The European Defence Fund 2023 Work Programme will provide €1.2 billion for defence RD&I through its annual calls for proposals.

The 2023 calls are expected to be opened for submission on 15 June with a deadline for submission of 22 November 2023, and are now published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal page dedicated to the EDF Programme. More information here.

https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/european-defence-fund-edf_en#EDFCalls23

	CALL NAME	Short description	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE	TOTAL BUDGET
EDF-2023-DA-AIRDEF-CUAS	**Counter unmanned aerial systems**	Unmanned aerial system (UAS), including cheap commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) and easy to assemble UAS components are widely available and their popularity is even growing. The proposals must address the development of a C-UAS system, from a detailed design (i.e. critical design review) up to a system prototype to be tested and qualified in relevant defence operational scenarios	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-DA-C4ISR-DAA	**Detect and avoid**	The specific objective of this topic is to take the necessary steps towards a standardised, qualified and certified DAA solution to be integrated in many different UAS, hence allowing a full integration for civil and military airspace and U-space services where applicable, and operational use of current and near-term platforms to be used, such as MALE RPAS.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**

EDF-2023-DA-MATCOMP-MJR-CBDIN	**Technologies and processes for maintenance, joining and repair through an innovation test hub**	The increasing requirements for future military systems demand not only improved performance but also economic and ecological improvements. In order to meet these requirements in the area of structures and construction methods, modular and multi-material designs or the integration of functions are considered as particularly promising.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-LS-RA-CHALLENGE-DIGIT-HLTO	**Agile and robust human language technologies for defence – Organisation of a technological challenge**	The objective evaluation of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies such as human language technologies (HLT) requires a specific organisation whereby systems are tested in a blind manner on data that is representative of the tasks under study, using common protocols. This scheme, which has been pioneered by the HLT community under the term “evaluation campaign”, is also often called a “technological challenge”. One objective of the call is to organise a technological challenge driving research toward enhanced HTL systems for defence applications.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**

EDF-2023-RA-PROTMOB-DEXPLO	**Demonstrators and technologies to defeat threats posed by Unexploded Explosives Ordnances (UXO) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)**	In the context of a changing geopolitical landscape, Member States and EDF associated countries (Norway) armed forces are facing new and evolving threats encountered in asymmetrical and potentially in symmetrical operational situations. This is the case of IED (subsurface, surface, directional/side attack; suicide person- and vehicle-borne) and UXO (bombs, shells, grenades, land mines and cluster munitions), which entail a significant hazard for military personnel, critical infrastructures and equipment in both urban and out-of-area operations.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-RA-SENS-EMSP	**Electromagnetic signal propagation**	Situational awareness is one of the key elements affecting military field actions and planning. Most of the military detection and control methods are based on the use of electromagnetic (EM) radiation, either for detection and ranging, or data transfer. In the recent years, military activity has significantly increased, especially in the northern and eastern Europe and Arctic areas, where specific environment parameters prevail.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-DA-CYBER-CSA	**Full-Spectrum Cyber Situational Awareness for enhanced Cyberspace Operations Support**	The proposals must focus on developing capabilities for mission-centric CySA, which as a System of Systems (SoS), must comprise independent enablers able to act jointly towards facilitating human decision-making through synergies between them.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**

EDF-2023-DA-CYBER-DAAI	**Deployable Autonomous AI Agent**	The main challenge of this topic is to establish an investigative approach on an area of autonomous deployable AI creation, with the intention to broaden artificial intelligence perspective in cyber defence in the EU.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-LS-RA-CHALLENGE-DIGIT-HLTP	**Agile and robust human language technologies for defence – Participation to a technological challenge**	The proposals should address technological solutions to process linguistic information in its different forms, i.e. spoken and written (handwriting, printed documents or typed text), in order to recognise, understand and translate it. These solutions should be evaluated in the framework of the technological challenge organised under this call topic. The proposals should in particular address the issue of user-driven system adaptation, i.e. the ability of systems to learn from user supervision without intervention from developers and without regression in terms of performances.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-RA-SENS-OPTD	**Optronics detector technologies**	This topic aims at consolidating a fully sovereign common supply chain of some critical technology building blocks for the next generation of high performance infrared detectors for defence applications in all battlespace dimensions.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**

EDF-2023-DA-AIR-SPS	**Self-protection systems**	The main objective of the next generation self-protection systems (SPS) is to increase survivability of fixed-wing and rotary-wing, combat or non-combat aircraft in hostile environments. SPS is to face a wide, heterogeneous and evolving spectrum of hostile and directly threatening systems of surveillance, as well as to prioritise risks in the operational area and select the proper reaction mode through a network of distributed capabilities exploiting sensor nodes of various type inter/intra platforms.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-RA-SI-ENERENV-IPS	**Innovative propulsion systems for defence applications**	The specific objective of this topic is to spin-in results generated in other civil EU-funded research programmes to the defence sector. To do so, different types of innovative propulsion systems that are integrated into innovative energy architectures are to be identified and analysed. This spin-in of knowledge into the defence sector should aim to the highest possible reduction of greenhouse gases integrating new technologies.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**

EDF-2023-DA-SENS-GRID	**Sensor grid**	The proposals must address the establishment of a European Architecture Framework for multiple interoperable and collaborating sensors. Efforts should aim at overall sensor performance optimisation (e.g. in terms of coverage, accuracy and efficient use of electromagnetic spectrum) against diverse and evolving challenging threats. The Architecture Framework should enable the integration and optimal use of EU Member States and EDF associated countries (Norway) sensor assets that exist or are under development and collaborative use of the sensors data.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-DA-SPACE-SSA	**Initial operational capacity for Space situational awareness C2 and sensors**	The specific objective of this topic is to develop military SSA sensors, command and control centres and Space Surveillance Network initial operational capability among the sMS.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-LS-DA-SME-NT	**Non-thematic development actions by SMEs**	This call topic 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 will be offered Business Coaching, to reduce the time of bringing the results to the next phase, e.g., development.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**

EDF-2023-RA-PROTMOB-SATOC	**Strategic air transportation of outsized cargo**	Based on the Member States and EDF associated countries (Norway) requirements, the objective of this topic is to explore the range of options towards creating a new European SATOC capability. The proposals are to identify, define, and evaluate short-term and lasting strategic airlift solutions. More precisely, the study must map the individual solutions against their respective parameters such as economic or military performance and availability.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-RA-SI-MATCOMP-HPM	**High performance materials for Defence applications**	The complex tasks in operational scenarios require specific technical characteristics for the defence equipment and materials. The performance and life-cycle cost of defence platforms and equipment directly depend on the materials properties of the solutions available for their manufacturing. In particular, the resistance to high temperatures is an important feature for use in specific environments or for components that need to withstand high thermal loads due to their functionality. At the same time, future materials and structural solutions should exhibit low weight and keep the same material performances necessary for specific defence applications.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**

EDF-2023-LS-RA-SMERO-NT	**Non-thematic research actions by SMEs and research organisations**	This call topic encourages the driving role of innovative SMEs and Research Organisations (RO) in bringing forward innovation defence research, possibly by adapting technologies from civil applications or addressing hybrid warfare.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-RA-SPACE-PSA	**Threat surveillance and protection of space-based assets**	Space has become a domain of strategic and military competition. While space capacities have become strategically important to Europe's civil and commercial objectives, and are critical to ensure vital functions in military operations, the easier access to space, the growing number of space debris in orbit and the existence of counterspace capabilities and actions introduce increasing risks and threats to space assets. This implies the necessity to protect European space assets in their outer space environment.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-DA-C4ISR-TRPAS	**Tactical RPAS**	The specific objective of this topic is to develop a multi-purpose/multi-role T-RPAS, for the potential use by units of mainly up to divisional size. It will collect tactical level intelligence (real-time target cinematics, terrain, enemy location and movements) with high-performance multi-sensor equipment, through ISR (ground, maritime and air) and targeting missions, in addition to other related tasks (target acquisition, identification, tracking).	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**

EDF-2023-RA-SI-CYBER-ASPT	**Automation of security penetration tests**	Cyber defence applications are in most cases relying on cybersecurity technologies. There are many actions in the civil domain on the automation of penetration test. However, due to the particular conditions of defence-related use-cases, civil technologies need to be adapted, further improved or combined with defence-specific technologies through additional R&D efforts to make them suitable for defence applications. This research topic aims to overcome defence-specific obstacles associated to the automation of penetration tests, and at least partially automate the process by developing a user-friendly software solution that performs network security penetration tests for cyber defence actors.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-DA-AIR-STFS	**Smart technologies for next generation fighter systems**	The proposals must address the study and the development of key technologies supporting the next generation of military integrated modular avionics (NG-MIMA). The proposals should consider multiple military aerial platforms that should operate in a defence air cloud context, both manned and unmanned, including other than fighters.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**

EDF-2023-DA-C4ISR-LCOM	**Laser communications**	The specific objective of this topic is the development of an Airborne Laser Communication System (ALCoS), able to establish a very high data rate bi-directional communication link to satellite, providing BLOS communication capability with LPD and LPI characteristics.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**
EDF-2023-LS-RA-DIS-NT	**Non-thematic research actions targeting disruptive technologies for defence**	The specific challenge is to lay the foundations for radically new future technologies of any kind with unexpected impact that aims to bring radical technological superiority over potential adversaries. This topic also encourages the driving role of new actors in defence research and innovation, including excellent researchers, ambitious high-tech SMEs and visionary research centres of big companies, universities or research and technology organisations.	**15.06.2023**	**22.11.2023**	**714 500 000 all calls together**