



The European Defence Fund (EDF)

Kommissionseinblicke und Innovationsinstrumente

Vienna, 06 March 2025

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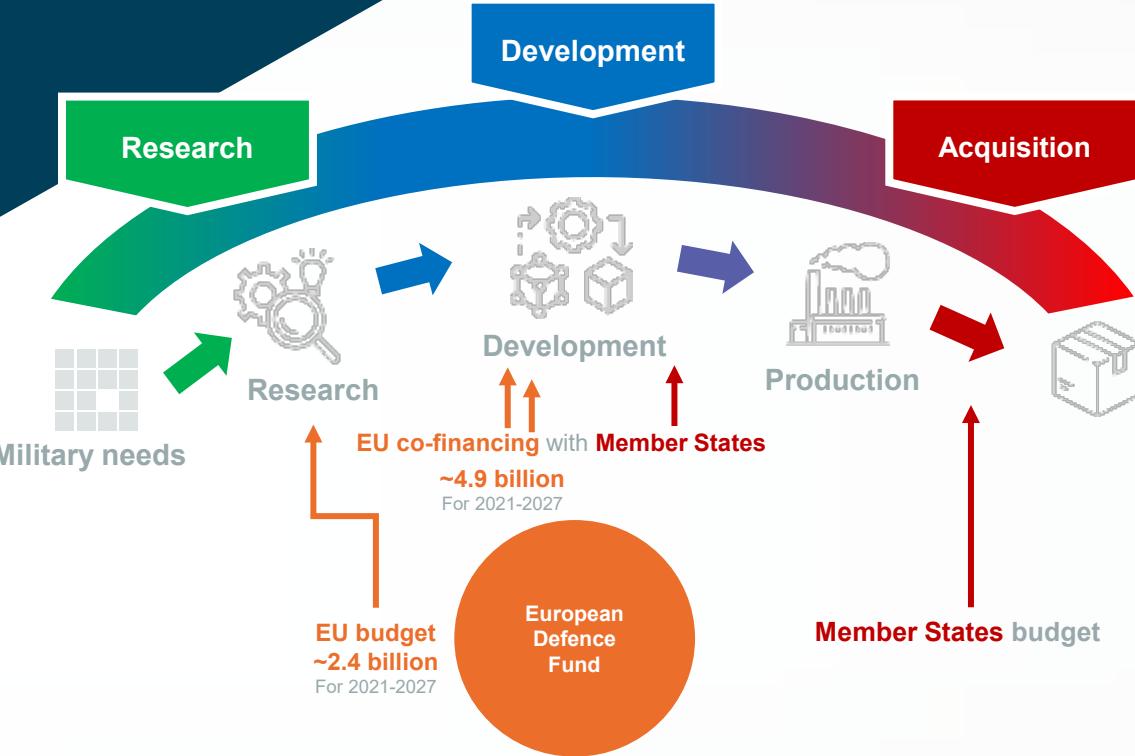
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European Defence Fund

The EU defence R&D programme



- EDF financial support mainly in the form of grants
- Open to EU Member States and Norway
- Security-based participation conditions for entities controlled by third-countries

EDF: a successful catalyst of the defence (industry) landscape

€4 billion already committed for cooperative defence R&D

EU 2nd biggest defence R&D investor in Europe

157 R&D projects (incl. EDF23)
+ 62 projects from precursors (PADR and EDIDP)

High-level of inclusiveness

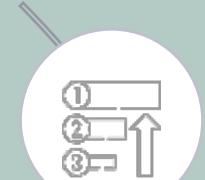
*~1.200 beneficiaries from all parts of the EU
~1/3 of participants SMEs*

Real cooperative dimension

On average, 17 entities from 8 MS and Norway involved in an EDF project

Growing attractiveness

*236 proposals submitted under 2023 calls: +76% increase
Number proposals x2 under non-thematic SMEs and disruptive technologies calls*



EDF-funded actions in line with EU's capability priorities



Key next-generation defence capabilities supported

Examples: space, main battle tank, strategic air transport, anti-UAVs, navy vessels



~20% of the EDF budget implemented under EU Defence Innovation Scheme

with innovative measures to support defence R&D and attract new and small players



First concrete products and systems already used by armed forces

Examples: counter naval mine solutions, unmanned ground vehicles



Part of a comprehensive EU strategy to boost defence investment

with ASAP and EDIRPA, the new European Defence Industrial Strategy (EDIS) and the newly proposed EDIP

EDF in perspective

Since the adoption of EDF Regulation in May 2021:

- **€2 billion in signed grant agreements**
- **More than €3 billion in awarded projects**
- **More than €4 billion programmed/committed**

EDF 2021



€1.17 billion

60 projects selected

142 proposals submitted

692 entities from 26 MS + NO
43% SMEs

18.4% of overall budget allocated to SMEs

EDF 2022



€0.83 billion

41 projects selected

134 proposals submitted

550 entities from 26 MS + NO
39% SMEs

19.8% of overall budget allocated to SMEs

EDF 2023



€1.135 billion

2 projects + 54 proposals selected

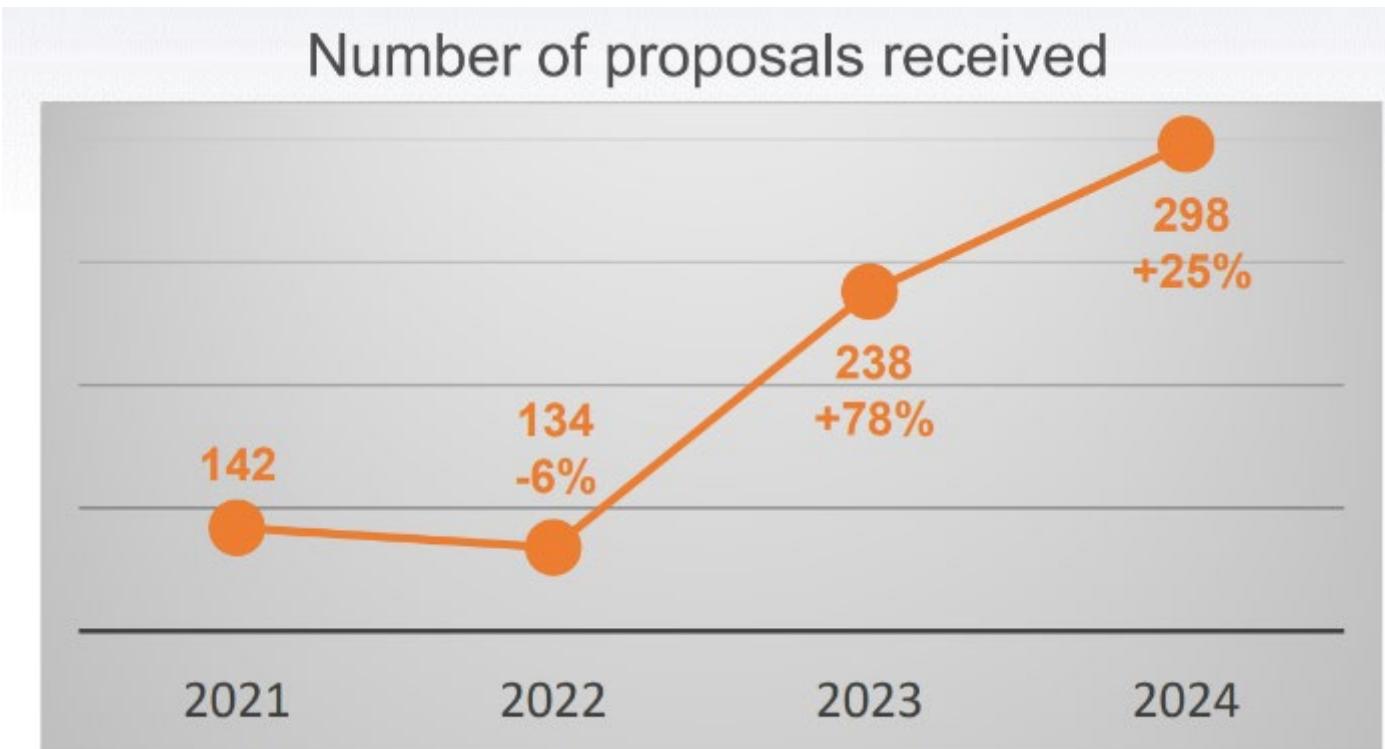
238 proposals submitted

581 entities from 26 MS + NO
42% SMEs

18% of overall budget allocated to SMEs

On average, 17 entities from 8 Member States and Norway involved in a single project
Overall, entities from 27 Member States and Norway

2024 EDF Calls

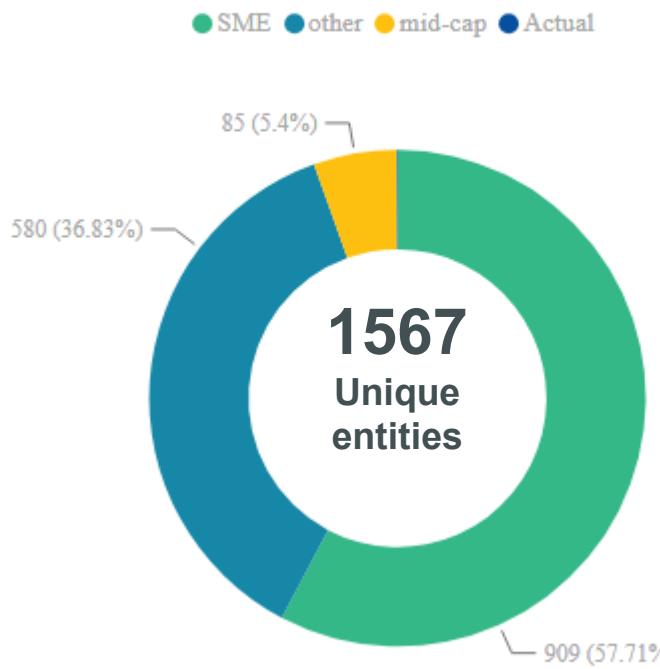


- Available budget: ~ EUR 0,987B*
- EU grants requested: ~EUR 2,495B
- Around 67% of all proposals received in non-thematic topics (EDF-2024-LS-RA-DIS-NT, EDF-2024-LS-RA-SMERO-NT, EDF-2024-LS-DA-SME-NT)
- 21% of proposals submitted in development calls
- 79% of proposals submitted in research calls

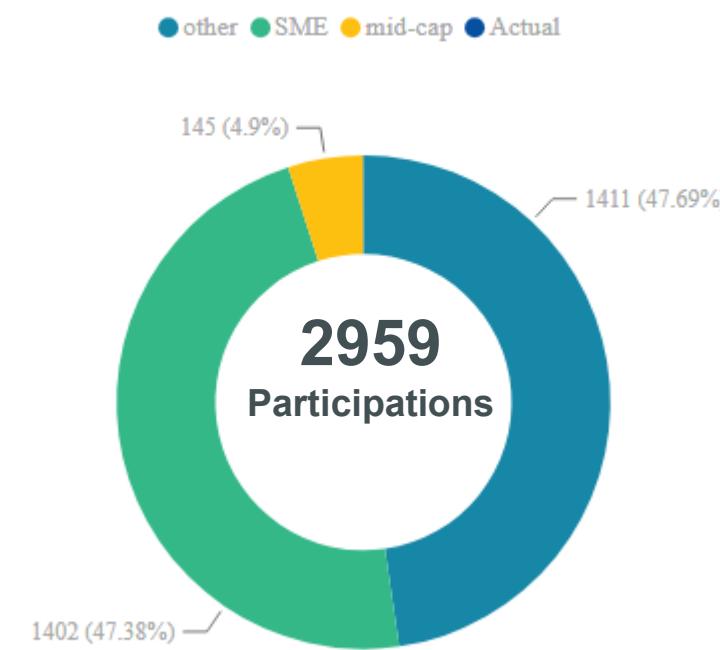
* budget excluding EDF-2024-DA-EUCI call

2024 EDF Calls – Increased participation of SMEs that represent 47% of the total number of entities and represent 36% of the total requested grant amount

Unique Applicants by size of entity



Repetitive Applicants by size of entity



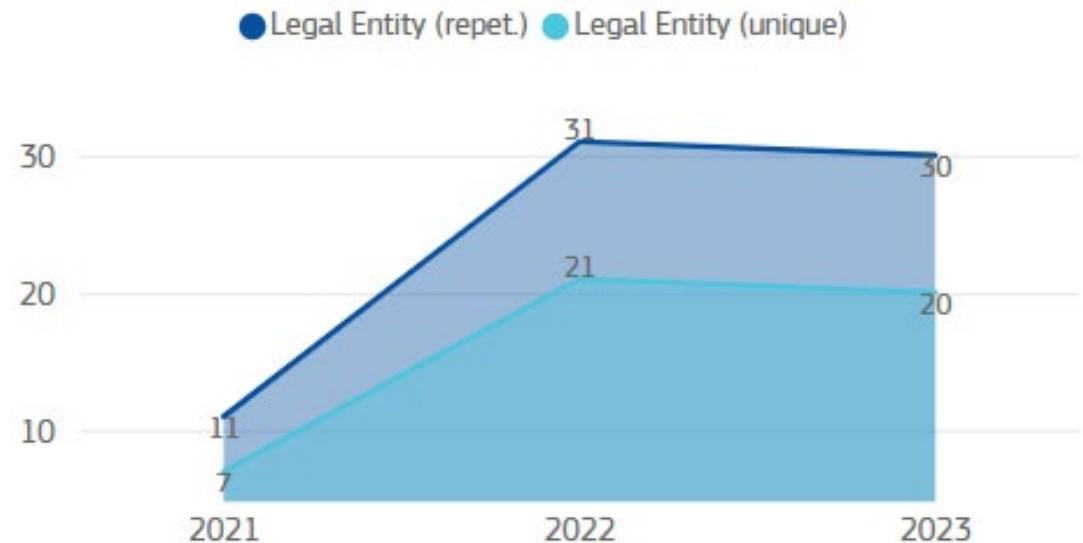
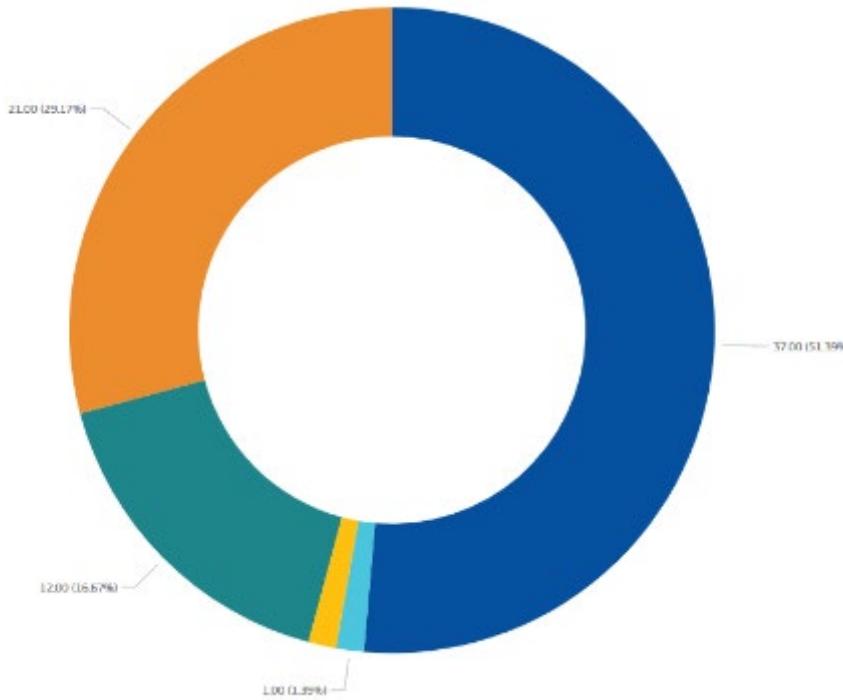
- SMEs represent 47% of all participations
- SMEs 36% of the total requested grant amount
- 48% of all SME participations in the dedicated SME calls*

* SME calls: EDF-2024-LS-RA-SMERO-NT
EDF-2024-LS-DA-SME-NT

How is Austria performing?

General Figures:

37 unique AT participants participated 72 times in 48 projects receiving 41.541.695 € in EU Grants



● Research Org (non-profit) ● Higher Education (excluding Research org.) ● PublicBodies (excluding Research and Higher Education) ● SME self declared ● Other Profit entities

EDF Work Programme 2025

Timeline EDF WP and calls 2025

29 Jan

Adoption and publication of EDF WP* 2025, MAP** and call topics description

Time to prepare proposals **> 8,5 months**
(more than 1 month more than in 2024)

Mid-Feb

Publication and opening of calls, **conditions** and **templates** on F&T Portal

2-3 April

EDF Info Days

16 Oct
17.00 CET

Deadline for submission of proposals

MAY: Results of EDF 2024 calls

* Work programme

** Indicative Multiannual perspective

EDF Categories of Actions

Addressed by annual work programmes & calls for proposals



Medical response, CBRN & human factors



Information superiority



Sensors



Cyber



Space



Digital transformation



Energy resilience & environmental transition



Materials and components

Horizontal categories



Air combat



Air and Missile defence



Ground combat



Force protection and mobility



Naval combat



Underwater warfare



Simulation and training



Disruptive technologies



Innovative defence technologies (SMEs)



EDF annual work programmes are defined in close cooperation with **Member States** within EDF Programme Committee (including with European Defence Agency and European External Action Service)

First concrete products and systems already in use by armed forces

Examples: mine detection, unmanned ground vehicles

EDF Work Programme 2025

EUR ~1.065 billion

33 topics

Opening of the calls: Mid-Feb 2025

Deadline for submission: 16 Oct 2025 17.00 CET

 <p>Medical Response & CBRN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGA under FPA on medical countermeasures   SGA under FPA on medical countermeasures   Autonomous triage and evacuation  	13.5 M€ 11.5 M€ 10 M€	 <p>Air combat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative air combat   Enhanced pilot environment  	49 M€ 54 M€
 <p>Information superiority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU MIDS   	39 M€	 <p>Air & missile defence</p>	Not addressed
 <p>Sensors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-band 4D radar   Infrared detectors   	29.5 M€ 29 M€	 <p>Ground combat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counter-battery capabilities Future modular multipurpose land platforms  Drone-based mass munitions (spin-in, cascade funding) Land collaborative combat including air-land  	20 M€ 79 M€ 49 M€ 44 M€
 <p>Cyber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robustness of autonomous vehicles (spin-in)   Improved cyber defence operation capabilities   	20 M€ 34 M€	 <p>Protection & Mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soldier systems (cascade funding)  	35 M€
 <p>Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-orbit operations and services (spin-in)  Space-based ISR constellation  	49 M€ 66 M€	 <p>Naval combat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital ship and naval combat cloud   	54 M€
 <p>Digital transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human-AI dialogue systems (challenge)   	27 M€	 <p>Underwater warfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced underwater networks   Stand-off anti-submarine warfare  	25 M€ 20 M€
 <p>Energy & Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propulsion system for next generation rotorcrafts  Naval hybrid propulsion and power systems (spin-in)   Aircraft propulsion and energy management systems  	25 M€ 20 M€ 48 M€	 <p>Simulation & training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and analysis framework for Aerial Systems   Live, Virtual, Constructive training interoperability   	28 M€ 15 M€
 <p>Materials & Components</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chiplet for defence applications   	25 M€	 <p>Disruptive technologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great-Depth Enabling Technologies (R) Non-thematic research topic 	23 M€ 20 M€
 <p>SMEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-thematic research for SMEs and ROs Non-thematic development for SMEs 	34 M€ 33 M€	 <p>Others</p> <p>Other actions (outreach, IT, studies, audit, indirect management)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business coaching for SMEs Blending facility for equity funding for SMEs/Mid-Caps Business accelerating services Matchmaking events for investors and SMEs EDF hackathon events CSA for EDF NFP network 	6,6 M€ 1.6 M€ 20 M€ 3.8 M€ 0.6 M€ 0.6 M€ 2 M€

Legend:    
 Contributing to identified EDF main expected outcomes

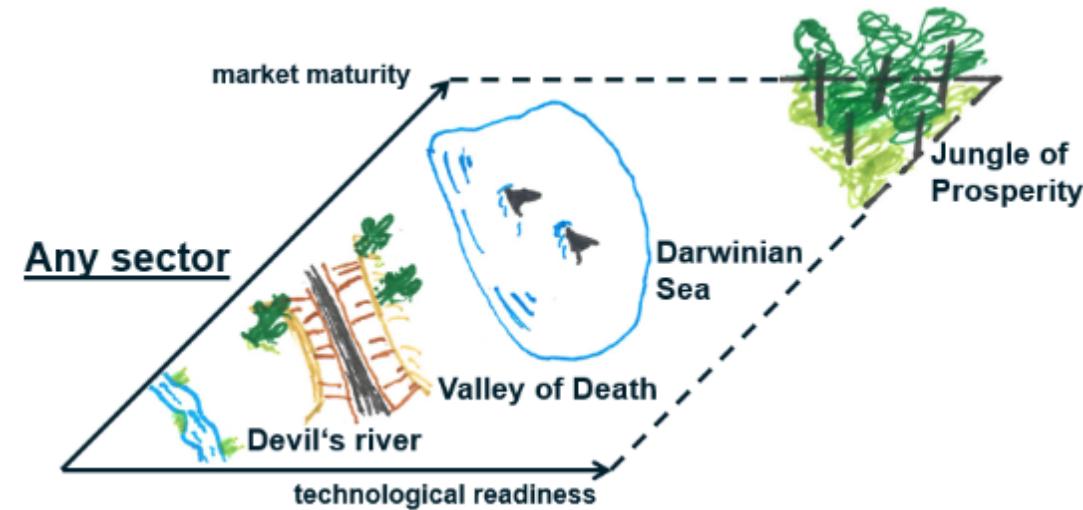
#EUDefenceIndustry

DEFIS

European Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS)

What?

- European Defence Fund's tailored support for EU/Norway's tech founders
- Five defence innovation support tracks to tap into the full potential of civil and defence innovation



For Whom?

- Start-ups, scale-ups, SMEs, Research Organizations and innovation facilitators in the defence industrial ecosystem

How Much?

- €1.5 billion until 2027

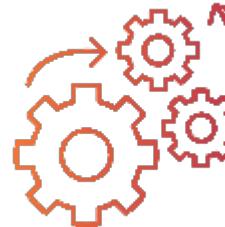




Five support tracks for defence tech founders

GRANTS & BUSINESS COACHING for SMEs

- Small 'ticket' open calls for SMEs&RTO (€ 4-6 M)
- Big 'ticket' thematical calls, including:
 - Technological Challenges
 - Calls to spin-in civil R&D defence
 - Calls with a requirement to provide acceleration services for start-ups



DEFENCE HACKATHONS

Held annually in Spring across multiple locations in the EU/Norway
8 locations in 2025



ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR INVESTORS

Defence Equity Facility - €175 M equity instrument via the **European Investment Fund** for European private funds: €100M from EDF budget, expected leverage into €500M



BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

8-months & seed funding for 20 start-up, scale-up companies



MATCHMAKING

Opportunities to find EDF consortium partners and pitch to investors



EUDIS Defence Hackathons

- Next hackathon scheduled 9 - 11 May
- 8 local organisers selected after a competitive call:
 - Prague Innovation Institute, **Czech Republic**
 - National Defence Technology Center, **Denmark**
 - Bayern Innovativ GmbH, **Germany**
 - Fondazione E. Amaldi, **Italy**
 - Riga Technological University, **Latvia**
 - Kaunas University of Technology, **Lithuania**
 - Krakow Technology Park, **Poland**
 - Arribes Enlightenment, **Spain**
- **Hackathon participants and mentors** from MS/NO and UA can register from this week, please inform your networks.





EUDIS Business Accelerator & Matchmaking (BAMM)

EUDIS Business Accelerator

8-month acceleration programme offering **top-level coaching, training, testing and seed-financing** to EU start-ups and scale-ups.

- Applications to open in **March**
- **20 start-ups and scale-ups** selected for the first batch
- First batch from **June 2025 to February 2026** – kick-off at Paris Air Show
- Proposed **themes**:



Collaborative Combat & Autonomous Operations



Cyber Warfare & Information Superiority



Combat Medicine & Battlefield Health Resilience



Open Call
Disruptive technologies for Defence Superiority

EUDIS Matchmaking

Bringing together the **European defence innovation ecosystem** to enhance access to finance for defence innovators and facilitate connections among European defence stakeholders.

- Applications to open in **March**
- Target audience: **defence innovators** (start-ups, SMEs and small mid-caps); **investors**; **corporates**; and **defence end-users**.
- Online + physical Matchmaking events
- **1st EUDIS Matchmaking Event: Latitude 59 (Tallinn, EE), 21-23 May 2025**



STEP: what is it about?

- STEP: Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform
 - EU programme to support EU industry and boost innovation in critical technologies
 - Steer resources across 11 EU funding programmes (including EDF)
 - 3 targeted investment areas
 - digital technologies and deep-tech innovation
 - clean and resource efficient technologies
 - biotechnologies
- 14 topics from EDF WP 2025 are deemed, by design, to contribute to the STEP objectives
 - Identified by suffix '-STEP' in the topic ID
- What benefits to expect (from an EDF perspective)?
 - Extra budget for the EDF: +1.5 Bn€ for the period 2024-2027 (i.e. ~375 M€ per year)
 - Applicants with proposals scoring above threshold will be awarded a **STEP Seal**
 - Enhance better access to EU funding, notably by facilitating alternative cumulative or combined funding from several EU budget instruments
 - Possible promotion on the STEP portal

Useful links

- **EDF general information**
Access annual WP and MAP
- **EDF Calls for proposals**
Application and submission of proposals, call documents, FAQ, tutorials
- **European Defence Fund National Focal Points**
Network of NFPs, support at national level
- **EDF Info days**
2-3 April, Brussels
- **EU Defence Innovation Scheme**
EUDIS
- Remaining questions regarding application to EDF calls for proposals?
- **Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform**
STEP

[DG DEFIS website](#)

[Funding and Tenders portal](#)

[Overview of NFPs](#)

[NFP support project EOA](#)

[Website and registration](#)

[EUDIS Website](#)

DEFIS-EDF-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu

[STEP Website](#)

Upcoming important dates in 2025

Feb	Open Call for EUDIS Hackathon participants
All year	3-4 events EUDIS Matchmaking
2-3 Apr	EDF Info Days and Matchmaking in Brussels
May-Jun	Open call to startups for EUDIS Business Accelerator
9-11 May	EUDIS Hackathon/Makeathon in 8 EU/Norway cities
16 Oct	Deadline for Submission of EDF's R&D proposals

Thank you!