**EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY**

**DEFENCE INNOVATION PRIZES WORK PROGRAMME 2022**

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.

Since 2018, the Agency have been organizing the 'EDA Defence Innovation Prize' which rewards companies and research entities who come up with ground-breaking technologies, products, processes or services applicable in the defence domain. The contest aims to stimulate defence innovation in Europe and provide non-traditional defence stakeholders (civil industries, SMEs, research organisations, universities, etc.) with an opportunity to showcase their know-how in domains relevant for defence. EDA has so far hosted three editions of the Defence Innovation Prize that have led to enhanced focus and activity in the respective areas. The past editions have been focused on:

* 1st Edition (2018): Autonomous Systems
* 2nd Edition (2019): Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications for defence
* 3rd Edition (2020): Innovative solutions/Technologies for Countering Swarms of UAVs
* 4th Edition (2021): Innovative solutions & technologies on Human-Machine Interfaces enabling Human-Machine-Teaming for Defence.

The following topic is to be awarded in 2022.

**Prize: Space-based surveillance and reconnaissance defence technologies (space domain) focusing on debris and artificial orbiting objects.**

This contest will reward innovative defence-related ideas covering the following topics:

***Enhanced Space traffic management (STM) for military purposes:***

* Tracking in all orbital regions for orbit refinement
* Safe deorbiting and rapid manoeuvring of military satellites
* Predict and avoid potential collisions.

***Awareness and tracking of debris and man-made objects:***

* Perform tasked tracking in all orbit regions for natural and man-made objects
* Better track, and identify objects and threats in space
* Enhance the ability to maintain real-time awareness of the space domain
* Space debris detection and tracking through satellite grids.
* Detect very small LEO debris

Addressed CDP priorities:

* Space-based information and communications services (Earth observation, Positioning, Navigation and Timing, Space Situational Awareness, Satellite communication)
* Information superiority (radio spectrum management, tactical communications and information systems, information management, and ISR capabilities)

The earmarked budget for the first-ranked Prize is EUR 30 000. Subject to budget availability, EDA could consider awarding additional prize (s).

Expected results: The prize winner (s) 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 entity(s) demonstrating a solution that best addresses the qualitative criteria defined in a three-steps evaluation done by the evaluation committee (further clarification of these criteria will be published in the Rules of Contest):

* **Step 1:** Focus on **Criterion 1 Originality and level of innovation**. Only the ideas demonstrating full or substantial innovation will move to the next step.
* **Step 2:** Only those proposals who pass step 1 will be evaluated using **Criterion 2 Relevance and impact on EU defence capabilities, Criterion 3 Relevance for non-traditional defence R&T communities and Criterion 4 Feasibility of the proposal**. The ones demonstrating relevance for the EU defence and proving to be feasible will move to the next step (at least 75 out of 90 points)
* **Step 3:** Only those proposals who pass the step 2 will be evaluated using **Criterion 5 Implementation and Value for the Member States**.

## Indicative timetable of contest

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| Stages  | Indicative period  |
| Opening of the contest  | Q2 2022 |
| Deadline for submission of applications  | Q3 2022 |
| Evaluation  | Q3 2022 |
| Award of the prizes  | Q4 2022 |

## Type of Action

Prize

## Indicative timetable

The specific rules of the contest will be published in 2022 by the European Defence Agency, which will directly launch and manage the contest and award the prize.