

2.6.1. EDF-2022-LS-RA-SMERO-NT Non-thematic research actions by SMEs and research organisations

Number of actions to be funded: Several actions, addressing different solutions, may be funded for this topic.

Range of financial contribution of the Union per proposal: the requested funding should not exceed EUR 4 000 000.

Objectives

This call encourages the driving role of innovative SMEs to turn technology and research results into defence products in a fast and cost-efficient way, possibly by adapting technologies from civil applications or addressing hybrid warfare.

Successful SME beneficiaries may be offered Business Coaching, to reduce the time of bringing the results to the next phase of development.

Scope and types of activities

Scope

The proposals must address innovative defence products, solutions and technologies, including those that can improve readiness, deployability, reliability, safety and sustainability of forces in defence tasks and missions, for example in terms of operations, equipment, infrastructure, energy solutions, surveillance systems or digital solutions.

The proposals can address any subject of interest for defence.

Types of activities

The following types of activities are eligible for this topic:

Types of activities (art 10(3) EDF Regulation)		Eligible?
(a)	Activities that aim to create, underpin and improve knowledge, products and technologies, including disruptive technologies, which can achieve significant effects in the area of defence (generating knowledge)	No
(b)	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 (integrating knowledge)	Yes
(c)	Studies , such as feasibility studies to explore the feasibility of new or upgraded products, technologies, processes, services and solutions	Yes
(d)	Design of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology as well as the definition of the technical specifications on which such design has been developed, including partial tests for risk reduction in an industrial or representative environment	Yes
(e)	System prototyping of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology (prototype)	Yes
(f)	Testing of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	Yes

(g)	Qualification of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	Yes
(h)	Certification of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	Yes
(i)	Development of technologies or assets increasing efficiency across the life cycle of defence products and technologies	Yes

However, the proposals must address at least one activity among design, system prototyping, testing, qualification, certification and increasing efficiency.

The proposals must describe a clear work breakdown structure and link the proposed tasks to eligible activities.

Proposals should include clear descriptions of the proposed criteria to assess work package completion.

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 impact

- 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.