa.eu).

Applications sent after deadline and/or to a different e-mail address, applications sent on paper or by fax will be non-admissible.

<b>The deadline for the receipt of applications ("Receipt Time Limit") is <u>31/08/2021, at 17h00 (Brussels time)</u></b>
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Following submission of an application to the above e-mail address, applicants will receive an application receipt confirmation in their mailbox. This receipt is considered as the proof of compliance with the deadline (Receipt Time Limit).

Please inform EDA whether you intend to submit an application, by sending an e-mail at the following e-mail address: [procurement@eda.europa.eu](mailto:procurement@eda.europa.eu)

<b>Timelines</b>	
<u>Launch of the Contest</u> Call for applications is published on EDA's website	<b>15 March 2021</b>
<u>Deadline for Submission</u> Applicant to submit their application (with supporting documentation) by e-mail to: <a href="mailto:21.RTI.PRZ.099@eda.europa.eu">21.RTI.PRZ.099@eda.europa.eu</a>	<b>31 August 2021 At 17h00 (Brussels time)</b>

<u>Evaluation of Ideas</u> Eligible applications are evaluated by the appointed Evaluation Committees against the award criteria described in section 2.7.3 of this document	<b>September-October 2021<sup>2</sup></b>
Notification Letters to the applicants	<b>End of October 2021<sup>3</sup></b>
Award ceremony	<b>November-December 2021<sup>4</sup></b>

## **2.5. ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

Submission of an application implies acceptance of the terms and conditions set out in the contest documents and, where appropriate, waiver of the applicant's own general or specific terms and conditions. It is binding on the applicant to whom the prize is awarded.

## **2.6. PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS**

### **2.6.1. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA**

If processing your reply to this contest involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name, address and CV), such data will be processed by EDA in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725<sup>5</sup>, pursuant to Article 31 of Council Decision (CSFP) 2015/1835.

Unless indicated otherwise, personal data will be processed by EDA solely for evaluation purposes in accordance with the rules of contest. Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available in the privacy statement at:

<http://www.eda.europa.eu/docs/default-source/procurement/privacy-statement.pdf>

You are informed that for the purposes of safeguarding the financial interest of the Union, your personal data may be transferred to EDA's Internal Auditor, to the College of Auditors or to any other body to ensure the adequate implementation of Checks and Audits.

Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) if you are in one of the situations mentioned in Article 136 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union. For more information see the Privacy Statement on:

[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect\\_en.cfm#BDCE](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm#BDCE)

### **2.6.2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF APPLICATIONS**

Once EDA has accepted the application, it shall become the property of EDA and shall be treated confidentially.

<sup>2</sup> This timescale is indicative and may be subject updates by the European Defence Agency

<sup>3</sup> This timescale is indicative and may be subject updates by the European Defence Agency

<sup>4</sup> This timescale is indicative and may be subject updates by the European Defence Agency

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p.39) .

## 2.7. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

### 2.7.1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants shall be excluded if they do not have access to the contest, in accordance with the provisions laid down here.

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 his domicile.

Ideas and proposals from all sources, sectors and all types of organisations including for-profit, non-for-profit, or private companies are welcome. Applications involving several organisations and/or from different EDA participating Member States are possible. In case of joint applications by a group of participants the participants must appoint a “Lead participant” to represent them towards EDA. The participants will be jointly responsible and must all fulfil and respect the conditions set out in these rules of contest.

Applicants that have already received any other Union prize that is the subject of the current contest cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.

Applicants may submit more than one application and be named as a partner in more than one application.

#### Evidence relating to the identity of the applicant (Section One - Administrative Information)

- A. The Legal Entity Form is to be signed by the call for applicant.

A standard template in each EU language is available at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts\\_grants/info\\_contracts/legal\\_entities/legal\\_entities\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm)

The Legal Entity Form shall be accompanied by all the information indicated in the form. Where the application involves more than one legal entity, each entity shall provide the form.

- B. The Financial identification form shall be duly filled in and signed by the applicant and his or her banker (or to be accompanied by a recent bank statement).

The form is available at the following Internet address:

[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts\\_grants/info\\_contracts/financial\\_id/financial\\_id\\_fr.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_fr.cfm)

### 2.7.2. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

In accordance with Article 141 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and the Council of 1825 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, a prize may not be awarded to an economic operator who:

- is in an exclusion situation established in accordance with Article 136 of the Financial Rules;

- has misrepresented the information required as a condition for participating in the contest or has failed to supply that information;
- was previously involved in the preparation of the prize documents where this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise.

#### Evidence relating to the exclusion criteria (Section One)

Applicant or their representatives shall provide a declaration on their honour, duly signed and dated in which they:

- state whether or not they are in one or more of the situations referred to in Articles 136 and 137 of the Financial Regulation and detailed in the form;
- undertake to submit to EDA any additional document relating to the exclusion criteria, that EDA considers necessary to perform its checks, within fifteen calendar days following the receipt of EDA's request.

To this end, applicants shall fill in and sign the declaration in annex to the rules of contest.

Where the application involves more than one legal entity, each entity shall provide the form.

#### **2.7.3. COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES OF CONTEST**

Applications deviating from the requirements of the contest will be rejected and will not be further evaluated.

#### **2.7.4. AWARD CRITERIA**

The evaluation of the ideas will be carried out by a cross-functional Evaluation Committee composed by EDA staff members.

All eligible applications will be evaluated based on the submitted application and against all award criteria defined below. Upon completion of the evaluation, the Evaluation Committee will provide an evaluation report based on which EDA will decide on the award of the prize.

The applicants must demonstrate the innovation of their proposal in comparison with the current state of play of defence capabilities.

The prize will be awarded to the entity(ies) that, based on the evaluation of the evaluation committee, demonstrate a solution that best addresses the following cumulative criteria (receives the highest total points).

The criteria which will be used in the evaluation and ranking will be the following:

	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>
1	<u>Originality and/or level of innovation</u> Understood as including both disruptive and incremental innovations and assessed considering how much the idea differs from solutions already developed and implemented.	25
2	<u>Relevance and impact on EU defence capabilities</u> Assessed as the potential of the proposed idea to change/transform more comprehensively the (selected) EU defence capability (ies).	25



3	<u>Relevance/extent of the idea to stimulate engagement of non-traditional defence R&amp;T communities and innovators to demonstrate their know-how, to maximize dual-use synergies, to form valuable partnerships with key players in the defence field.</u>	25
4	<u>Feasibility of the idea</u> Assessed as the potential of the proposed idea to turn into a project which could be sustained or implemented at European level assessed considering feasibility of its implementation through a collaborative effort involving multiple Member States <sup>6</sup> ; adequacy of the time schedule and budget, absence of IPR restrictions	25
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

## 2.8. APPLICATION

Applicants must present their ideas in a manner as concise as possible. Ideas to be submitted should be up to 5 pages in length (in word or pdf file) including figures and shall include:

- Application name;
- Name, type (Industry, RTO, University) and details (e.g. address) of the entity submitting the idea;
- Point of contact name, e-mail, phone, and physical address;
- A short summary (maximum 150 words) of the idea which could be used by EDA in support of the promotion and dissemination of the event in the prize webpage or EDA social media;
- The full idea description highlighting:
  - the key aspects of the technology, the proposed added value related to enhancing defence capabilities with respect to the current situation;
  - its core innovation and whether it relates to the development of new technology for potential defence applications, the application and demonstration of existing commercial technologies for defence purposes, or an adaptation or new use of a technology already used by defence
- The identification of the intended timeframe for the implementation of the idea (i.e. roadmap) and the estimated costs.

The inclusion of a concrete path (roadmap) to mature the technology to its fielding (i.e. including possible follow-on activities) will be considered as a plus.

## 2.9. AWARD OF PRIZE AND NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS

EDA will inform applicants of decisions reached concerning the award of the prize, including the grounds for any decision not to award the prize or to recommence the procedure.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of this procedure by e-mail. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a valid e-mail address together with their contact details in their application and to check their e-mail regularly. Please make sure that the communication from EDA is not classified as spam mail.

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<sup>6</sup> According to one of the modalities foreseen under the provisions of article 19 and 20 of the COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2015/1835

This invitation to submit an application in response to this contest is in no way binding on EDA. The contracting authority may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prize without any obligation to indemnify the applicants if no applications are received, the jury does not find a winner or the winner is not eligible or must be excluded.

This decision shall be substantiated, and the applicants notified. No compensation may be claimed by applicants whose application has not been accepted, including when EDA decides not to award the prize.

### **3. OTHER CONDITIONS**

#### **3.1. PAYMENTS**

The prize will be paid by EDA to the Prize(s) winner(s) after the award ceremony by bank transfer in one instalment.

#### **3.2. OWNERSHIP OF THE RESULT-INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

Ownership of the idea and of its implementation results, including industrial and intellectual property rights, and of the reports and other documents relating to it, shall be vested in the applicant.

Without prejudice to the previous paragraph, the participants grant EDA the right to display, reproduce by any technical procedure, translate or communicate the summary idea and its results by any medium, including on the contest webpage, provided it does not thereby breach its confidentiality obligations or existing industrial and intellectual property rights.

By submitting an application, applicants declare that they have obtained, or will obtain, all authorisations, consents and permissions necessary to submit their application, carry out their proposal and comply with these rules of contest and, to the best of their knowledge, that their application will not infringe any intellectual property or other third-party rights or breach any contractual obligation.

The European Defence Agency assumes no responsibility for disputes between persons claiming copyrights on any sort in relation to an application submitted for the contest.

Where industrial and intellectual property rights, including rights of third parties, exist prior to the Competition ("pre-existing intellectual property rights"), applicants shall establish a list which shall specify all rights of ownership and use in the pre-existing intellectual property rights and may be asked to disclose it to EDA - should they be proposed as winners - at the latest prior to the commencement of implementation of their idea.

The winner of the contest shall ensure that they have all rights to use any pre-existing intellectual property rights in implementation of their idea.

### **3.3. PUBLICITY**

#### **3.3.1. PUBLICITY BY THE WINNER OF THE PRIZE**

Unless EDA requests or agrees otherwise, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) is subject to prior approval by EDA and must:

(a) display the EDA's logo and

(b) include the following text:

This action has been awarded the "2021 Innovation in Defence Prize" from the European Defence Agency.

#### **3.3.2. PUBLICITY BY EDA**

By entering the contest, applicants authorise EDA to use of their name and the summary of their proposal for its communication and publicising activities and in order to present the project to the relevant CapTechs.

If an entry is submitted by a group of individuals or organisations, the person completing the entry form is responsible for compliance with these rules of contest by other group members.

EDA shall also be authorised to publish (in whatever form and medium) the name of the winner and the finalists, their locality, the amount of the prize and its nature and purpose and that the applicants may request EDA to waive such publication if disclosure risks threatening its security and safety or harm its commercial interest.

Photos and videos taken by EDA either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of EDA and might be used for its communication and publicising activities, while respecting Intellectual Property Rights.

### **3.4. LIABILITY**

The European Defence Agency may not be held responsible for any claim relating to the activities carried out in the framework of the contest by the applicant.

The European Defence Agency shall not be held liable for any damage caused or sustained by any of the participants, including any damage caused to third parties as a consequence of, or during the implementation of the activities related to the prize.

### **3.5. APPLICABLE LAW**

The contest is governed by the applicable European Union law complemented, where necessary, by the law of Belgium.

The General Court or, on appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Union, shall have sole jurisdiction to hear any dispute between the Union and any participant concerning the interpretation, application or validity of the rules of this contest, if such dispute cannot be settled amicably.

### **3.6. CHECKS AND AUDITS**

The applicants accept that, if they are awarded a prize, EDA, OLAF and to the College of Auditors may carry out checks and audits in relation to the contest and the received prize.

### **3.7. WITHDRAWAL OF PRIZE-RECOVERY OF UNDUE AMOUNTS**

EDA may withdraw the prize after its award and recover all payments made in the following case:

- The winner is in serious breach of its obligations under this Rules of Contest (is under an exclusion situation, has provided false information etc.).

## **4. ANNEXES**

(Enclosed as separate documents)

**4.1. Application Submission Form & Checklist of Documents to be Submitted**

**4.2. Exclusion Criteria Form**

**4.3. Reimbursement of expenses**