

Distributed Research Infrastructures in Europe Workshop  
2025

*Impact, Industry Engagement, Research Security and Dual  
Use*

Copenhagen, October 20 – 21

# Dual Use

- What is Dual use?
- In Regulation (EC) No 428/2009, dual-use items and technologies are defined as being "items, including software and technology, which can be used for both civil and military purposes, and shall include all goods which can be used for both non-explosive uses and assisting in any way in the manufacture of nuclear weapons .

# Dual Use

- What is Dual use?
- Specific examples of dual-use goods, technology and software include global positioning satellites, night vision technology, thermal imaging, some lasers, some drones, and other goods that are designed using precise manufacturing specifications to be used in or in conjunction with dual-use/military equipment.

# Why discuss Dual use now?

- Political landscape is such that we are entering (have entered) new global political landscape.
- In Europe we are in a new cold war (hot war in Ukraine) Defence expenditure is increasing. Where is that money coming from?
- European Defence fund

# EDF | Developing tomorrow's defence capabilities



## The European Defence Fund at a glance

The EDF is the Commission's instrument to support Research and Development in defence.

Its main goals are:



# European Defence Fund

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Its main goals are:

- To **promote** cooperation between companies, including SMEs and research actors throughout the Union.
- To **boost** defence capability development through investments.
- To **help** EU companies develop cutting-edge and interoperable defence technologies and equipment.

The EDF supports companies across Member States develop competitive and collaborative defence projects that will deliver innovative and interoperable defence technologies and equipment. It offers support and advice to participants throughout the entire cycle of research and development.

The Fund has a budget of **nearly €7.3 billion** for 2021-2027, with €2.7 billion allocated for collaborative defence research and €5.3 billion for collaborative capability development projects that complement national contributions. The financial support is offered primarily through grants up to 100% of eligible costs contingent on activities involved and a bonus system that considers SMEs, mid-caps, and connection to a [PESCO project](#).

The EDF is implemented through annual work programmes structured along 34 thematic and horizontal categories of actions along the objectives set in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. The Programme is implemented directly by the Commission. In duly justified cases and in line with the EDF Regulation, the management of a grant can be delegated to an entrusted entity.

Identified priorities are aiming at contributing to the security and defence interests of the Union, in line with defence capability priorities agreed by Member States within the framework of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and particularly in the context of the Capability Development Plan (CDP), and taking into account, where appropriate, regional priorities and priorities from and international organisations (NATO).



# EDF CALLS FOR PROPOSALS 2025

DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S DEFENCE CAPABILITIES

**9 calls**  
**€1.065 billion**

The European Defence Fund is the Commission's instrument to support collaborative Research and Development in defence. It is implemented through annual work programmes.

The **fifth** European Defence Fund (EDF) Work Programme addresses **33 topics** in total, organised around **7 thematic calls**, **2 non-thematic calls** and **2 specific grant agreements** in support of the Alliance for defence medical countermeasures.

# Horizon Europe

- The debate is on Dual use in next programme
- Parliament debate – not popular in some sectors/people
- Need to change some legislation? At EC, National and Institutional level
- BUT I think it is inevitable

**It is here now ...**

# Technology Infrastructures

- Alongside research infrastructures, an emerging landscape of technology infrastructures, both in the civilian and military domains, completes a range of facilities and services supporting technology development, testing, validation and scaleup, accelerating the market uptake of research results.
- Technology infrastructures are facilities, equipment, capabilities and resources required to develop, test, upscale and validate technology. They include, amongst others, test beds, pilot lines, pilot plants and demonstration facilities, cleanrooms, and living labs. Their primary purpose is to enable and accelerate technological innovations towards societal/market adoption, boosting industrial competitiveness.

# ESA statements

## SPACE STRATEGY : EUROPE NEEDS CIVIL-MILITARY SYNERGIES

When it presented its new 'Space Strategy for Europe' in October 2016, the European Commission not only set as an overarching objective to *"maximize the benefits of space for society and economy"* and to *"foster a globally competitive and innovative European space sector"*. For the first time, it also identified space as a strategic asset for strengthening European security & defence and a core element of the EU's strategic autonomy.



## DUAL-USE ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH ESA

### PORTUGAL (2019-2024)

This analysis compiles a list of activities supported by the Portuguese Space Agency under the category of “dual use”. An activity is considered dual use when, although designed for a civil purpose, can also be used for defence.

The real-time and continuous nature of location-based knowledge from satellites empowers decision makers to stay up to date in their regions of interest, and to make informed decisions when needed. Additionally, space-based monitoring for security has a huge advantage over other monitoring techniques as intelligence can easily be acquired for large areas anywhere on Earth in one go.

Satellite-based communication provides further security assurances with reliable means of communication as it covers areas otherwise not covered by traditional telecommunications infrastructure or areas where infrastructure has been damaged. Advances in quantum and AI technologies also contribute to the possibilities of space in this new age: creating more secure communication channels and enabling faster, better processing of Earth Observation imagery to recognize patterns and identify objects or areas of interest

# ESA Statements

## Josef Aschbacher on geopolitics and Europe's changing space debate

How ESA is positioning itself for a new space economy

by Mike Gruss September 16, 2025



## How ESA Chief Aschbacher wants to strengthen the space agency in the defense sector



Dr. Josef Aschbacher is head of the ESA. (IMAGO / Sven Simon)

# So it is timely

- To debate roles of Research Infrastructures in Dual Use ...