

## **EDF-2021-OPEN-R: Open call focused on SMEs for research on innovative and future-oriented defence solutions**

Research on 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 focused on SMEs and targets research on 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 of SMEs, as defined in Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC, and possibly of research organisations. Research organisations fulfilling the eligibility conditions of article 9 of the EDF Regulation may join the consortium in the limit of 40% of the Union contribution to the action, but cannot be designated as coordinator. Non-SMEs fulfilling the eligibility conditions of article 9 of the EDF Regulation may also participate to the action as subcontractors to the members of the consortium, in the limit of 30% of the budget allocated to the consortium.

### **Budget**

The Union is considering a contribution of up to EUR 17 500 000 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-R-SME:** Research on innovative and future-oriented defence solutions.

### **Specific challenge**

This call encourages the driving role of SMEs in bringing forward innovation, agility and ability to progress technologies, possibly adapting them from civil to defence applications, in view of turning research results into products.

### **Scope**

The proposals must address innovative defence technologies and solutions, 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 research action, as referred in article 10.3 of the EDF Regulation:

- Activities that aim to create, underpin and improve knowledge, products and technologies, including disruptive technologies for defence, which can achieve significant effects in the area of defence;
- 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.

However, the proposals cannot cover studies only.

### **Functional requirements**

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

### **Expected impacts**

- Innovative 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 research and technology 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.