



CYBER FORCE
PROTECT DEFEND COLLECT FIGHT



**ROYAL HIGHER
INSTITUTE
for DEFENCE**

June 2nd, 2026

ADV K. PIETERS, Deputy Director RDII, RHID

2026 PILOT CALL



CYBER DEFENCE FACTORY (CDF) PROGRAM



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Context **STRIKE IT**



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Cooperation between Cyber Force Command & RHID

Powered by host sites A6K & Howest

Objective = Innovation of high TRL and short-cycle projects

Open to BE research institutes and industry ; use of « Triple Helix model » is encouraged

Budget : 1,8 MEuro ; up to 150kEuro per project ; 6 months ; 12 projects ; 2 sites



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Information sessions



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11 and 12 Feb 26



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Timeline



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Timeline & Content

	Date	At / via
Information sessions	11 February 2026 12 February 2026	CDF6000 (Charleroi) CDF8000 (Brugge)
Deadline proposals	8 March 2026 (23h59)	Mail
Remote peer review evaluation	9 March – 3 April 2026	Online
Ethical Evaluation	9 March – 25 March 2026	RHID
Internal selection of proposals	4 May 2026	RHID
Communication of results to applicants	6 May 2026	Mail



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Evaluation Procedure



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Submission Procedure

Content of proposal:

- Template proposal

As a separate document :

- Gantt Chart
- Budget file
- Extracts UBO register (if applicable)
- Veiligheidsverificatie toestemming – Vérification de sécurité consentement (if applicable)
- Company Honourability & Vulnerability self-assessment declaration (if applicable)
- Ethics self-assessment

RHID Website

[https://www.defence-
institute.be/](https://www.defence-institute.be/)



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Evaluation Procedure

Deadline full proposals : 8 March 26

Choice of Factory Site :

- CDF6000 (Charleroi-A6K): Focus on land and air domains
- CDF8000 (Brugge-Howest): Focus on maritime/naval domains

CDF FACTORY	Proposals received
CDF6000 (A6K)	18
CDF8000 (HoWest)	10
CDF6000 AND CDF8000	8
TOTAL	36



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Evaluation Procedure

Step 1 - General eligibility check – eligible consortia

- Completeness of the proposal (all fields fully completed, UBO extracts available, proof of dispatch of the consent form and the “Company Honourability & Vulnerability self-assessment declaration” available, additional documents available)
- Partnership composition : min 1 private company, triple helix encouraged

CDF FACTORY	Proposals received	Proposals eligible
CDF6000 (A6K)	18	14
CDF8000 (HoWest)	10	10
CDF6000 AND CDF8000	8	7
TOTAL	36	31

Reasons for non eligible

No ethical self assessment

Late submission

No (valid) UBO

No Consent



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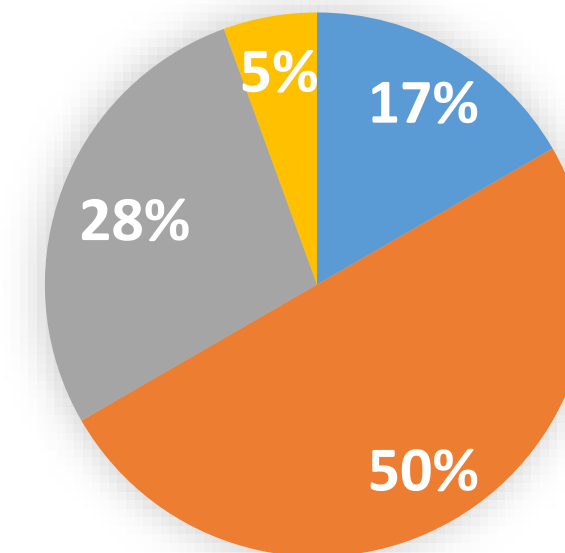
Evaluation Procedure

Step 1 - General eligibility check – consortia size

- Only 1 private company, no academia : 6 (mainly PME)
 - Fox&Fish BV
 - Maracas Studio
 - MediAx Solutions
 - Soterics NV
 - Nobot BV
 - ThreatExposure BV
- 2 private companies, no academia : 5 consortia
- Triple Helix Constellation : 25 consortia (69%)
- Industry involved in more than 1 proposal : 5
 - Proximus, GEOXYZ, Toreon, Thales Be, Fox&Fish

Consortia size	Number of consortia
1 partner	6
2 partners	18
3 partners	10
4 partners	2
Total	36

consortia size



■ 1 participant ■ 2 participants
■ 3 participants ■ 4 participants



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Evaluation Procedure

Step 1 - General eligibility check – Consortia origin

Representations Industry Partners

Flanders : 57%

Wallonia : 24%

Brussels : 19%

Predominantly Flemish with complementary clusters in Wallonia and Brussels

Presentation Academia :

Flanders : 46%

Wallonia : 38%

Brussels : 15%

A modest emphasis on Flanders, substantial involvement from Wallonia, and a strategic contribution from Brussels



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Industry partners (1)	Industry Partners (2)	Defence partners	Research partners
	36	1	13
AEONICS	Maracas Studio	RMA CyLab	Centre IFAPME de Charleroi
AgiNtech	Materialise NV		CETIC
Banana Navy	MediAx Solutions		Howest
Barco	Mind OSS.		IMEC's IDLab-DISCOVER
BLINQY	Naval Group Belgium NV		INNOCOM
Callewaert Consultancy bv	Nobot BV		KULeuven Distrinet Brugge
Capyx sa	Noordzee Drones		KULeuven Distrinet Leuven
CETIC	Orange Belgium NV/SA		Multitel
Citronics/Swarm	PHOENIX AI		SIRRIS
Citymesh	Proximus		Thomas More
e-BO enterprises NV	Soterics NV		UCLouvain
Esri BeLux	Spin42 SRL		Umons
Fox&Fish Cyberdefence	Syba Europe BV		Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee (VLIZ)
Geo.XYZ BV	Thales BE		
Get Your Way	ThreatExposure BV		
i-LAN BV	Toreon		
INSENS			
Luxor One BV			



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Evaluation Procedure

Step 2 – Peer review evaluation

- Criteria :
 - Innovation quality (35%)
 - Quality proposed solution (40%)
 - Impact for Defence and for society (25%)
- Each proposal reviewed by at least 3 evaluators, max 5 evaluators

Insufficient	0
Insufficient - deficient	0,5
Deficient	1
Deficient - weak	1,5
Weak	2
Weak - reasonable	2,5
Reasonable	3
Reasonable - good	3,5
Good	4
Good - excellent	4,5
Excellent	5



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Evaluation Procedure

Step 3 – evaluation by internal evaluation committee

- Criteria :
 - The match between the proposal and the scope of call,
 - The quality of the proposal, based on the description of the project objectives and the innovation with respect to the state of the art,
 - The quality of the partners and the adequacy of the partnership,
 - The relevance and potential impact for Defence.
 - Result of the security screening and the ethical evaluation



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Selected projects

- 6 at CDF6000 (A6K)
- 6 at CDF8000 (Howest)

- Pitch sessions

CDF6000 (A6K)	CDF8000 (HoWest)
VBN	CHIMERA
TRUST_SWARM	SDP
SOVA	SOV-PRINT
SPYIOT	GIOB
NOVA	IOTSLF
ARMOR	OSPIRE



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After Selection

- Selection decided by Royal Decree
- Royal Decree and Signature of contract
- First advance payment
- Selected projects start in June 2026
- Kick-off meetings on 8 and 10 June 2026



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THANK YOU

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FACTORY

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