



European  
Commission




# EDF CALLS FOR PROPOSALS 2024

## DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S DEFENCE CAPABILITIES

**8 calls**  
**€1.1 billion budget**














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

The **fourth** European Defence Fund (EDF) work programme is organised around **6** thematic calls and **2** calls dedicated to SMEs, consisting of **32** topics in total.

CATEGORIES	TOPICS	BUDGET (in million euros)
 1. Defence medical support; Chemical, Biological Radiological & Nuclear, biotech and human factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Defence medical countermeasures Alliance Research actions (R)</li><li>Defence medical countermeasures Alliance Development actions (D)</li></ul>	25
 2. Information superiority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>AI-based multifunctional aperture and transceiver (D)</li><li>Defence multi-dimensional communication standard (D)</li><li>Small enhanced European UAS (D)</li><li>Medium altitude long endurance RPAS (D)</li></ul>	181
 3. Advanced passive and active sensors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advanced radar technologies (R)</li><li>Multi-sensor integration for robust autonomous drone navigation – Technological challenge (R)</li></ul>	62



Defence Industry  
and Space

CATEGORIES	TOPICS	BUDGET (in million euros)
 4. Cyber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next-Generation Cooperative Cyber Range (D)</li> </ul>	48
 5. Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-source satellite image analysis – Technological challenge (R)</li> <li>• Secure waveform for satellite communications (D)</li> </ul>	50
 6. Digital transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Automated structural modelling for effect prediction (R)</li> </ul>	15
 7. Energy resilience and environmental transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy-independent and energy-efficient systems for military camps (D)</li> </ul>	40
 8. Materials and components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic components (R)</li> </ul>	25
 9. Air combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept study on advanced air-to-air missiles (R)</li> <li>• Unmanned collaborative combat aircraft (UCCA) systems (R)</li> <li>• Next generation rotorcraft (R)</li> </ul>	150
 10. Air and missile defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countering hypersonic glide vehicles (D)</li> </ul>	78
 11. Ground combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intelligent weaponry and ammunition systems (R)</li> <li>• Multipurpose unmanned ground systems (D)</li> <li>• Beyond the line-of-sight close combat (D)</li> <li>• Next generation armoured infantry fighting vehicle (D)</li> </ul>	130
 12. Force protection and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future mid-size tactical cargo aircraft (R)</li> </ul>	30
 13. Naval combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functional smart system-of-systems under an integral survivability approach for future naval platforms (D)</li> </ul>	45
 14. Underwater warfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secured and adaptive underwater communications for UUSs (R)</li> <li>• Autonomous heavy minesweeping system (D)</li> </ul>	54
 15. Simulation and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Methods for bridging reality gaps (R)</li> <li>• Simulation and training for medical emergencies (D)</li> </ul>	25
 16. Disruptive technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantum technologies (R)</li> <li>• Non-thematic research actions targeting disruptive technologies for defence (R)</li> </ul>	40
Non- thematic calls for innovative and future-oriented defence solutions focused on SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-thematic calls dedicated to SMEs and research organisations (R)</li> <li>• Non-thematic calls dedicated to SMEs (D)</li> </ul>	67
Other actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Coaching for all successful SMEs</li> <li>• Business accelerator to support a sustained commercial growth of SMEs and scaling up companies</li> <li>• Matchmaking events for investors, SMEs and Mid-Caps</li> <li>• Defence equity facility under InvestEU for SMEs and Mid-Caps</li> <li>• European Defence Fund Hackathon events</li> <li>• EDF outreach and communication</li> <li>• Technical and administrative assistance for the EDF implementation</li> </ul>	33.2

R – Research; D – Development

 #EUDefenceIndustry

#### EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS):

The 2024 Work Programme includes innovation support measures totaling €225 million. This includes a technological challenge, spin-in call, calls with cascade funding for SMEs and start-ups, as well as a specific calls focused on SMEs and disruptive technologies. In addition, the EUDIS funding is foreseen for SME business coaching, annual defence hackathon organisation and the Defence Equity Facility. The novelty for 2024 is the funding for the EUDIS Business Accelerator and Matchmaking with investors.

