

European Defence Agency Innovation Prizes Work Programme 2018

Due to the globalisation of technologies, Defence organisations across the world are increasingly pushing at the same time for the development of underpinning technologies and for the employment of a wide range of “disruptive” technologies in new and innovative ways to retain a capability advantage. Many of such technologies come with primarily a civilian and commercial focus.

In order 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 impact either on future defence capabilities or filling existing capability gaps.

The following prizes are foreseen to be awarded in 2018.

Prize 1: Guidance, Navigation and Control (GNC)

The objectives of this prize are to stimulate innovative ideas in the technology area covered by the EDA CapTech¹ Guidance, Navigation and Control (GNC)² which would, if implemented between now and 2035, contribute to improve and enhance specific EU defence capabilities.

The specific topic covered in this prize will be the Integration of multi-robot swarming concepts in support of future defence capabilities.

The indicative budget for the prize is EUR 10 000 from the 2018 EDA Operational Budget.

Expected results: Innovative ideas, implementable through a collaborative project, and affordable in development and exploitation. Ideas might include, but are not limited to:

- Proposals 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 <https://www.eda.europa.eu/Aboutus/how-we-work/expert-teams/capability-technology-areas>

² The Area of Responsibility (AoR) of the CapTech GNC covers critical Guidance, Navigation and Control technologies for improved autonomy and automation, increased performance and dependability in support to future defence capability needs. R&T activities within the CapTech aim to contribute to improved operational effectiveness, enhanced situational awareness, safety and security, and to support future Positioning, Navigation and Timing (PNT) superiority needs.

Eligibility criteria:

The Contest is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the EU Treaties. When applying the rules of access to the market, it is the country 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.

The contest is not covered by the WTO Multilateral Government Procurement Agreement (GPA). Applicants established in third countries (non-EU countries) do not have the right to participate in this contest unless international agreements in the field of public procurement grant them the right to do so. In case there is no such agreement, or the agreement does not apply to this contest, applicants of third countries are not entitled to participate.

The relevant international agreements in the field of public procurement are the Stabilization and Association Agreements (SAA) and the European Economic Area Agreement (EEA). Currently, the following countries have signed and ratified the above Agreements and therefore economic operators established in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, FYROM, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina also have the right to participate in EDA's public procurement procedures.

Award criteria: The prize will be awarded, after closure of the contest, to the applicant(s) who in the opinion of the evaluation committee demonstrates a solution that best addresses the following qualitative criteria (further clarification of these criteria will be published in the Rules of Contest):

- Originality and/or level of innovation
- Relevance and impact on EU defence capabilities and EU strategic autonomy
- Feasibility of the idea
- Quality of presentation

Indicative timetable of contest:

Stages	Indicative period
Opening of the contest	Q1 2018
Deadline for submission of applications	Q2 2018
Evaluation	Q2 2018
Award of the prizes	Q2 2018

Type of Action: Prize.

Indicative timetable: The specific rules of the contest will be published in 2018 by the European Defence Agency, which will directly launch and manage the contest and award the prize.

Prize 2: CBRN & Human Factor Technologies and Techniques

The objectives of this prize are to stimulate innovative ideas in the technology area covered by the EDA CapTech CBRN & Human Factor (CBRN&HF)³ which would, if implemented between now and 2035, contribute to improve and enhance specific EU defence capabilities.

The specific topic covered in this prize will be: autonomous detection, identification and monitoring/sampling/analysis through sensor and platform networking.

The indicative budget for the prize is EUR 10 000 from the 2018 EDA Operational Budget.

Expected results: Innovative ideas, implementable through a collaborative project, and affordable in development and exploitation. Ideas might include, but are not limited to:

- Proposals 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.

Eligibility criteria: Same as for Prize 1.

Award criteria: Same as for Prize 1.

Indicative timetable of contest: Same as for Prize 1.

Type of Action: Prize.

Indicative timetable: The specific rules of the contest will be published in 2018 by the European Defence Agency, which will directly launch and manage the contest and award the prize.

³ The CapTech CBRN&HF main objective is to support the strengthening of European armed forces' capability to safely operate in a CBRN environment while contributing to civilian-led crisis response operations if needed.

Prize 3: Innovative defence Applications

The objectives of this prize are to stimulate innovative defence applications which would contribute to improve and enhance EU defence capabilities in line with the EDA 2018 CDP priorities.

The indicative budget for the prize is between EUR 20 000 and EUR 40 000 from the 2018 EDA Operational Budget.

Expected results: Innovative defence applications of technologies and techniques within the EDA R&T taxonomy⁴ implementable through a collaborative project, and affordable in development and exploitation.

Eligibility criteria: Same as for Prize 1.

Award criteria: Same as for Prize 1.

Indicative timetable of contest(s):

Stages	Indicative period
Opening of the contest	Q2 2018
Deadline for submission of applications	Q3 2018
Evaluation	Q3 2018
Award of the prize	Q4 2018

Type of Action: Prize.

Indicative timetable: The specific rules of the contest will be published in 2018 by the European Defence Agency, which will directly launch and manage the contest and award the prize.

⁴ <https://www.eda.europa.eu/docs/default-source/procurement/eda-technology-taxonomy.pdf>