



EUROPEAN NETWORK OF  
DEFENCE-RELATED REGIONS

# ENDR Newsletter

April 2021

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#EUIndustrialStrategy #SMEs #drones  
#EDF  
#ENDR (European Network of Defence  
Regions)  
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### Editorial



Dear Reader,

Let me first introduce myself. I am the new director responsible for Defence Industry in the Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space. The mission of our team is, amongst other things, to work with all stakeholders to enhance the competitiveness of the EU defence industry.

In recent years, the European Union has launched several important initiatives in the area of the defence industry. Key amongst these is the European Defence Fund (EDF), which the Commission is now implementing to foster the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the Union's defence industry, by supporting collaborative defence-oriented R&D activities. Doing so, the EDF will provide a major contribution to the development of the strategic autonomy of a European Union committed to effectively protecting and defending its citizens. Through the Fund we will incentivise and facilitate industrial cooperation across the borders, between companies and also Member States, to foster innovation

and develop state-of-the-art defence technology and equipment with a budget of EUR 7.9 billion from 2021 to 2027 (EUR 2.6 billion for research actions and EUR 5.3 billion for development actions). It will build on its two precursor programmes, the Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR) and the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP), which are already supporting concrete defence R&D projects.

The European Defence Fund must deliver tangible results and meaningful innovative defence systems. It must also prove to be inclusive, so that companies from all EU Member States and from all sizes can genuinely feel part of the collective endeavour, and seize the opportunities presented by the EDF. The ENDR can play a key role in guiding companies to these opportunities. Since 2016 regional authorities and clusters have used this platform to share experiences and good practices on integrating defence in smart specialisation strategies, accessing EU funding, and supporting defence SMEs. Through the organisation of events and related matchmaking and through its online activities the ENDR will continue to reach out to stakeholders on the opportunities offered by the EDF. This is precious to us, and my team stands more than ever ready to support your engagement in support of a stronger Europe. We look forward to meeting with you soon, at one of the next ENDR events!

François Arbault

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## Action Plan on synergies between civil, defence and space industries

In February, European Commission presented an [Action Plan](#) to enhance synergies between civil, defence and space industries. The objectives are:

- enhancing complementarity between relevant EU programmes and instruments to increase efficiency of investments and effectiveness of results (the 'synergies');
- promoting that EU funding for research and development, including on defence and space, has economic and technological dividends for EU citizens (the 'spin-offs');
- facilitating the use of civil industry research achievements and civil-driven innovation in European defence cooperation projects (the 'spin-ins').

With these goals in mind, the Commission announced eleven targeted actions that focus on the interplay between civil, defence and space industries. In particular, they:

- Create a framework that enhances synergies and cross-fertilisation among all relevant EU programmes and instruments, for example in the field of digital, cloud and processors;
- Frame, in a systematic and consistent way, the development of critical technologies, first with the identification of critical technologies and future capability requirements and then the development of technology roadmaps.
- Support, throughout the EU, innovation from start-ups, SMEs and Research and Technology Organisations, by facilitating their access to new opportunities, including by setting up an 'innovation incubator' network;
- Prepare for the launch of three flagship projects with the potential to become game-changers: drone technologies, enhancing the competitiveness of EU industry in this critical technology area; a space-based secure connectivity that should provide for a resilient connectivity system and high-speed connectivity for everyone in Europe based on quantum encryption; and space traffic management, required to avoid collision events that may result from the proliferation of satellites and space debris, while ensuring an autonomous access to space.

[Read more](#)

[The role](#) of Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space  
EU [Industrial Strategy](#) for a globally competitive, green and digital Europe



Credits: MBDA

### **European Conference on Drones and counter Unmanned Aerial Systems for defence. Trends, opportunities and solutions on 7-8 October 2021, Le Havre, France**

The [European Commission](#) and [Normandie AeroEspace](#) (NAE) will bring together, in a joint ENDR event, a wide range of participants from defence/security-related businesses, national and European authorities, knowledge institutions and cluster organisations

Topics:

- Drones' needs and future applications in the defence sector;
- Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems threats in defence operations: exploring detection and interception technological solutions;
- Drone-swarms for defence applications, state-of-the-art solutions and the technological challenges;
- Dual-Use and defence-related projects and future trends.

The event will provide business-to-business opportunities, drone-swarms demonstrations, a drone-related exhibition, and present opportunities offered by the various EU funding programmes, including the European Defence Fund.

[More soon](#)

[Check the ENDR event's page](#)



### **Defence industry on social media**

We are pleased to note an increasing interest for our messages on the EU initiatives, in support of a competitive defence industry in Europe. Please stay tuned on our twitter account [@defis\\_eu](#) to get regular updates.

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