



**European Defence Agency
Call for Papers 24.RTI.PRZ.061**

**“EDA Research, Technology, and
Innovation Papers Award 2024”**

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES, PROCESSES, AND APPLICATIONS
FOR ENHANCED FUTURE DEFENCE CAPABILITIES

RULES OF CONTEST

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. OBJECTIVES

Through the “**EDA Research, Technology, and Innovation Papers Award 2024**” contest, the European Defence Agency (EDA) aims to:

- Promote and support the work of early career researchers (Research profiles descriptors¹, level R1 and level R2) by introducing their work to the defence community,
- Stimulate engagement of innovators² in order to accelerate access to emerging and potentially disruptive research,
- Identify different ways to cover current defence needs and gaps, and
- Identify areas in which additional investment is needed to fully address future defence capability needs.

Participants to this call for papers would be requested to think “out of the box”.

The EDA Research, Technology, and Innovation Papers Award is done under the “umbrella” of HEDI (Hub for EU Defence Innovation)³, which is the new platform for innovation, led by EDA, that was established in March 2022 as an action derived from “Strategic Compass for EU Defence and Security”. HEDI has the objective of fostering innovative technological solutions following a systemic approach towards cutting-edge military capabilities. Furthermore, HEDI serves 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. This Call for Papers complements other HEDI’s services, such as e.g., the EDA Defence Innovation Prizes, or Proofs-of-Concept.

EDA Research, Technology, and Innovation Papers Award 2024 will focus on **Innovative technologies, processes, and applications for enhanced future defence capabilities**.

A total of three prizes will be awarded to the best papers (see section 1.3).

The prize winners are expected to propose ideas which would contribute to improve and enhance specific EU defence capabilities.

¹ European Commission / EURAXES. Research profiles descriptors <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/europe/career-development/training-researchers/research-profiles-descriptors>.

² 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.

³ HEDI (Hub for EU Defence Innovation) accessible through the following website <https://eda.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/2022/05/17/hub-for-eu-defence-innovation-established-within-eda>.

1.2. REQUIREMENTS

Papers must be original ideas. 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.

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

- Innovativeness, originality, creativity, and disruptiveness in comparison to the state-of-the-art technologies and solutions.
- Impact on future (2035 onwards) battlefield, in terms of radical war art change.
- Economical value of the proposal.

1.3. AMOUNT OF THE PRIZE

EDA will reward 12 000 € (4 000 € per winner). In addition, EDA will cover the travel expenses and accommodation, for the winners to attend the award ceremony for an amount of up to 1 000 € per representative (3 000 € in total).

1.4. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

The contest has been conceived to offer more than the financial prize. Other incentives include:

- An official EDA Booklet of papers to be edited and published in a scientific review by EDA, including ISBN (International Standard Book Number) reference.
- The winners will have the opportunity to expose their ideas during the dedicated session at EUROSATORY 2024 exhibition and conference (Paris, 19 June/2024).
- The final award ceremony will be done at the EU Defence Innovation Days with press release coverage.
- The Best Papers Award will receive significant coverage on the EDA website and social medias (the name of the winners will be published on EDA channels).

2. THE PROCEDURE

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

2.1. PREPARATION OF PAPERS

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

2.2. FORM AND CONTENT OF PAPERS

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

Section	Content
Section one (Administrative Information)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Paper Submission Form (Annex 1)</u> (EDA will use the contact details provided in the paper 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);• Legal Entity Form• Financial Identification Form• Exclusion Criteria form
Section two (Paper)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EDA Research, Technology, and Innovation Paper Award template (Annex 4)

2.3. CONTACTS BETWEEN THE APPLICANTS AND EDA

Before the final date for submission of papers

With respect to clarifications or corrections, contacts between EDA and the applicants before the final submission deadline may occur only in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions:

* 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. This publication will be done as soon as possible and no later than *six (6) days* before the submission deadline of papers.

* Potential applicants may request clarifications regarding the contest documents.

The requests for additional information must be submitted in writing only through the dedicated functional mailbox (procurement@eda.europa.eu).

If the requests are made in a timely manner, the responses to inquiries will be exclusively published on the EDA's website (under the link used to access the contest documents. This publication will be done as soon

as possible and no later than *six (6) days* before the submission deadline of papers.

Applicants are encouraged to formulate any remark, complaint, or objection they would have in related to all aspects of these contest documents, at least six calendar days before the submission deadline. This will allow EDA to assess the need for corrective measures and implement them before the submission of papers.

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

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

After the opening of papers

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

- If clarification or additional evidence in relation to the administrative information is required.
- If clarification is requested or if obvious clerical errors in the papers need to be corrected, provided that the terms of the paper 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 PAPERS-TIMELINES

Papers shall be solely submitted by e-mail to the following address: 24.RTI.PRZ.061@eda.europa.eu.

Papers sent after deadline and/or to a different e-mail address, papers sent on printed versions or by fax will be non-admissible.

The deadline for the receipt of papers (“Receipt Time Limit”) is 29/03/2024, at 17h00 (Brussels time).

Following submission of a paper to the above e-mail address, applicants will receive a receipt confirmation in their mailbox. This receipt is considered as the proof of compliance with the deadline (Receipt Time Limit).

Please inform EDA at your earliest convenience regarding your intention to submit a paper. Please send an e-mail with the subject 'Innovation paper award 2024' at the following e-mail address: procurement@eda.europa.eu.

Timelines	
<u>Deadline for Submission</u> Applicants to submit their paper (with supporting documentation) by e-mail to: 24.RTI.PRZ.061@eda.europa.eu	29 March 2024 at 17h00 (Brussels time)
<u>Evaluation of papers</u> Eligible papers are evaluated by the appointed Evaluation Committees against the award criteria described in section 2.7.3 of this document	30 April 2024⁴

⁴ This timescale is indicative and may be subject updates by the European Defence Agency.

Notification Letters to the applicants	May 2024 ⁵
Award ceremony (@ EUROSATORY)	19 June, 2024 ⁶

2.5. ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Submission of a paper 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 PAPERS

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 2018/1725⁷, 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

CONFIDENTIALITY OF PAPERS

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

⁵ This timescale is indicative and may be subject updates by the European Defence Agency.

⁶ Awarding ceremony will take place at EUROSATORY 2024 exhibition in Paris.

⁷ 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 PAPERS

2.7.1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants will 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 (+ Switzerland)**. When applying the rules of access to the competition, the determining factor is the state in which the applicant is established. As regards a natural person, it is the State in which the person has his domicile and (cumulative condition) where the institution of affiliation (if any) is established.

Access to the competition/market will be evaluated promptly upon submission of the applications. At this stage, other eligibility criteria will solely be assessed on their conformity. Before the award, the top five ranked applications will undergo a complete evaluation of the eligibility criteria.

Papers from all sources, sectors and all types of organisations including for-profit, non- for-profit, or private companies are welcome. Proposals involving several organisations and/or from different EDA participating Member States (+ CH and NO) are possible. In case of joint proposals 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 European Union’s prize that is the subject of the current contest cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.

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

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

- A. The Legal Entity Form shall be completed and signed by the applicant.

A standard template shall be submitted in English:

- For natural persons: [EN - PP revised.xlsx \(europa.eu\)](#)
- For legal persons: [BUDG-20161006-EN.xls \(europa.eu\)](#)
- For public bodies: [EN - PUB revi.xlsx \(europa.eu\)](#)

Detailed instructions on how to fill in the form is available on the following link:

The Legal Entity Form shall be accompanied by all the information indicated in the form. Where the paper 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).

Detailed instructions on how to fill in the form is available on the following link: [EN - BA revised.xlsx \(europa.eu\)](#) Additional information on how to fill in the form is available on the following link: [Instructions Financial Identification Form](#)

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

2.7.3. COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES OF CONTEST

Papers 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 papers will be carried out by an Evaluation Committee composed by EDA staff members, external members from other institutions may be invited to join the Evaluation Committee (e.g., European Defence & Security College).

All eligible papers will be evaluated based on the submitted papers 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 prizes will be awarded to principal author that, based on the evaluation done by the evaluation committee, provide a paper 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:

	Criteria	Maximum Points
1	<p><u>Quality</u></p> <p>The quality of the papers will be assessed in terms of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Clarity</u>: organization and structure of the paper's content (such aspects as: problem statement, current reference solutions, clearly understandable novelty of the proposal, feasibility, defence benefits, performance analysis/expectations, conclusions should be addressed). 2. <u>Technical soundness</u>: correctness of the methodological and scientific approach and formulation, use of correct technical terminology (nomenclature). 3. <u>Linguistic correctness</u>: spelling, grammar, articulation, and stylish expressions used. 4. <u>References</u>: adequacy and level of updating (topicality). 	30
2	<p><u>Innovativeness</u></p> <p>Papers should demonstrate innovativeness and disruptiveness of the proposed ideas by addressing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>State-of-the-Art</u>: completeness and clearly addressing what are the currently existing solutions and recent research proposals. 2. <u>Originality</u>: what is the novelty of the proposal w.r.t. the State-of-the-Art. 3. <u>Disruptiveness</u>: a radical change in terms of technology in the context of applications for defence. 	40
3	<p><u>Impact</u></p> <p>Papers should underline potential impact of the proposal on modern and future battlefield in terms of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Technical feasibility</u>: Practical realizability in a predictive timeline. 2. <u>Enabling new and/or significantly improving current military capabilities</u> with a special reference to long-term defence capabilities (2035 onwards). 3. <u>Interoperability</u>: how much the proposed solution matches the current defence technologies and interforce common use. 4. <u>Business case</u>: implementability/adoptability of the proposed innovative idea on future battlefield (in terms of systemic approach), cost-value ratio. 5. <u>Dual use</u>: if the proposal addresses dual-use military and civilian applications, will be treated as an added value. 	30
	Total	100

2.8. PAPERS

Applicants must present their ideas in a manner as concise as possible. The use of the Paper Award template (Annex 4) is **mandatory**. Papers must be up to 8 pages in total (including references). In case the papers submitted to the contest exceed the maximum pages, the evaluation committee will only take into consideration the first 8 pages during the evaluation process.

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 paper and to check their e-mail regularly. Please make sure that the communication from EDA is not classified as spam mail.

This invitation to submit a paper 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 papers 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 paper 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 Prizes winners after the award ceremony by bank transfer in one instalment.

3.2. OWNERSHIP OF THE RESULTS – 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 a paper, applicants declare that they have obtained, or will obtain, all authorisations, consents, and permissions necessary to submit their paper, carry out their paper and comply with these rules of contest and, to the best of their knowledge, that their paper 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 a paper 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 winners 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 "EDA Research, Technology and Innovation Papers Award 2024" 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 paper for its communication and publicizing 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 publicizing 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. Paper Submission Form & Checklist of documents to be submitted

4.2. Exclusion Criteria Form

4.3. Reimbursement of expenses

4.4. EDA RTI Paper Award 2024 Template