

European Defence Agency
Call for Proposals 23.RTI.PRZ.130
“EDA Defence Innovation Prize 2023”

Technologies for Situational Awareness
&
Technologies for Communication
and Information Systems

RULES OF CONTEST

1. THE INNOVATION FOR DEFENCE PRIZE

1.1. OBJECTIVES

Through this “**EDA Defence Innovation prize 2023**” contest, the European Defence Agency (EDA) aims to stimulate engagement of all R&T communities and innovators¹ in order to accelerate access to emerging and potentially disruptive research and if possible, to identify areas in which additional investment is needed to fully address future defence capability needs.

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

It is expected that the prize will stimulate involvement of innovative industrial and research entities within the EDA R&T framework and will contribute to the generation of new defence research projects by exploiting all the possible defence research funding instruments, in accordance with their respective provisions.

The contest will also provide a good opportunity to small and medium sized enterprises, research organizations, universities, and companies, non-traditionally involved in defence R&D activities, to demonstrate their know-how, maximize dual-use synergies and to form valuable partnerships with key players in the defence field.

The EDA Defence Innovation Prize is done under the umbrella of HEDI (Hub for EU Defence Innovation)², the new platform for innovation lead by EDA that was established in March 2022 during the publication of the “Strategic Compass for EU Defence and Security”. HEDI has the objective to foster innovative solutions following a systematic approach towards cutting-edge military capabilities. HEDI is to serve as a platform to stimulate and facilitate cooperation on defence innovation while ensuring synergies with related European Commission activities, notably the EU defence innovation scheme, coherence of output with NATO innovation and other EU Defence Innovation organizations. This Call for Proposals complements other HEDI’s services such as the EDA Research, Technology and Innovation Papers Award 2023.

This contest will focus on innovative defence-related ideas inside the following major categories:

- 1) **Technologies for Situational Awareness**
- 2) **Technologies for Communication and Information Systems.**

A total of two prizes (one prize per category) will be awarded to the best innovative ideas. Specifically, proposals must be in the scope of one of the following topics:

Topic 1: *Innovative solutions and technologies for immersive training, battlefield situational awareness and other defence applications.*

Topic 2: *Innovative solutions and technologies for implementing Zero Trust Architecture in tactical defence communication and information systems.*

The prize winners are expected to propose ideas which would, if implemented between now and 2030, contribute to improve and enhance specific EU defence capabilities.

Detailed description

Topic 1: Innovative solutions and technologies for immersive training, battlefield situational awareness and other defence applications

Immersive technologies make it possible to fuse the real and virtual world with the aim to produce environments where physical and digital objects coexist and interact in real time. This concept is at the base

of Immersive Reality and Digital Twins. Despite the growing interest in Immersive Reality and digital twins for civilian applications, they remain underexplored fields for the military. Possible applications of military Immersive Reality and digital twins include:

- **Training:** cost-effective and flexible interoperable solutions based on Live, Virtual and Constructive simulations, providing realistic combat environments.
- **Mission rehearsal and operational planning:** immersive visualization of rapidly generated accurate 3D representations of physical environment (terrain and infrastructure), providing simulation-based decision-making support by exploring/analysing possible courses of action.
- **Experimentation:** immersive technologies can allow the military to test multiple defence systems in virtual environments/simulations and accelerate the development process by e.g., employing model-based system engineering to rapidly evaluate a large number of scenarios, helping acquisition professionals to determine the precise design.
- **Battlefield Situational Awareness:** Human Machine Interfaces (HMIs) for dismounted soldier are often small portable computer screens, head up displays, or other screen devices (e.g., ocular displays). Dismounted soldiers have difficulties to watch this kind of displays during high intensity fights and there is little room for customising their displayed content for specific/different purposes. Removing most of tactile displays from the battlefield and replace them by more effective and efficient Human-Machine Interfaces (HMI) would increase the battlefield situational awareness.

The more common technologies employed in this field are:

- Blockchain to grant users greater control over their online experience through Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs).
- Artificial Intelligence to support computer vision and simultaneous location and mapping technologies, which help machines understand their physical surroundings.
- Extended Reality (XR) to merge physical and digital worlds. With extended reality, it is possible to enter virtual worlds/digital twins and interact with 3D avatars in communities. Additionally, mixed and augmented realities bring digital content into the real world as well, changing the way we interact with everything.

The concept of this topic is to collect ideas for innovative solutions aiming at:

- Removing most of tactile displays from the battlefield and replacing them by more effective and efficient Human-Machine Interfaces (HMI).
- Virtualising (parts of) weapon systems and equipment to make training more realistic, effective and affordable.
- Developing decision support models and simulations based on virtual representations of physical environment and digital twins.

The ideas shall include tangible solutions relying on technologies such as:

- Spoken language for human-machine interaction.
- Gestural language for human-machine interaction in combat operations. • Extensive use of virtual/augmented/mixed reality.
- Other technologies based on all types of human senses (visual, audio, haptic, gesture recognition), including Tactile vests (pattern arranged vibrators); Navigation belt with tactile feedback; 3D audio; Biohacking (brain interface,...) ...

These solutions may have the potential for disruption and to improve the way soldiers interact with machines in the Land, Air and Maritime domains for training, experimentation, and battlefield situational awareness.

Topic 2: Innovative solutions and technologies for implementing Zero Trust Architecture in tactical defence communication and information systems.

One of the emerging concepts in the design of tactical telecommunications is 'zero trust systems'. Zero trust (ZT) is the term for an evolving set of cybersecurity paradigms that move defences from static, network-based perimeters to focus on users, assets, and resources. A zero-trust architecture (ZTA) uses zero trust principles to plan enterprise infrastructure and workflows. Zero trust assumes there is no implicit trust granted to assets or user accounts based solely on their physical or network location (i.e., local area networks versus the internet) or based on asset ownership (enterprise or personally owned). Authentication and authorization (both subject and device) are discrete functions performed before a session to an enterprise resource is established. Zero trust focus on protecting resources (assets, services, workflows, network accounts, etc.), not network segments, as the network location is no longer seen as the prime component to the security posture of the resource (NIST SP 800-27).

The principle of zero trust considers that no user of the network can have implicit guarantees to access without exhaustive control. It is a security measure that seeks to protect the resources and not the network segments, since its network perimeter extends beyond its own local area. In this way, security applies to everyone equally regardless of their physical location within the network. Both local and remote users will need to go through a rigorous authentication process in order to get access to services. This architecture can be useful to provide resilience – understood as a dynamic resistance to incidents – to a complex tactical network topology with a multitude of information nodes. One of the determining factors will be to verify that these measures do not substantially affect the expected performance of the network. For large-scale networks, zero trust means evolving the classic cyber defence techniques based on the protection of the network perimeter and on the connection interfaces to a model that conforms to dynamic data flows and the need to configure a higher granularity level in the security architecture. It is yet to be seen if zero trust security would be able to be implemented in disruptive, intermittent, and limited environments for resource-constrained tactical edge leading possibly to light implementations.

This innovation prize is stimulating novel solutions & technologies for zero trust architectures implementation in tactical defence communication and information systems. Some examples the application of ZTA in defence are:

- Potential use cases involve the use of Tactical Cloud and Edge computing where the CIS environment is expected to be highly dynamic and self-defined based on the tactical and operational requirements. Moreover, the extended use of cloud resources will require the advanced protection and security measures that incorporate a ZTA.
- Standard ZTA approaches like enhanced identity management, use of micro-segmentation and software defined perimeters should be analysed in the context of a military environment to identify the most optimal approach.
- C2/multi-domain C2 systems/applications with advanced Situation Awareness for Air, Land, Maritime and Space platforms connected to tactical cloud technologies.

Some examples of these zero trust architecture elements in the scope of the prize are:

- Strong authentication mechanisms
- Dynamic identity management solutions
- Real-time security monitoring
- Automated incident response
- Dynamic risk analysis and assessment

- Threat intelligence

Advanced endpoint detection and response systems are some basic elements of a ZTA that need to be further explored how/if can be applied in defence applications particularly in demanding environments like tactical information and communications components.

¹ Albeit no defence specific expertise and/or background is required to participate to the contest, participation from entities already involved in defence related activities is not excluded.

² HEDI (Hub for EU Defence Innovation) accessible through the following website <https://eda.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/2022/05/17/hub-for-eu-defence-innovation-established-within-eda>

1.2. REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must be original ideas from applicants. They may propose new or improved ways to implement existing solutions, combine them, or adapt them to a different context or target group, but they cannot be exact copies of those.

The applicants must demonstrate the novelty of their solution, in comparison with those already developed/implemented by themselves or by others in their context.

The applicants are also expected to indicate how the participation in the contest may benefit their idea (e.g. prize, mentoring, networking, visibility or other related benefit).

The proposed ideas need to be innovative, implementable through a collaborative project, and affordable in development and exploitation.

Proposals shall be related to the prize topic (section 1.1) and might include, but are not limited to:

- Proposal of development of new technologies and techniques;
- Creation of new engineering processes, operational doctrine, services and capabilities;
- Application and/or adaptation of existing technologies to a different problem or domain.

1.3. AMOUNT OF THE PRIZE

EDA will reward 60 000 € (30 000 € per winner). In addition, EDA will cover the travel expenses and accommodation, for the two winners to attend the award ceremony for an amount of up to 1 000€ per representative (2 000 € in total).

1.4. ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

The contest has been conceived to offer more than the financial prize. In particular, other incentives will include:

- The winners will have the possibility to promote their ideas through a dedicated article in one of the issues of the EDA magazine (Defence Matters);
- The final award ceremony will be delivered in a formal EDA ceremony with press release coverage;
- The Innovation prize will receive significant coverage on the EDA website and social medias (the name of the winner(s) will be published on EDA channels);
- The prize winners will be given access to the EDA network of experts, having the opportunity to form valuable partnerships to leverage on some of the EDA (e.g. the winner will be also provided with the opportunity to present the idea to the CapTech for potential implementation through a MS funded Cat A or Cat B Project) and EU R&T funding opportunities.
- Proposals over a quality threshold to be set by the evaluation committee (including the winners) will be presented to the CapTechs Moderators in a dedicated workshop to explore the applicability of their proposals to the CapTech's areas of responsibility.

2. THE PROCEDURE

This contest is governed in accordance with Article 37 (1) of the Council Decision (EU) 2016/1353.

2.1. PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

EDA shall not reimburse expenses incurred in preparing and submitting proposals in response to this contest.

2.2. FORM AND CONTENT OF PROPOSAL

- Proposals shall be perfectly legible and correct so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures.
- Proposals shall be clear and concise. They must be consistent with all the requirements and instructions laid down in the rules of contest.
- Proposals shall be written in English.
- Proposals shall consist of the following sections:

Section	Content
Section one (Administrative Information)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Proposal Submission Form (Annex 1)</u> (EDA will use the contact details provided in the proposal submission form to contact the applicants about the contest. EDA is not responsible for inaccuracies in the details which have been submitted by the applicants)• Legal Entity Form• Financial Identification Form• Exclusion Criteria form
Section two (Proposal)	EDA Defence Innovation Prize Proposal Form (Annex 4)

2.3. CONTACTS BETWEEN THE APPLICANTS AND EDA

Before the final date for submission of proposals

With regard to clarifications or corrections, contacts between EDA and the applicants before the final date for submission of proposals may take place only in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:

* EDA may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission or other clerical error in the text of the contest documents.

This information will be published solely on EDA's website under the link used to access the contest documents.

* Potential applicants may request clarifications regarding the contest documents.

The requests for additional information must be made in writing only through the dedicated functional mailbox (procurement@eda.europa.eu).

Insofar as it has been requested in good time, the answers to the requests for additional information will be published solely on EDA's website (under the link used to access the contest documents) as soon as possible and no later than six days before the submission deadline of proposals.

Applicants are encouraged to formulate, at least six calendar days before the time limit to submit proposals, any remark, complaint, or objection they would have in relation to all aspects of these contest documents in order that EDA can evaluate the need for corrective measures and implement them before the submission of proposals.

EDA is not bound to reply to requests for additional information made less than six working days before the deadline for submission of proposals.

Any other contacts are prohibited and can lead to the exclusion of the applicant.

After the opening of proposals

Contacts between EDA and the applicants after the opening of proposals may take place only in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:

- If clarification or additional evidence in relation to the administrative information is required.
 - If clarification is requested or if obvious clerical errors in the proposal need to be corrected, provided that the terms of the proposal are not modified as a result.
- In the above cases, the contracting authority may contact the applicant and request a response within a time-limit stipulated in its request.

Any other contacts are prohibited and can lead to the exclusion of the applicant.

2.4. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS-TIMELINES

Proposals shall be solely submitted by e-mail to the following e-mail address: **23.RTI.PRZ.130@eda.europa.eu**.

Proposals sent after deadline and/or to a different e-mail address, proposals sent on paper or by fax will be non-admissible.

The deadline for the receipt of proposals ("Receipt Time Limit") is 15/06/2023, at 17h00 (Brussels time)

Following submission of a proposal to the above e-mail address, applicants will receive a receipt confirmation in their mailbox. This receipt is considered as the proof of compliance with the deadline (Receipt Time Limit).

Please inform EDA whether you intend to submit a proposal, by sending an e-mail at the following e-mail address: procurement@eda.europa.eu

Timelines	
<u>Launch of the Contest</u> Call for proposals is published on EDA's website	Date upon it is published on EDA website
<u>Deadline for Submission</u> Applicants to submit their proposal (with supporting documentation) by e-mail to: 23.RTI.PRZ.130@eda.europa.eu	15 June 2023 At 17h00 (Brussels time)

<u>Evaluation of proposals</u> Eligible proposals are evaluated by the appointed Evaluation Committees against the award criteria described in section 2.7.3 of this document	June-October2023²
Notification Letters to the applicants	End of October 2023³
Award ceremony	December 2023⁴
Defence Innovation Prize Workshop	April-May 2024

2.5. ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Submission of a proposal implies acceptance of the terms and conditions set out in the contest documents and, where appropriate, waiver of the applicant's own general or specific terms and conditions. It is binding on the applicant to whom the prize is awarded.

2.6. PROCESSING OF PROPOSALS

2.6.1. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

If processing your reply to this contest involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name, address and CV), such data will be processed by EDA in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725⁵, pursuant to Article 31 of Council Decision (CSFP) 2015/1835.

Unless indicated otherwise, personal data will be processed by EDA solely for evaluation purposes in accordance with the rules of contest. Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available in the privacy statement at:

<http://www.eda.europa.eu/docs/default-source/procurement/privacy-statement.pdf>

You are informed that for the purposes of safeguarding the financial interest of the Union, your personal data may be transferred to EDA's Internal Auditor, to the College of Auditors or to any other body to ensure the adequate implementation of Checks and Audits.

Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) if you are in one of the situations mentioned in Article 136 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union. For more information see the Privacy Statement on:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/explained/management/protecting/protect_en.cfm#BDCE

² This timescale is indicative and may be subject updates by the European Defence Agency

³ This timescale is indicative and may be subject updates by the European Defence Agency

⁴ This timescale is indicative and may be subject updates by the European Defence Agency

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p.39) .

2.6.2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROPOSALS

Once EDA has accepted the proposal, it shall become the property of EDA and shall be treated confidentially.

2.7. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

2.7.1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants shall be excluded if they do not have access to the contest, in accordance with the provisions laid down here.

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 state 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.

Ideas and proposals from all sources, sectors and all types of organisations including for-profit, non-for-profit, or private companies are welcome. Proposals involving several organisations and/or from different EDA participating Member States are possible. In case of joint proposals by a group of participants the participants must appoint a "Lead participant" to represent them towards EDA. The participants will be jointly responsible and must all fulfil and respect the conditions set out in these rules of contest.

Applicants that have already received any other Union prize that is the subject of the current contest cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.

Applicants may submit more than one proposal and be named as a partner in more than one proposal.

Evidence relating to the identity of the applicant (Section One - Administrative Information)

- A. The Legal Entity Form is to be signed by the call for applicant.

A standard template in each EU language is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm

The Legal Entity Form shall be accompanied by all the information indicated in the form. Where the proposal involves more than one legal entity, each entity shall provide the form.

- B. The Financial identification form shall be duly filled in and signed by the applicant and his or her banker (or to be accompanied by a recent bank statement).

The form is available at the following Internet address:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_fr.cfm

2.7.2. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

In accordance with Article 141 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and the Council of 1825 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and

Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, a prize may not be awarded to an economic operator who:

- is in an exclusion situation established in accordance with Article 136 of the Financial Rules;
- has misrepresented the information required as a condition for participating in the contest or has failed to supply that information;
- was previously involved in the preparation of the prize documents where this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise.

Evidence relating to the exclusion criteria (Section One)

Applicant or their representatives shall provide a declaration on their honour, duly signed and dated in which they:

- state whether or not they are in one or more of the situations referred to in Articles 136 and 137 of the Financial Regulation and detailed in the form;
- undertake to submit to EDA any additional document relating to the exclusion criteria, that EDA considers necessary to perform its checks, within fifteen calendar days following the receipt of EDA's request.

To this end, applicants shall fill in and sign the declaration in annex to the rules of contest.

Where the proposal involves more than one legal entity, each entity shall provide the form.

2.7.3. COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES OF CONTEST

Proposals deviating from the requirements of the contest will be rejected and will not be further evaluated.

2.7.4. AWARD CRITERIA

The evaluation of the proposals will be carried out by a cross-functional Evaluation Committee composed by EDA staff members, external members from other institutions may be invited to join the Evaluation Committee (e.g. ESA, NATO, EC, etc.).

All eligible proposals will be evaluated based on the submitted proposal and against all award criteria defined below. Upon completion of the evaluation, the Evaluation Committee will provide an evaluation report based on which EDA will decide on the award of the prize.

The applicants must demonstrate the innovation of their proposal in comparison with the current state of play of defence capabilities.

The prize will be awarded to the entities that, based on the evaluation of the evaluation committee, demonstrate a solution that best addresses the following cumulative criteria (receives the highest total points).

The criteria which will be used in the evaluation and ranking will be the following:

	Criteria	Maximum Points
1	<u>Originality and level of innovation</u> The proposal must include both disruptive and incremental innovations. It will be assessed considering to what extent the proposal differs from similar innovations that have already been developed and implemented.	25
2	<u>Relevance and impact on EU defence capabilities</u> Sub-criterion (2a) 20 points: potential of the proposal to comprehensively change the (selected) EU defence capability (ies). Sub-criterion (2b) 5 points: Link to EU defence capabilities	25
3	<u>Relevance for non-traditional defence R&T communities.</u> The extent to which the proposal can stimulate the engagement of relevant non-traditional defence R&T communities and innovators to demonstrate their know-how, to maximize dual-use synergies and to form valuable partnerships with key players in the defence field.	15
4	<u>Feasibility of the proposal</u> The proposal's potential to be developed into a project which could be sustained or implemented at European level. It will be assessed considering the feasibility of its implementation through a collaborative effort involving multiple Member States; adequacy of the time schedule and budget, absence of IPR restrictions	15
5	<u>Implementation and Value for the Member States</u> The proposal potential to implementing the innovative solution in order to maximize the value for the Member States. During the presentation topics such as expected result to Member States, work breakdown structure, project steps to be followed, personnel, infrastructure, tools and methodologies requirements, will be assessed.	10
6	<u>Involvement of Small and Medium Enterprises</u> The proposals presented by an individual Small and Medium enterprise (refer to EC definition ⁶) will receive special value.	10
	Total	100

2.7.5. Incremental Evaluation Procedure

This evaluation of the ideas will be based on a three steps approach as detailed hereunder.

- **Step 1:** Focus on Criterion 1. Only the ideas demonstrating full or substantial innovation will move to the next step (at least 20 out of 25 points)
- **Step 2:** Only those proposals who pass step 1 will be evaluated using Criteria 2, 3 and 4. The ones demonstrating relevance for the EU defence and proving to be feasible will move to the next step (at least 65 out of 80 points)
- **Step 3:** Only those proposals who pass the step 2 will be evaluated using Criteria 5 and 6. These proposals will be invited for a presentation to the Evaluation Committee.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition_en

2.8. PROPOSAL

Applicants must present their ideas in a manner as concise as possible. Proposals must be up to 5 pages in length in total (in word or pdf file). If more pages are submitted, only the first 5 pages will be taken into account within the evaluation process. The use of the technical proposal template (Annex 4) is **mandatory**.

2.9. AWARD OF PRIZE AND NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANTS

EDA will inform applicants of decisions reached concerning the award of the prize, including the grounds for any decision not to award the prize or to recommence the procedure.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of this procedure by e-mail. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a valid e-mail address together with their contact details in their proposal and to check their e-mail regularly. Please make sure that the communication from EDA is not classified as spam mail.

This invitation to submit a proposal in response to this contest is in no way binding on EDA. The contracting authority may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prize without any obligation to indemnify the applicants if no proposals are received, the jury does not find a winner, or the winner is not eligible or must be excluded.

This decision shall be substantiated, and the applicants notified. No compensation may be claimed by applicants whose proposal has not been accepted, including when EDA decides not to award the prize.

3. OTHER CONDITIONS

3.1. PAYMENTS

The prize will be paid by EDA to the Prize(s) winner(s) after the award ceremony by bank transfer in one instalment.

3.2. OWNERSHIP OF THE RESULT-INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Ownership of the idea and of its implementation results, including industrial and intellectual property rights, and of the reports and other documents relating to it, shall be vested in the applicant.

Without prejudice to the previous paragraph, the participants grant EDA the right to display, reproduce by any technical procedure, translate or communicate the summary idea and its results by any medium, including on the contest webpage, provided it does not thereby breach its confidentiality obligations or existing industrial and intellectual property rights.

By submitting a proposal, applicants declare that they have obtained, or will obtain, all authorisations, consents and permissions necessary to submit their proposal, carry out their proposal and comply with these rules of contest and, to the best of their knowledge, that their proposal will not infringe any intellectual property or other third-party rights or breach any contractual obligation.

The European Defence Agency assumes no responsibility for disputes between persons claiming copyrights on any sort in relation to a proposal submitted for the contest.

Where industrial and intellectual property rights, including rights of third parties, exist prior to the Competition ("pre-existing intellectual property rights"), applicants shall establish a list which shall specify all rights of ownership and use in the pre-existing intellectual property rights and may be asked to disclose it to EDA - should they be proposed as winners - at the latest prior to the commencement of implementation of their idea.

The winner of the contest shall ensure that they have all rights to use any pre-existing intellectual property rights in implementation of their idea.

3.3. PUBLICITY

3.3.1. PUBLICITY BY THE WINNER OF THE PRIZE

Unless EDA requests or agrees otherwise, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) is subject to prior approval by EDA and must:

(a) display the EDA's logo and

(b) include the following text:

This action has been awarded the "EDA Defence Innovation Prizes 2023" from the European Defence Agency.

3.3.2. PUBLICITY BY EDA

By entering the contest, applicants authorise EDA to use of their name and the summary of their proposal for its communication and publicising activities and in order to present the project to the relevant CapTechs.

If an entry is submitted by a group of individuals or organisations, the person completing the entry form is responsible for compliance with these rules of contest by other group members.

EDA shall also be authorised to publish (in whatever form and medium) the name of the winner and the finalists, their locality, the amount of the prize and its nature and purpose and that the applicants may request EDA to waive such publication if disclosure risks threatening its security and safety or harm its commercial interest.

Photos and videos taken by EDA either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of EDA and might be used for its communication and publicising activities, while respecting Intellectual Property Rights.

3.4. LIABILITY

The European Defence Agency may not be held responsible for any claim relating to the activities carried out in the framework of the contest by the applicant.

The European Defence Agency shall not be held liable for any damage caused or sustained by any of the participants, including any damage caused to third parties as a consequence of, or during the implementation of the activities related to the prize.

3.5. APPLICABLE LAW

The contest is governed by the applicable European Union law complemented, where necessary, by the law of Belgium.

The General Court or, on appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Union, shall have sole jurisdiction to hear any dispute between the Union and any participant concerning the interpretation, application or validity of the rules of this contest, if such dispute cannot be settled amicably.

3.6. CHECKS AND AUDITS

The applicants accept that, if they are awarded a prize, EDA, OLAF and to the College of Auditors may carry out checks and audits in relation to the contest and the received prize.

3.7. WITHDRAWAL OF PRIZE-RECOVERY OF UNDUE AMOUNTS

EDA may withdraw the prize after its award and recover all payments made in the following case:

- The winner is in serious breach of its obligations under this Rules of Contest (is under an exclusion situation, has provided false information etc.).

4. ANNEXES

(Enclosed as separate documents)

4.1. Proposal Submission Form & Checklist of Documents to be Submitted

4.2. Exclusion Criteria Form

4.3. Reimbursement of expenses

4.4. Technical proposal template