

European Defence Fund (EDF)

Financial Support to Third Parties

One of the measures introduced within European Defence Fund projects is the **Financial Support to Third Parties – FSTP (cascade funding)**.

The aim of FSTP is to contribute to innovative technologies or specialised knowledge relevant to the topic in question and encourage the **inclusion of various smaller players** – including those not previously active in the defence sector – by allowing them to identify and increase potential business opportunities in defence.

This is done through **publication of sub-calls** (within a specific EDF project), where third parties are selected to contribute to overall goals of the projects.

MaJoR project addresses the need to modernize current defence systems and increase the durability of future platform designs by development of innovative technologies for maintenance, joining and repair of multi-material structures across the air, sea and land domains.

The first FSTP sub-call will look for up to 30 innovators to act as technology/solution providers and address specific innovation challenges across the three domains.

Successful applicants will receive up to €60,000 in funding and participate in a 6-month business development support programme.

FSTP will target in priority SMEs (including start-ups). To be eligible, **third parties must be established in EU Member States, Norway or Ukraine**. FSTP offers a unique possibility for Ukrainian entities to receive funding while contributing to the project.

5 topics:

1. **Hybrid Structures for Defence Platforms:** Multi-Material Design, Joining & Reversible Interfaces
2. **Innovative Joining Technologies & Processes** for Multi-Material Defence Structures
3. **Structural Health Monitoring,** Health and Usage Monitoring System & Embedded Sensor Architectures for Next-Generation Defence Platform
4. **Non-Destructive Testing for Bonded Joints** – Maintenance, Repair, Bonding Initial Design & Diagnostics for Hybrid and Composite Structures
5. **Digitalisation, AI & Decision Support Tools** for Structural Assessment and Defence Maintenance

Opening of the sub-call:
28 January - 25 March 2026

Webinar on the funding call
available [here](#)