

# NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA)

**Event: Fostering Innoation In NATO: DIANA** 

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June 2023



### Holistic Defence: The Problem Space

- Insecurity is driven by complex, interrelated global challenges, e.g.
  environmental changes, scarcity of resources, economic instability, hostile threats from state and non-state actors
- Understanding and tackling these challenges requires world-leading science and technology





### Defence & Security and Innovators: The Gap

- Defence is viewed as inaccessible and complex
- Innovators are unsure of where to start and who can help
- Government rules and regulations are viewed as cumbersome
- Difficulties in accessing end-user customers to better understand their problems and receive feedback

**Result:** innovators ignore or are frustrated by the defence and security market, losing interest as commercial revenue streams take off



### Role for NATO

To address the complex inter-related challenges, there's a need for a resilient **Allied innovation ecosystem** that:

- Develops and adopts new technologies at the pace of relevance
- Fosters stronger innovation partnerships between government, industry and academia (triple-helix)
- Grows the network of innovation centres Alliance-wide
- Reduces the barriers to financing to create a sustainable innovation base



Adapted from Dr Phil Budden & Prof Fiona Murray: MIT's Stakeholder Framework for Building & Accelerating Innovation Ecosystems





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DIANA is instructed to accelerate civil-military emerging and disruptive technological solutions – particularly dual-use ones – to critical transatlantic defense and security challenges, leveraging existing elements from NATO nations and NATO bodies and guided by relevant NATO Strategies and Frameworks.

NATO DIANA Mission Statement





### **NATO Innovation Fund**

### The NIF complements DIANA



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the Signing Ceremony of the NATO Innovation Fund Letter of Commitment (30 June 2022)

- Will invest EUR 1 billion in early-stage startups developing emerging and disruptive technologies
- 15-year timeframe
- Provides option for further investment in companies that have been through the DIANA accelerator programme



### **Emerging and Disruptive Technologies**

- 9 technology priorities
- DIANA focuses on TRLs 4-7
- The technologies are 'dualuse' in nature – can address societal challenges as well as defence needs





### **Core Features of DIANA**

#### **Technical Challenges**

• Competitive calls for proposals addressing critical Alliance needs

#### **Accelerator Programme**

• Award of non-dilutive grant; strengthen business viability of companies; product-market fit in defence and security

#### **Innovation Network**

 Access to state of the art testing facilities at DIANA's Alliance-wide network of affiliated accelerator sites and test centres; access to operational end-users

#### **Rapid Adoption Service**

Pathways for follow-on contracts and capability development

**Allied Capital Community** 

Access to trusted investors and sources of capital



## **Challenge and Accelerator Programmes**

Strategic Direction Development DIANA gathers critical defence and security needs from NATO stakeholders and develops Challenge problems biennially

Challenge Call for Proposals

Innovators from NATO member nations invited to propose emerging and disruptive, dual-use solutions

Programme Implementation Two-phase demonstration and maturation Challenge programme includes grant funding, accelerator programme, test centre access, mentoring, investor network and pathways to Allied markets



biotechnology

### DIANA Network: Accelerator sites (June 2023)



FORTH Heraklion



### DIANA Network: Test Centres (June 2023)



space, materials

critical infrastructure

materials and manufacturing

AI, data, autonomy,

novel materials



### 2023 Challenge Topics



#### Sensing& Surveillance:

Sensing the Coastal Undersea Environment



#### **Energy Resilience**:

Harnessing Microgrid Technologies for Disaster and Conflict Recovery



#### Secure Information Sharing:

Truly Reliable and Unquestionably Secure Technology



## Challenge Programme Timeline





### Apply and connect with DIANA



Register your interest if you are a potential industry partner, investor, or journalist <u>www.nato-diana.org</u>



Learn more and APPLY here for the Challenges www.diana.nato.int



Follow DIANA on LinkedIn <u>https://www.linkedin.co</u> <u>m/company/nato-diana</u>



## **Questions?**

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