

EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

INNOVATION PRIZES WORK PROGRAMME 2020

Due to the globalization 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 prize is to be awarded in 2020.

Prize: Innovative solutions/technologies for the countering of swarms of UAVs, specifically on the protection of static and dynamic land facilities and platforms

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

This innovation prize will therefore reward innovative defence-related ideas addressing the area of “Innovative solutions/technologies for the countering of swarms of UAVs, specifically on the protection of static and dynamic land facilities and platforms”, covering the following topics:

- the detection and identification of swarms of small drones (many units acting in a coordinated manner);
- mitigation measures incorporating the capability to intercept, disable and neutralise hostile vehicles;
- the minimising of collateral damage.

The indicative budget for the prize is EUR 30 000 from the 2020 EDA Operational Budget.

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 his domicile.

Award criteria: The prize will be awarded to the entity(s) that based on the evaluation 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
- Relevance/extend of the idea to stimulate engagement of non-traditional defence R&T communities and innovators
- - Feasibility of the idea

Indicative timetable of contest:

Stages	Indicative period
Opening of the contest	Q1 2020
Deadline for submission of applications	Q3 2020
Evaluation	Q3 2020
Award of the prizes	Q4 2020

Type of Action: Prize

Indicative timetable: The specific rules of the contest will be published in 2020 by the European Defence Agency, which will directly launch and manage the contest and award the prize.