

## **EDF-2021-OPEN-D: Open call dedicated to SMEs for development of innovative and future-oriented defence solutions**

The development of innovative and future-oriented defence products and technologies significantly relies on the innovation capacity of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). This call for proposals is devoted to SMEs and targets the development of any innovative defence products, solutions and technologies.

### **Targeted type of applicants**

Any eligible consortium as defined in Articles 10(4) and 9 of the EDF Regulation, which, in addition, is composed only of SMEs as defined in Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC. Non-SMEs fulfilling the eligibility conditions of article 9 of the EDF Regulation may participate to the action as subcontractors to the members of the consortium, in the limit of 30% of the funding.

### **Budget**

The Union is considering a contribution of up to EUR 36 000 000 to support proposals addressing any subject of interest for defence.

**Several actions, addressing different defence products, solutions, materials and technologies, may be funded under this call.**

**Proposals are invited against the following topic:**

**EDF-2021-OPEN-D-SME:** Development of innovative and future-oriented defence solutions.

### **Specific challenge**

This call encourages the driving role of SMEs in bringing forward innovation, agility and ability to adapt technologies from civil to defence applications and to turn technology and research results into products in a fast and cost-efficient way.

### **Scope**

The proposals must address innovative defence products, solutions and technologies, including those that can improve readiness, deployability and sustainability of EU forces in all spectrum of tasks and missions, for example in terms of operations, equipment, basing, energy solutions, new surveillance systems.

The proposals could address any subject of interest for defence.

### **Targeted activities**

The proposals must cover one or more activities eligible for a development action, as referred in article 10.3 of the EDF Regulation:

- Activities that aim to increase interoperability and resilience, including secured production and exchange of data, to master critical defence technologies, to strengthen

the security of supply or to enable the effective exploitation of results for defence products and technologies;

- Studies, such as feasibility studies to explore the feasibility of new or upgraded products, technologies, processes, services and solutions;
- The design of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology as well as the definition of the technical specifications on which such a design has been developed, including any partial tests for risk reduction in an industrial or representative environment;
- The system prototyping of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology;
- The testing of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology;
- The qualification of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology;
- The certification of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology;
- The development of technologies or assets increasing efficiency across the life cycle of defence products and technologies.

However, the proposals must cover at least one activity among the last six in the above list (i.e. design and beyond).

### **Functional requirements**

This call is open to any technology development for defence. Proposals should describe the targeted functionalities and the foreseen means to measure progress toward the achievements of these functionalities.

### **Expected impacts**

- Innovative, rapid and cost-effective solutions for defence applications;
- Ground-breaking or novel concepts and approaches, new promising future technological improvements or the application of technologies or concepts previously not applied in the defence sector;
- Enhanced innovation capacity across Europe by involvement of SMEs that can make a difference in the future;
- Potential for future market creation for SMEs, especially by facilitating access of SMEs to defence markets and supply chains;
- Contribution to the development of European technological and industrial ecosystems and to the strengthening of European defence supply chains.

### **Funding information**

The requested funding should match the ambition of the proposed action and be duly justified. In any case, the requested funding should not exceed EUR 4 000 000.

A lump sum approach will be used. For selected projects, the maximum EU contribution will be based on the eligible costs in the requested funding, but actual payments will be conditioned to the completion of work packages. Proposals should include clear descriptions of the proposed criteria to assess work package completion.