

EDF CALLS FOR PROPOSALS 2025

DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S DEFENCE CAPABILITIES

9 calls
€1.065 billion

The European Defence Fund is the Commission's instrument to support collaborative Research and Development in defence. It is implemented through annual work programmes.

The fifth European Defence Fund (EDF) Work Programme addresses 33 topics in total, organised around 7 thematic calls, 2 non-thematic calls and 2 specific grant agreements in support of the Alliance for defence medical countermeasures.

CATEGORIES		TOPICS	BUDGET (in million euros)
	Defence medical support, CBRN, biotech and human factors	- Defence medical countermeasures Alliance – Research and Development actions (2 topics) (R) + (D) - Autonomous triage and evacuation (R)	35
	Information superiority	European Multifunctional Information Distribution System (R)	39
	Advanced passive and active sensors	- Multi-band 4D Radar technologies (D) - Infrared detectors (D)	58.5
	Cyber	- Risk, robustness and resilience for autonomous vehicles in military operations (R) - Improved cyber defence operations capabilities (D)	54



CATEGORIES		TOPICS	BUDGET (in million euros)
	Space	- On-orbit operations and services (D) - Space-based ISR constellation (D)	115
	Digital transformation	Privacy-preserving human-AI dialogue systems – Participation in and Organisation of a technological challenge (2 topics) (R)	27
	Energy resilience and environmental transition	- Propulsion system for next generation rotorcrafts (R) - Naval hybrid propulsion and power systems (R) - Aircraft propulsion and energy management systems (D)	93
	Materials and components	Chipleths for defence applications (R)	25
	Air combat	- Collaborative air combat (D) - Enhanced pilot environment (D)	103
	Ground combat	- Technologies for counter-battery capabilities (R) - Future modular multifunctional land platforms and enabling technologies, including green technologies (D) - Land collaborative combat including air-land (D) - Drone-based affordable mass munitions (D)	192
	Force protection and mobility	Full-size demonstrators for next generation soldier systems (D)	35
	Naval combat	Digital Ship and Naval Combat Cloud (D)	54
	Underwater warfare	- Stand-off anti-submarine warfare engagement (R) - Advanced underwater networks (D)	45
	Simulation and training	- Multi-disciplinary design and analysis framework for Aerial Systems (R) - Live, virtual, constructive training interoperability (R)	43
	Disruptive technologies	- Great-depth enabling technologies (R) - Non-thematic research actions targeting disruptive technologies for defence (R)	43
Non- thematic calls for innovative and future-oriented defence solutions focused on SMEs		- Call for proposals dedicated to SMEs and research organisations (R) - Call for proposals dedicated to SMEs (D) - Call for proposals for coordination and support action to the National Focal Points (NFP) network	67
Other actions*		- Business Coaching in the European Defence Fund - EUDIS Business Accelerator - EUDIS Matchmaking Services for companies and investors - Defence Equity Facility under InvestEU for SMEs and Mid-Caps - EUDIS Defence Hackathon in 8 locations - EDF outreach and communication - Technical and administrative assistance for the EDF implementation	37.2

Legend: R – Research; D- Development actions

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EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS):

The EDF's annual Work Programme for 2025 includes dedicated SME calls as well as calls that aim at spinning in the outcomes from other EU programmes, organising of a Technological Challenge, and supporting start-ups and SMEs through calls with financial support to third parties (cascade funding) which are open to Ukrainian entities for the first time.

This year EUDIS will also offer a number of support services, such as EUDIS Business Accelerator, Matchmaking, SME Coaching and funding for EUDIS Defence Hackathon organisation.

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