

European Defence Agency Innovation Prizes Work Programme 2019

Due to the globalisation of technologies, Defence organisations across the world are increasingly pushing at the same time for the development of underpinning technologies and for the employment of a wide range of “disruptive” technologies in new and innovative ways to retain a capability advantage. Many of such technologies come with primarily a civilian and commercial focus.

In order to further expand the envelope of technological knowledge, provide access to emerging trends to its participating Member States (pMS), and capture innovative ideas, the European Defence Agency (EDA) aims to engage on a global scale with R&D communities and innovators. One of the incentives that EDA will exploit are prizes to stimulate innovative ideas in defence with potential impact either on future defence capabilities or filling existing capability gaps.

The following prize is to be awarded in 2019.

Prize: Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications for defence

The objective of the contest is to provide monetary reward to innovative defence-related ideas which could be in the future implemented through a collaborative R&T effort within an EDA framework.

This innovation prize will therefore reward innovative defence-related ideas addressing the area of “AI applications for defence”, covering the following topics:

- a. Supporting decision-making tools in command and control
- b. Improve intelligence gathering and processing of information to improve the common operational picture
- c. Supporting the autonomy of unmanned systems
- d. Demonstrating the efficient use of AI in combination with 5G and Internet of things (IoT)

The indicative budget for the prize is EUR 30 000 from the 2019 EDA Operational Budget.

Expected results: The prize winners are expected to propose ideas which would, if implemented between now and 2035, contribute to improve and enhance specific EU defence capabilities.

Eligibility criteria:

The Contest is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons established within the European Defence Agency participating Member States. When applying the rules of access to the competition, it is the country where the applicant is established which is to be considered. As regards a natural person, it is the State in which the person has his domicile.

Award criteria: The prize will be awarded, after closure of the contest, to the applicant(s) who in the opinion of the evaluation committee demonstrates a solution that best addresses the following qualitative criteria (further clarification of these criteria will be published in the Rules of Contest):

- Originality and/or level of innovation
- Relevance and impact on EU defence capabilities and EU strategic autonomy
- Feasibility of the idea
- Quality of presentation

Indicative timetable of contest:

Stages	Indicative period
Opening of the contest	Q2 2019
Deadline for submission of applications	Q3 2019
Evaluation	Q3 2019
Award of the prize	Q4 2019

Type of Action: Prize.

Indicative timetable: The specific rules of the contest will be published in 2019 by the European Defence Agency, which will directly launch and manage the contest and award the prize.