



The NATO Innovation Fund

Veronika Bartakova, Officer, NATO Innovation Unit

Belgian National Day on DIANA and the NIF – 26 June 2023

DeepTech at NATO



Aligning with **Emerging and Disruptive Technologies (EDTs)**

- Breakthrough in science and engineering
- Transformative technologies with societal impact
- Complex, systems-oriented tools
- Physical or hybrid products
- Longer-term tech-to-market timelines

Artificial
Intelligence

Autonomy

Quantum
Technologies

Biotech

Hypersonic

New Space
Systems

Novel
Materials &
Manufacturing

Energy &
Propulsion

Next Gen
Comms

Problems

Undercapitalization

Deep tech start-ups are historically underfunded

Unbalanced Capital Distribution

Uneven allocation of private sector capital across the Alliance

Public/Private Sector Divide

Government defense/security organizations and the private sector are disconnected

Adversarial Threat Transfer

Risk of adversaries/competitors acquiring the deep tech solutions developed by Allied innovators

NATO's Advantage



Exposure to multiple **Allied defence and government markets** and their associated customers



Patient capital without standard corporate, commercial, or political pressures faced by other investors



Access to a **network of end-users** (via Allied MODs) and science and technology experts (via STO)

DIANA x NIF Distinction

DIANA *Product-focused*

DIANA focuses specifically on products & technological solutions and is designed to create a pipeline and landscape for: 1) the product need to be defined 2) the best product to be identified and 3) that product to be co-developed and adopted at scale

NIF *Innovator-focused*

The NIF is focused on the innovator and providing the capital, amongst others, to drive engagement with innovators who are capable of solving critical challenges using commercial technologies in a defence and security landscape

Core Features

DIANA

- Novel, Deep Tech Focused Pipeline
- A Startup Accelerator Network
- Deep Tech Test Centres
- Rapid Adoption Service
- Participation @ 31

Allied Capital
Community

NIF

- 1B EUR Multi-Sovereign VC Fund
- Top Tier Commercial Investment Team
- Market and Incentivisation Standard
- Direct investments into early stage deep tech startups; Indirect into funds
- Participation @ 23 NATO Allies

NIF Objectives

Allied Adoption

Best technologies to address defence and security challenges



Capacity Building

Foster innovation ecosystems

Commercial Success

Create long-term financial value and mission impact

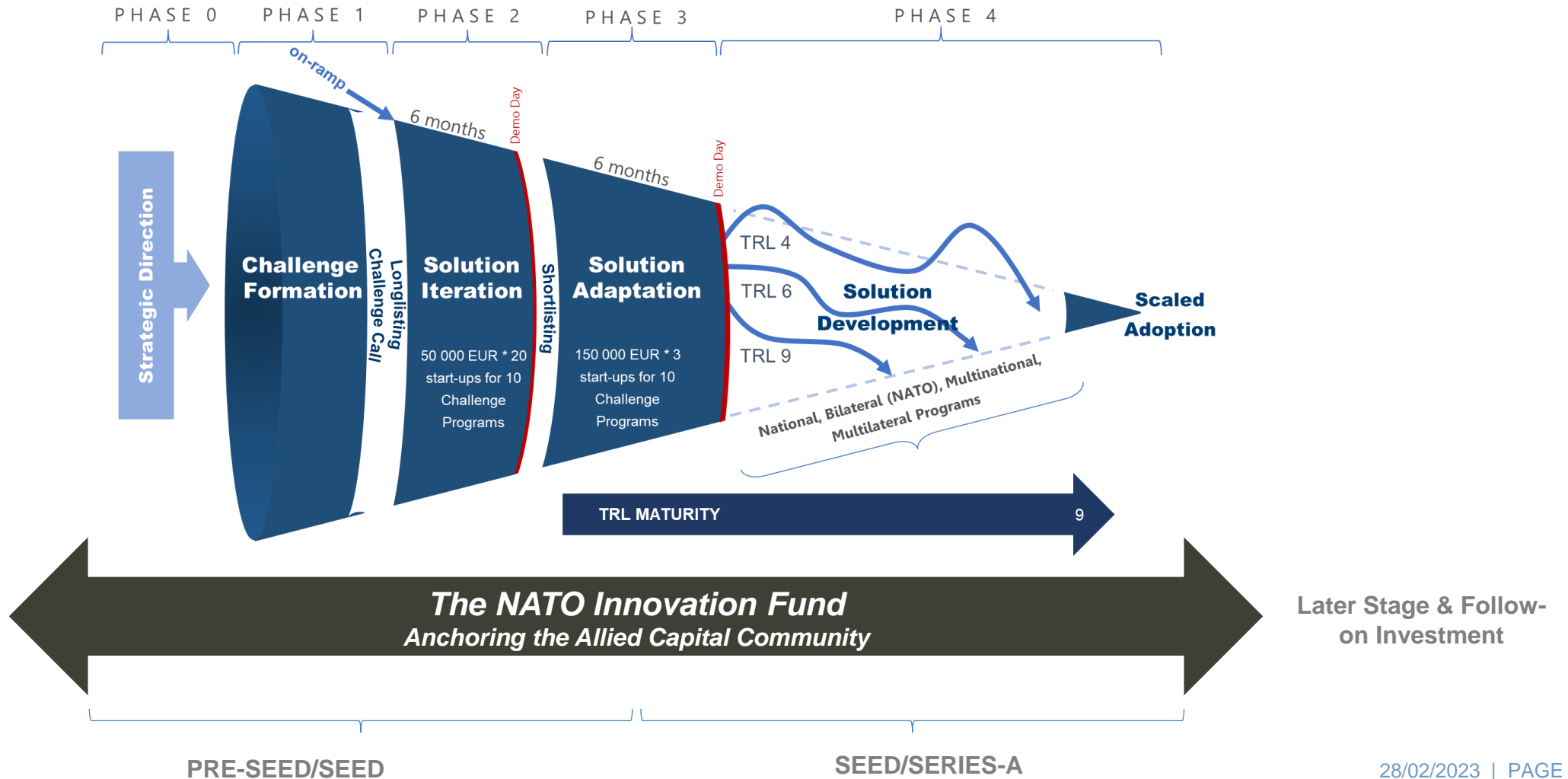
DIANA x NIF Connection



“Start-ups in the Fund’s portfolio may produce solutions to Challenge Programs within DIANA, and start-ups in DIANA’s Challenge Programs may be attractive for investment from the Fund. The Fund and its Investment Manager should therefore maintain close ties and seek synergies with DIANA.”



DIANA x NIF Pipeline



NIF Mission



To help secure the future for the Alliance's 1 billion citizens and boost NATO's technological edge, the NATO Innovation Fund is investing 1 billion EUR into high-impact European deep tech

Contact the NATO Innovation Unit

E-MAIL *Bartakova.Veronika@HQ.NATO.INT (Copy Azzia.Francesca@HQ.NATO.INT)*

PHONE +32 2 707 2493