

## 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 in bringing forward innovation defence research, 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, e.g., development.

### Scope and types of activities

#### *Scope*

The proposals must address innovative technologies and solutions for defence, 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 ( <b>generating knowledge</b> )	Yes
(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 ( <b>integrating knowledge</b> )	Yes
(c)	<b>Studies</b> , such as feasibility studies to explore the feasibility of new or upgraded products, technologies, processes, services and solutions	Yes
(d)	<b>Design</b> 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 ( <b>prototype</b> )	No
(f)	<b>Testing</b> of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	No

(g)	<b>Qualification</b> of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	No
(h)	<b>Certification</b> of a defence product, tangible or intangible component or technology	No
(i)	Development of technologies or assets <b>increasing efficiency</b> across the life cycle of defence products and technologies	No

However, the proposals must not cover studies only.

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

### **Expected impact**

- 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.