



# **Instrument for the reinforcement of the European defence industry through common procurement (EDIRPA)**

## Call for proposals

Call for proposals focused on ammunition  
(EDF-EDIRPA-2024-FNLC-AMMO)

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space  
**DEFIS.A – Defence Industry**

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

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## 0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** under the **Instrument for the reinforcement of the European defence industry through common procurement (EDIRPA)**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- the basic act (EDIRPA Regulation [2023/2418](#)<sup>1</sup>).

The call is launched in accordance with the 2024-2025 Work Programme<sup>2</sup> and will be managed by the **European Commission, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS)**.

 Please note that this call is subject to the adoption of the budget 2025 by the EU budgetary authority. In case there are substantial changes, we may have to modify the call (or even cancel it).

The call covers the following **topic**:

- **EDF-EDIRPA-2024-FNLC-AMMO-S2S -Common procurement of surface-to-surface ammunition**

Each project application under the call must address this topic.

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call document, the Model Grant Agreement, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call document](#) outlines the:
  - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
  - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
  - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
  - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
  - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
  - award criteria (section 9)
  - legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/2418 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 October 2023 on establishing an instrument for the reinforcement of the European defence industry through common procurement (EDIRPA) (OJ L, 2023/2418, 26.10.2023).

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2024) 1700 of 15 March 2024 on the financing of the instrument for the reinforcement of the European defence industry through common procurement (EDIRPA) established by Regulation (EU) 2023/2418 of the European Parliament and of the Council and the adoption of the work programme for 2024-2025.

- how to submit an application (section 11)
- the Online Manual outlines the:
  - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
  - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
  - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

## **1. Background**

The Instrument for the reinforcement of the European defence industry through common procurement (EDIRPA) aims to reinforce European defence industrial capabilities and support Member States' cooperation on common procurement of the most urgent and critical defence products, especially those revealed or exacerbated by the response to the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, in particular by:

- incentivising cooperation in defence procurement between Member States in order to increase solidarity, prevent crowding-out effects, increasing the effectiveness of public spending and reducing excessive fragmentation
- fostering the competitiveness and efficiency of the European defence technological and industrial base (EDTIB) by accelerating its adjustment to structural changes and opening supply chains for cross-border cooperation in the Union.

## **2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact**

### Objectives

The objectives of the Instrument are to foster the competitiveness and efficiency of the EDTIB by speeding up its adjustment to the new security environment and to foster cooperation in defence procurement processes between participating Member States and associated countries.

In this perspective, actions involving cooperation for common procurement of the most urgent and critical defence products, including those revealed or exacerbated by the response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, will be targeted by the funding priorities of the Work Programme. The latter in particular aim to ensure timely availability of sufficient quantities to fill the most urgent capability gaps, as referred to in Chapter 4 of the Joint Communication on Defence Investment Gaps Analysis of 18 May 2022.

### Themes and priorities (scope)

Any eligible action as defined in Article 8.1 of Regulation (EU) 2023/2418 (see table below), that aims at supporting common procurement of surface-to-surface ammunition for a wide range of capabilities/systems, including but not limited to

small arms ammunition up to 12.7 mm, as well as tank and anti-tank ammunition, mortars, rockets and artillery ammunition.

Activities that can be funded (scope)

EDIRPA targets cooperation in defence procurement between at least 3 Member States or EDIRPA associated countries (i.e. Norway).

The cooperation should concern the common procurement of defence systems or variants of systems.

The following table lists the criteria which must be met for actions to be eligible for funding under the Instrument (see Article 8(1) EDIRPA Regulation):

<b>Eligible actions</b> (art 8(1) EDIRPA Regulation)
Only actions fulfilling all of the following criteria are eligible for Union funding under the Instrument:  (a) they involve cooperation between the eligible entities referred to in Article 10 for common procurement addressing the most urgent and critical defence products needs and implementing the objectives set out in Article 3 EDIRPA Regulation  (b) they involve new cooperation, including within an existing framework, or an extension of existing cooperation to at least one new Member State or associated country  (c) they are carried out by a consortium of at least three Member States or associated country  (d) they fulfil the additional conditions set out in Article 9 EDIRPA Regulation.

The common procurement can be organised as a framework contract.

If unanimously approved by the participating Member States and EDIRPA associated countries, the common procurement may include additional quantities of the concerned defence product for Ukraine or Moldova.

The activities to be funded are all those required for the set-up and operationalisation of common defence procurement in the area of surface-to-surface ammunition as described above.

These activities must in particular allow for the achievement of the mandatory milestones and associated results set out in the Annex.

Expected impact

The outcome should contribute to the replenishment of depleted stockpiles and to increase existing stockpiles. It is also intended to lead to increased interoperability among participants.

The expected estimated value of a common procurement for actions under this topic aiming to ensure the availability of sufficient quantities of the most urgent and critical defence products to fill the most urgent capability gaps is EUR 250 000 000.

**3. Available budget**

The estimated available call budget is **EUR 103 200 000**.

The availability of the call budget still depends on the adoption of the budget 2025 by the EU budgetary authority.

Several projects are expected to be funded.

We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the EDIRPA calls priorities, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.


#### 4. Timetable and deadlines


Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	27-March-2024
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>25-July-2024 – 17:00:00 CET</u> (Brussels)
Evaluation:	August 2024 – October 2024
Information on evaluation results:	October 2024 – November 2024
GA signature:	December 2024 – February 2025

#### 5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

 Classified information (e.g. classified Annexes, if any) must be specifically encrypted or submitted by post (see *section 11*).

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System ( NOT the documents available on the Topic page – they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A – contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B – contains the technical description of the project (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*templates available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded together with Application Form Part B*):
  - detailed budget table/calculator
  - participant information (including previous defence procurement projects, if relevant).



Please note that the amounts entered into the summarised budget table (filled in directly online) must correspond to the amounts calculated in the calculator. In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the online summarised budget table will prevail.

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, exclusion, etc). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable**.

Proposals are limited to maximum **70 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, bank account validation, etc*).

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

## 6. Eligibility

Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds wholly (or at least in part) to the topic description for which they are submitted.

### Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be public authorities or procurement agents within the meaning of Articles 2 and 10 of the EDIRPA Regulation
- be from an eligible country, i.e.:
  - EU Member State (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs)) or
  - listed EEA countries ('EDIRPA associated countries'; [list of participating countries](#)).

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc (*see section 13*).

### *Specific cases*

European Defence Agency (EDA) and international organisations — Are eligible as beneficiaries if designated as 'procurement agent', as defined in Article 2(5) of the EDIRPA Regulation, by the Member States and EDIRPA associated countries involved in the common procurement.

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (*e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union*

(TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)<sup>3</sup>). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

Measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary – Following the [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/2506](#), as of 16 December 2022, no legal commitments can be entered into with Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, as long as the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc). In case of multi-beneficiary grant calls, applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

### Consortium composition

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of:

- minimum 3 public authorities from at least 3 Member States or EDIRPA associated countries.

International organisations and the European Defence Agency (EDA) acting as procurement agent may be included as beneficiaries.

### Eligible actions

Eligible actions and activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

The following actions and activities are not considered as eligible for funding under this call:

- actions that do not implement the objectives set out in Article 3 of the EDIRPA Regulation
- actions that do not cover the mandatory types of activities set out in section 2
- actions that concern the common procurement of goods or services which are prohibited by applicable international law
- actions that concern the common procurement of lethal autonomous weapons without the possibility of meaningful human control over selection and engagement decisions when carrying out strikes against humans
- actions completed before the signature of the grant agreement
- actions that started before 24 February 2022.


Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc*).

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<sup>3</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (see above).

 Please note that moreover, in EDIRPA, only infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources which are located or held in an eligible country may be used by the contractors and subcontractors involved in the common procurement. Other assets, infrastructure, facilities or resources may be used only exceptionally by them if certain conditions are fulfilled (*no substitutes are readily available; not contravene EU and MS security and defence interests; consistent with EDIRPA objectives*).

Duration

Projects should last no longer than 24 months after the signature of the Grant Agreement.

Extensions are exceptionally possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

Project budget

Project budgets (maximum grant amount) must be calculated as a percentage of the estimated value of the common procurement (baseline of 7%) with incentive top-ups and ceilings (as described below), using the provided calculator and respecting the following conditions:

- the minimum estimated value of the common procurement must be of at least EUR 120 000 000
- the final value of the common procurement must remain at least 80% of the estimated value of the common procurement.

*Top-ups:*

In order to obtain the incentive top-ups, the applicants must fulfil the following conditions:

Type of top-up	Condition	Top-up
<p><b>Cooperation effect top-up</b></p>	<p><b>Characteristics of the cooperation</b> which are likely to give rise to greater interoperability outcomes and long-term investment signals to industry.</p> <p>For this top-up, applicants must demonstrate that <b>at least two of the following characteristics</b> are met by their common procurement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- inclusion or facilitation of common training activities among the beneficiaries, other Member States or EDIRPA associated countries</li> <li>- contribution to standard doctrine or procedures among the beneficiaries, other Member States or EDIRPA associated countries</li> <li>- inclusion or enabling the integration of equipment to facilitate connectivity for exchanging data and services among the beneficiaries, other Member States or EDIRPA associated countries</li> <li>- enabling the use of common logistic facilities or implementation of common logistic activities (including stockpiling,</li> </ul>	<p>+ EUR 5 000 000</p>

	transformation and maintenance) among the beneficiaries, other Member States or EDIRPA associated countries - being part of a framework that includes the provision of additional defence products and services in addition to the defence products that are within the scope of the action	
<b>Number of MS/AC top-up</b>	<b>Number of participating Member States and associated countries</b> beyond the minimum.	+ EUR 10 000 000 per participating Member State/ associated country beyond the minimum of 3
<b>Additional quantities for Ukraine/Moldova top-up</b>	<b>Ukraine or Moldova are recipients of additional quantities</b> of the defence products targeted by the common procurement action.	+ EUR 10 000 000
<b>SME/mid-cap top-up</b>	At least 15 % of the estimated value of the common procurement is or will be allocated to <b>SMEs<sup>4</sup> or mid-caps<sup>5</sup></b> as contractors or subcontractors.	+ EUR 5 000 000

*Ceilings:*

The maximum grant amount based on the baseline amount and top-ups (if applicable) will be capped at:

- by default: EUR 45 000 000 or 15% of the estimated value of the common procurement – whichever is lower
- for actions where Ukraine or Moldova are recipients of additional quantities of defence products: EUR 60 000 000 or 20% of the estimated value of the common procurement – whichever is lower
- for actions where at least 15% of the estimated value of the common procurement is allocated to SMEs or midcaps as contractors or subcontractors: EUR 60 000 000 or 20% of the estimated value of the common procurement – whichever is lower.

The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

Security

In accordance with Article 13 of the EDIRPA Regulation, the Member States and EDIRPA associated countries participating in the common procurement shall determine, among themselves, the arrangements applicable to the protection of classified information for the purposes of the common procurement, in accordance with national laws and regulations.

<sup>4</sup> 'SMEs' means small and medium-sized enterprises as defined in the Annex to EU Recommendation [2003/361/EC](#).

<sup>5</sup> 'Middle-capitalisation company (mid-cap)' means an enterprise that is not an SME and that has up to 3 000 employees, where the staff headcount is calculated in accordance with Articles 3 to 6 of the Annex to EU Recommendation [2003/361/EC](#).

However, each Member State and EDIRPA associated country shall ensure that it offers a degree of protection of EU classified information equivalent to that provided by Decision 2013/488/EU<sup>6</sup>.

Moreover, any classified information included in the proposals or generated in the implementation of the action, will be handled by the granting authority in accordance with Commission Decision 2015/444<sup>7</sup> and its implementing rules.

Further security recommendations may be added to the Grant Agreement in the security aspect letter (SAL).

Any exchange of classified information between the beneficiaries and the granting authority must be performed as follows:

- ZEUS system up to RESTRICTED
- certified courier for CONFIDENTIAL and above<sup>8</sup>.

## **7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion**

### Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

Since all applicants are public authorities (including EDA and international organisations) they are automatically considered to have sufficient financial capacity.

### Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications and resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

Since all applicants are public authorities (including EDA and international organisations) they are automatically considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

### Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate<sup>9</sup>:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>10</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

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<sup>6</sup> Council Decision 2013/488/EU of 23 September 2013 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 274, 15.10.2013, p. 1).

<sup>7</sup> See Commission Decision 2015/444/EU, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

<sup>8</sup> The Commission SUE system to exchange electronically classified information up to the level of SECRET will be deployed in Member States starting in 2024. Once deployed, it can be used as an alternative.

<sup>9</sup> See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that<sup>11</sup>:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

## 8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An **evaluation committee** will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the award criteria (*see section 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- 1) Proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion 'Number of Member States or associated countries'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based for scores for the criterion 'Value of the common procurement'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based for scores for the criterion 'Replenishment of stockpiles'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based for scores for the criterion

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<sup>10</sup> Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

<sup>11</sup> See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

'Strengthening the competitiveness, adaptation, modernisation, and development of the EDTIB'.

- 2) If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on the estimated value (in EUR) of the common procurement.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, exclusion check, etc.*

**Grant preparation** will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (*see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)*). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

## 9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

### 1. Number of Member States and associated countries (5 points)

- Number of Member States and EDIRPA associated countries participating in the common procurement

### 2. Value of the common procurement (5 points)

- Estimated value of the common procurement
- Soundness of the methodology used to calculate the estimated value of the common procurement

### 3. Strengthening the competitiveness, adaptation, modernisation and development of the EDTIB (5 points)

- Extent to which the action will contribute to the reduction or elimination of the shortfalls and limitations for the timely delivery and availability of the targeted defence products or capabilities, in particular in response to the most urgent and critical defence-products needs
- Extent to which the action will contribute to the competitiveness and efficiency of the EDTIB beyond the delivery of the defence product targeted by the common procurement, in particular by demonstrating a positive impact through creation of new market opportunities and accelerating the growth of the undertakings involved in the common procurement



- Timing of the common procurement contract (i.e. signature) and indication of the lead time for the delivery of the targeted defence products and description of the strategy and efforts of the consortium to ensure the speeding-up and timely completion of the common procurement contracts in view of final delivery

#### **4. Replenishment of stockpiles (5 points)**

- Extent to which the proposed common procurement will contribute to the availability of sufficient quantities of the most urgent and critical defence products needs through replenishment of stockpiles (e.g. those depleted by the shipments to Ukraine), including with equipment available on the market or replacement of obsolete systems (including Soviet legacy systems), or reinforcement of Member States' defence capabilities, in particular in relation with the bottlenecks and shortfalls referred to in section 4 of the [Joint Communication on Defence Investment Gaps Analysis](#)

#### **5. Strengthening cooperation among Member States and associated countries (5 points)**

- Added value that action will bring to defence cooperation between the participating Member States and EDIRPA associated countries through the establishment of new cooperations in defence procurement
- Soundness of the envisaged arrangements for technical risks sharing (e.g. liability regime) and proportion of the financial contributions to the common procurement (financial risk sharing)
- Potential for further cooperation opportunities between Member States and EDIRPA associated countries (inside and beyond the consortium) enabled by the action, e.g. common training, common maintenance
- Extent to which the proposed action will contribute to the interoperability of the defence products procured and the associated capabilities

#### **6. Overcoming obstacles to common procurement (5 points)**

- Benefits and added value that the EU contribution will bring to overcome the obstacles faced by the consortium to implement the targeted common procurement action

#### **7. Competitiveness and adaptation of the EDTIB to structural changes (5 points)**

- Extent to which the action will create or reinforce supply chains or manufacturing capacities, and which commitments are included in the common procurement to undertake complementary measures to support industrial ramp-up (e.g. measures to facilitate the reskilling/upskilling)
- Extent to which the common procurement will be able to satisfy changing demand and ensure availability in cases of unforeseen changes in the geopolitical and technological context (e.g. reprioritisation mechanisms, production KPI), including the possibility to include reservation of manufacturing capacities with specific targets as tender requirement/into the procurement contract

#### **8. Participation of SMEs and mid-caps (5 points)**



- Extent to which the common procurement will be able to ensure the participation of SMEs and mid-caps (e.g. contractual conditions)
- Overall proportion of the common procurement to be allocated to SMEs and midcaps established in different Member States or EDIRPA associated countries, and industrial or technological added value brought by them to the procurement

#### **9. New cross-border cooperation (5 points)**

- Extent to which the common procurement will contribute to the creation or set-the basis for future cross-border cooperations between undertakings (contractors, subcontractors, and other undertakings in the supply chains) established in different Member States or EDIRPA associated countries
- Added-value brought by the cross-border cooperation in the common procurement to the robustness and resilience of the supply chains throughout the EU

#### **10. Quality and efficiency (5 points)**

- Effectiveness and practicality of the work plan and the timing and interrelations between work packages/milestones, including the description of activities, tasks, expected outcomes, deliverables, outputs and outcomes of the different work packages proposed
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including consortium set-up, cooperation and division of roles and decision-making mechanisms
- Appropriateness of the measures taken and method used to monitor the project and its timely delivery, including description of risk management methodology and identification of critical risks.

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score	Weighting
Number of Member States and EDIRPA associated countries	n/a	5	2
Value of the common procurement	n/a	5	2
Strengthening the competitiveness, adaptation, modernisation, and development of the EDTIB	n/a	5	2
Replenishment of stockpiles	n/a	5	2
Strengthening cooperation among Member States and EDIRPA associated countries	n/a	5	1
Overcoming obstacles to common procurement	n/a	5	1
Competitiveness and adaptation of the EDTIB to structural changes	n/a	5	1
Participation of SMEs and Mid-Caps	n/a	5	1
New cross-border cooperation	n/a	5	1
Quality and efficiency	n/a	5	1
<b>Overall weighted (pass) scores</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>70</b>	N/A

Maximum points: 70 points.

There is no minimum pass score for individual criteria.

Overall threshold: 42 points.

Proposals that pass the overall threshold will be considered for funding – within the limits of the available budget (i.e. up to the budget ceiling). Other proposals will be rejected.

## 10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

### Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons— even before proposal submission date back to 24 February 2022.

Project duration: *see section 6 above*.

### Milestones and deliverables

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

The mandatory milestones, results and means of verification are set out in the Annex to this Call document.

There are no mandatory deliverables; however each project must identify the relevant deliverables to allow for the verification of all the results that must be achieved for the mandatory milestones.

### Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

Project budget (maximum grant amount): *see section 6 above*.

The grant will be a lump sum grant. It will reimburse a fixed amount based on financing not linked to costs. The amount will be fixed by the granting authority as a fixed percentage of the value of the common procurement (baseline of 7%) with incentive top-ups and ceilings, as described in section 6).

### Budget categories and cost eligibility rules


The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2*).


*Budget categories for this call:*

- Lump sum contributions<sup>12</sup>

*Specific cost eligibility rules for this call:*

- the lump sum amount must be calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in the lump sum authorising decision and using the calculator provided (if any)
- the conditions for the baseline amount and for the incentive top-ups and ceilings described in section 6 must be fulfilled and stay fulfilled for the entire duration of the action.

 Please be aware that during grant agreement preparation, the lump sum contributions may be reallocated between work packages, if, for instance, the shares are not in line with the milestones covered by the corresponding work packages (for the correct amounts to use, see Annex to this Call document).

 Please be also aware that we may reduce the grant (or terminate and reduce the grant) if the final value of the common procurement is decreased below 80% of the estimated value of the common procurement, if your action no longer fulfils the conditions for the applied top-ups or caps or if it encounters major delays during the project implementation (*see art 28 and 32*).

### Reporting and payment arrangements

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<sup>12</sup> [Decision](#) of 22 February.2024 authorising the use of financing not linked to costs for actions under the Instrument for the reinforcement of the European defence industry through common procurement (EDIRPA).

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22*).

There is **no pre-financing** payment.


There may be one or more **interim payments** linked to the completion of one or more work packages that are associated to the achievement of one or more of the following milestones:

- milestone 1 (commitment to commonly procure): payment of 20% of the maximum grant amount
- milestone 2 (industry/market engagement): payment of 15% of the maximum grant amount
- milestone 3 (common procurement contract signature): payment of 15% of the maximum grant amount
- milestone 4 (common procurement payment/delivery): payment of 50% of the maximum grant amount.

You will be required to provide periodic reports to request payments, in accordance with the schedule and modalities set out in the grant agreement.

**Payment of the balance:** At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

 Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (*see art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done.

#### Prefinancing guarantees

n/a

#### Certificates

n/a

#### Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*
- unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action*

or

- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts.*

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

Provisions concerning the project implementation

Security rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 13 and Annex 5)*

- specific national security framework under Article 13 of the EDIRPA Regulation: Yes

Ethics rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 14)*

- specific ethics rules in Annex 5: No

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5):*

- list of background and background free from restrictions: No
- results free from restrictions: No
- ownership of results: No
- protection of results: No
- transfer and licensing of results: No
- rights of use on results: No
- for EDF Research Actions: access to results for policy purposes: No
- for EDF Research Actions: access to special report: No
- for EDF Research Actions: access rights to further develop results: No

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5):*

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes

Specific rules for carrying out the action: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 18 and Annex 5):*

- specific rules for EDF actions: No
- specific rules for ASAP actions: No
- specific rules for EDIRPA actions: Yes
- specific rules for EDF PCP Grants for Procurement: No
- place of performance obligation for EDF PCP Grants for Procurement: No
- specific rules for EDF Grants for Financial Support: No
- specific rules for blending operations: No

Other specificities

n/a

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).



For more information, see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

## 11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

### a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EU Login account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

### b) submit the proposal

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 2 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B and Annexes through a password-protected single zip archive:
  - Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and add to the zip archive as a PDF
  - Annexes (see section 5). Download the templates and add to zip archive as PDFs (— unless other format specified).

The zip archive must be submitted password-protected (using AES-256 encryption method), with a size of less than 100 MB. The password (and any other passwords used in the documents) must be communicated before the deadline for submission to the following email address: [DEFIS-EDIRPA-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DEFIS-EDIRPA-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu) (together with the proposal ID and the name of the zip archive).



If your proposal includes **classified information**, can be sent by registered post, as a USB password-protected electronic file, properly marked (R-UE/EU-R), in a double envelope (DHL preferred):

*CALL FOR PROPOSALS - EDIRPA*

*European Commission*

*Directorate General Defence Industry (DEFIS) DIR A/A4*

*Avenue d'Auderghem 45*

*1049 Brussels*

*Belgium*

For sending by post, the sending date must be before the deadline for submission of the proposals.

Please be aware that such documents **MUST NOT** under any circumstances be submitted online through the Funding & Tenders Portal.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (see section 5); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (see section 4). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

## 12. Help

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- FAQs on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

### Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: [DEFIS-EDIRPA-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DEFIS-EDIRPA-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu).

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (see cover page).

## 13. Important



### IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities).

- **Coordinator** — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.



- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date).
- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No cumulation of funding/no double funding** — It is strictly prohibited to cumulate funding from the EU budget (except under 'EU Synergies actions'). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared under two EU grants. If you would like to nonetheless benefit from different EU funding opportunities, projects must be designed as different actions, clearly delineated and separated for each grant (without overlaps).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded funding for them).  
Organisations may participate in several proposals.  
BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw the others (or they will be rejected).
- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this this Call document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).

**EDIRPA milestones, results and means of verification**

The following milestones, results and means of verification are mandatory in all EDIRPA actions:

No.	Milestone description	Results to be achieved	Means of verification	Value
1	<p><b>Commitment to commonly procure</b></p> <p>This milestone corresponds to the agreement reflecting the number of participants to the common procurement and their commitment to jointly procure according to agreed modalities.</p>	<p>Signature of the agreement with the procurement agent by at least the minimum number of MS/AC.</p> <p>The indicators that will be checked are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the number of Member States and EDIRPA associated countries or the inclusion of additional Member States or EDIRPA associated countries in existing cooperations</li> <li>- the appointment, by unanimity, of the procurement agent (PA) empowered to carry out the common procurement procedures and to conclude the contract(s) with the contractors on behalf of the participating MS/AC.</li> <li>- the common procurement procedures, i.e., the practical arrangements governing the common procurement and the decision-making process on the choice of the common procurement procedure, the assessment of the tenders and the award of the contract(s), including notably the following requirements concerning contractors and subcontractors for the PA to verify:</li> </ul>	<p>Availability to the granting authority of the agreement by MS/AC involved in the common procurement and the procurement agent (or part(s) of it containing the information needed to check the fulfilment of conditions to be verified or alternative documents allowing to verify the content of the agreement).</p>	20%

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ establishment in the EU/AC</li> <li>○ executive management structures in EU/AC</li> <li>○ not subject to control by non-associated third country/entity (PA to perform control assessment) or FDI screened:</li> <li>○ if subject to control and not FDI screened, request guarantee verified by MS (template to be used included in tender conditions);</li> <li>– the obligations and responsibilities of the PA, notably:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ obligation to notify the Commission of contractors and subcontractors that have been subject to FDI screening and of contractors and subcontractors subject to non-EU control, with guarantees verified by MS/AC.</li> <li>○ obligation to check that the defence product is not subject to restriction by non-associated third country, which limits the ability of the MS to use that defence product:</li> </ul> </li> <li>– the exceptions for the above obligation for urgent and critical defence products if:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ in use prior 24/2/2022 by the armed forces of a majority of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
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		<p>MS/AC in the common procurement, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the MS/AC commitment to study the feasibility of replacing the components that cause the restriction with an alternative restriction-free component of EU origin</li> </ul> <p>-</p>		
2	<p><b>Industry/market engagement</b></p> <p>This milestone corresponds to the availability of the documentation for the implementation of the common procurement procedure by the procurement agent according to the modalities agreed by the participating Member States/AC. The common procurement documentation available to the targeted industrial stakeholders (either published or directly distributed to tenderers) should in particular reflect the agreed procurement strategy, the specific scope of the procurement and provide, if applicable, the Contract award criteria and technical marking scheme.</p>	<p>Finalisation and availability to industrial stakeholders of the full set of documentation that the selected procurement agent will share with the industry for the preparation of the offers.</p> <p>The indicators that will be checked are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- scope of the common procurement</li> <li>- participation requirements for contractor and subcontractors specified by Annex 5 of the Grant Agreement</li> <li>- availability of the common procurement documentation to the industrial stakeholders</li> <li>- elements related to incentive top-ups as specified in section 6 (e.g. cooperation effect, number of MS/AC, additional quantities for Ukraine/Moldova, SMEs/mid-caps, etc.)</li> </ul>	<p>Availability to the granting authority of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the proof that the common procurement procedure documentation is available to the industrial stakeholders and</li> <li>- the common procurement documents as shared with industrial stakeholders (or part(s) of them containing the information needed to check the fulfilment of conditions to be verified or alternative documents allowing to verify the content of the documents).</li> </ul>	15%
3	<p><b>Common procurement contract(s) signature</b></p> <p>This milestone corresponds to the availability of</p>	<p>Signature of the common procurement contract (or multiple contracts) between the procurement agent and the contractors on behalf of the minimum number of MS/AC</p>	<p>Availability to the granting authority of the signed contract(s) (or part(s) of them containing the information needed to check the fulfilment of conditions to be verified or alternative</p>	15%

	<p>a legally binding document (e.g. a contract, multiple contracts) between the procurement agent and the industrial stakeholders (contractors to the common procurement).</p>	<p>The indicators that will be checked are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- value of the common procurement</li> <li>- percentage of the value of the common procurement allocated to SMEs and mid-caps</li> <li>- cross-border cooperation between contractor and subcontractors involved in the common procurement</li> <li>- cost of components originating in MS/AC</li> <li>- procurement of additional quantities of the defence product for Ukraine or Moldova</li> <li>- ownership/control assessment or FDI screening of contractor and subcontractors performed</li> <li>- reporting on notifications on ownership/control status or FDI screening of contractor and subcontractors performed.</li> </ul>	<p>documents allowing to verify the content of the contract(s)).</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p><b>Common procurement payment or delivery</b></p> <p>This milestone corresponds to the evidence of operationalisation of the Common Procurement through at least one payment to the industrial stakeholders (contractor and subcontractors) by the minimum number of Member States required by Article 8(1) point c of the EDIRPA Regulation or a delivery to the minimum number of Member States required by Article 8(1) point c of the EDIRPA regulation.</p>	<p>At least one payment related to the common procurement (corresponding to all or part of the value of the common procurement) made to the industrial stakeholders by the minimum number of MS/AC or the delivery of at least one of the procured defence products to the minimum number of MS/AC.</p> <p>The milestone could also correspond to a delivery to less MS/AC than the minimum number, under the condition that at least one payment by the minimum number of MS/AC as described above is already</p>	<p>Availability to the granting authority of the relevant evidence of the operationalisation of the common procurement contract(s) (e.g. proof of payment, invoices from contractors, proof of delivery, etc, or alternative documents allowing to verify the operationalisation of the contract(s)).</p>	<p>50%</p>

		<p>completed.</p> <p>The indicators that will be checked are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- at least one payment related with the common procurement contract(s) by the minimum number of MS/AC required or a delivery to the minimum number of MS/AC has been done by the contractor</li><li>- Ukraine or Moldova are one of the recipients of additional quantities of defence products in the procurement.</li></ul>		
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