

EDF CALLS FOR PROPOSALS 2023



7 CALLS | **€1.2 billion budget**



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THE EDF IS IMPLEMENTED THROUGH
ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMMES

The **third** EDF work programme is organised
around **4** thematic calls and **3** calls dedicated to
SMEs and disruptive technologies, consisting of
34 topics

Legend: ■ RESEARCH (R) ■ DEVELOPMENT (D) ■ OTHER SUPPORT AND PREPARATIVE MEASURES

Disclaimer: Budget allocations depend on the adoption of a separate financing decision with reference to 2024 budget appropriations

CATEGORIES	TOPICS	BUDGET
 Defence medical response, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear (CBRN)	■ Federating CBRN systems - European CBRN system (D) ■ Defence medical countermeasures Alliance (R)	■ €40 M
 Information superiority	■ Detect and Avoid (D) ■ Laser Communications (D) ■ Tactical RPAS (D)	■ €99 M
 Sensors	■ Electromagnetic signal propagation (R) ■ Optronics detector technologies (R) ■ Sensor Grid (D)	■ €69 M
 Cyber	■ Automation of security penetration tests (R) ■ Cyber situational awareness (D) ■ Deployable autonomous AI Agent (D)	■ €60 M
 Space	■ Threat surveillance and protection of space-based assets (R) ■ Initial operational capacity for Space situational awareness C2 and sensors (D)	■ €125 M
 Digital transformation	■ Human language technologies for defence - Preparation of a technological challenge (R) ■ Human language technologies for defence - Organisation of a technological challenge (R) ■ Dedicated hardware architectures for energy-efficient AI (R)	■ €45 M
 Materials and components	■ High-performance materials (R) ■ Technologies and processes for maintenance, joining and repair through an innovation test hub (D)	■ €50 M

 Energy and environment	Innovative propulsion systems for defence applications (R)	■ €25 M
 Air Combat	- Smart technologies for next generation fighter systems (D) - Self-protection systems (D)	■ €63 M
 Air & Missile defence	- Counter-UAS capabilities (D) - Endo-atmospheric interceptor (D)	■ €123 M
 Ground combat	- Main battle tank platform systems (D) - Long-range indirect fire support capabilities for precision and high efficiency strikes (D)	■ €47 M
 Force protection and mobility	- Demonstrators and technologies to defeat UXOs and IEDs (R) - Strategic air transportation of outsized cargo (R)	■ €45 M
 Naval combat	Modular and multirole patrol corvette (D)	■ €154.5 M
 Underwater warfare	- Unmanned anti-submarine and seabed warfare (D) - Mine counter-measures capabilities (D)	■ €90 M
 Disruptive technologies for defence applications	- Laser-based directed energy weapons (R) - Non-thematic research (R)	■ €41 M
 SME Calls	- Non-thematic research focused on SMEs & research organisations (R) - Non-thematic development for SMEs (D)	■ €72 M
OTHER ACTIONS	- Coordination and support action for national focal points - External expertise, audits, and IT systems - Business coaching for SMEs - Blending facility for equity funding for SMEs/Mid-Caps - European Defence Fund hackaton event	■ €30.3 M

SUPPORT FOR SMES

The 2023 EDF work programme provides dedicated SME calls and funding for business coaching to SMEs participating in projects selected under the dedicated calls for SMEs and disruptive technologies. In addition, to encourage SMEs participation, the EDF foresees various incentives, such as a financial bonus for projects that include cross-border SMEs.

SUPPORT FOR DEFENCE INNOVATION

The 2023 Work Programme includes **targeted measures** to **stimulate defence innovation**. Inbuilt measures such as **Technological Challenges**, calls focused on **SMEs & disruptive technologies**, and the **Defence Equity Facility** are all aimed at enhancing EU defence innovation.

The **European Defence Fund** will empower the **EU Defence Innovation Scheme** making it a key driver for innovation in the EU **defence sector**.

EMBLEMATIC PROJECTS IN CRITICAL DOMAINS

- Space situational awareness
- European patrol corvette
- Countering hypersonic missiles

...and preparing the ground for the development of next generation fighter systems, main battle tank, strategic air transportation.

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