



EUDIS
Business
Accelerator

EUDIS Business Accelerator

Programme Overview





EUDIS Business Accelerator (8-months) supports 20 EU & Norwegian start-ups & scale-ups to shape the future of EU defence industry

 **The first EU-wide defence accelerator**
Powered by the European Commission

Defence Ecosystem Understanding

Strengthen **participants understanding of the defence ecosystem** and business development support through training & coaching sessions

Support innovation within defence

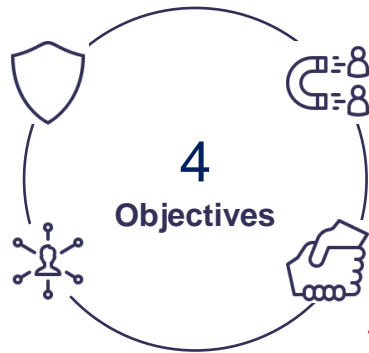
Provide participants with **access to testing facilities** to support creation of in-demand innovative defence solutions

Defence Network Expansion






Broaden network of start-ups and scale-ups with **end-users, corporates & investors** through dedicated matchmaking events

Investment Readiness

Improve participants access to financing by making them investment ready through **coaching** and engaging directly with **defence investors**



Programme Highlights

-  **20** selected companies
-  **65K€** in vouchers distributed to companies
-  Application period: **March 17th - April 27th**
-  **8-month accelerator** kicking off June 16th at Paris Air Show
-  For companies established in **EU or Norway** active in **defence** or seeking entry



EUDIS Business Accelerator will be managed by 4 European consortium partners ready to expand for upcoming years

● Main Accelerators Y1



STARBURST

Founded in 2012, Starburst is a **global accelerator for aviation, space, and defence**. It supports innovation aiding over **15,000 startups, 70% dual-use**. It has launched 27 accelerator programmes and Starburst Ventures in 2022.



With **20+ years of experience**, WSL is Europe's first tech incubator and a key **player in Belgium's economy**. It supports deep tech start-ups through EU partnerships, ESA certification, and global collaborations. WSL runs acceleration programmes like **TRL Booster and the Belgian NATO DIANA site**.

civitta

Founded in 2010, Civitta is a leading **consultancy in Central and Eastern Europe**, supporting businesses and governments. With **750+ consultants in 20+ countries**, it aids start-ups, securing **€2B+ in investments**, and leads **Horizon Europe and EUDIS defence projects**.

VTT

With 80 years of expertise, VTT is Finland's **leading research institution**, driving technology commercialisation. It operates **21 test centres, including 5G/6G networks**, and runs VTT Launchpad for spin-offs, raising €575M. VTT **leads Finland's NATO DIANA accelerator and the Digital Defence Ecosystem**.

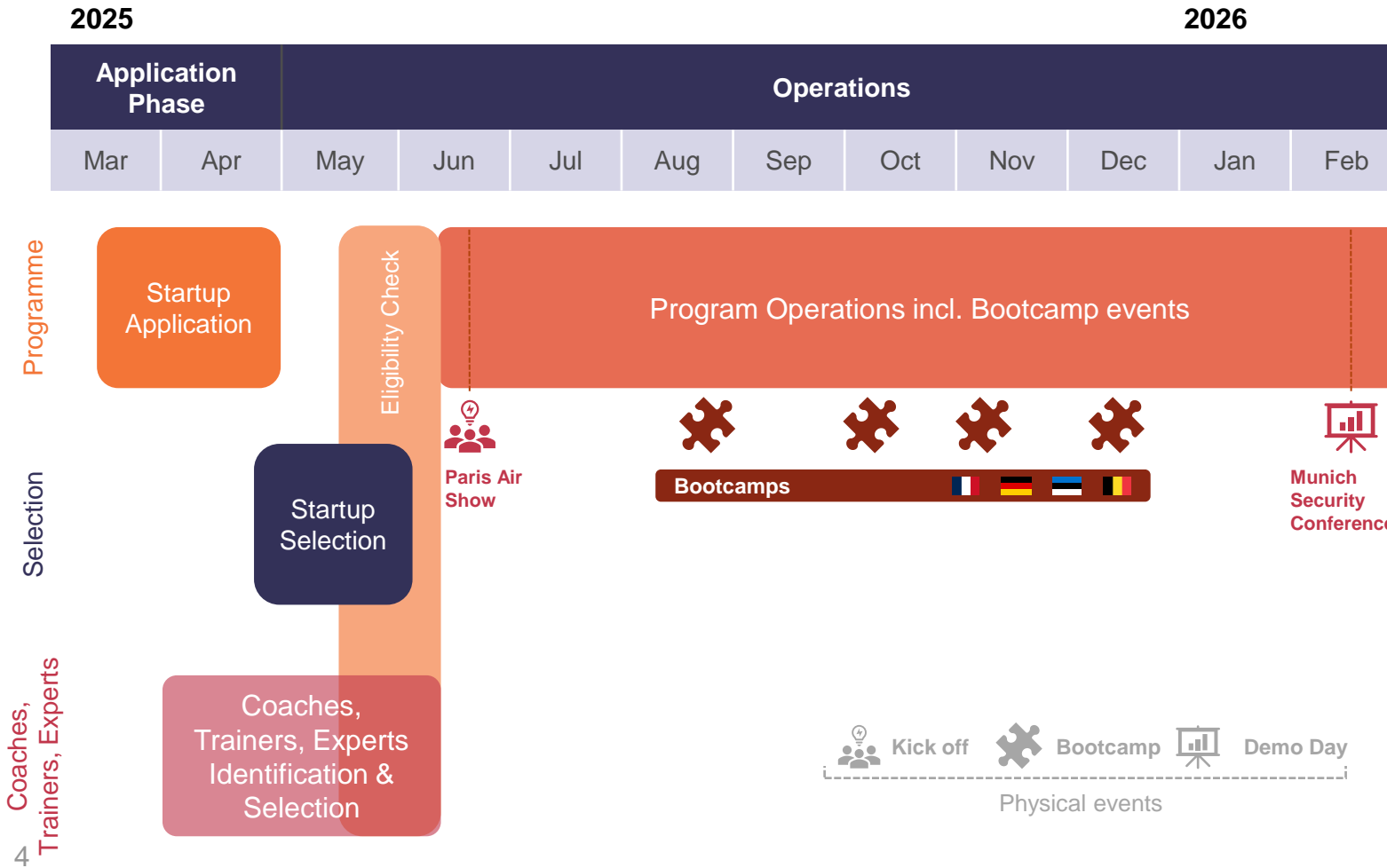


Scaling across Europe – *potential expansion sites*





The accelerator is run through a streamlined application process followed by an 8-month operational phase



Clarifications on the process

- #### 1 Who is eligible?

Any start-ups & scale-ups that are **established and registered in an EU Member State or Norway**, are encouraged to apply if they have a strong interest in the defence sector
- #### 2 Who selects?

The selection period will be held in **May** and managed by a selection board consisting of **European Commission members, Consortium partners, and EDA experts**
- #### 3 How seed voucher works?

Selected companies will receive **€65,000** in seed vouchers in two instalments: **20% upon approval of the activity scorecard** by the Commission, and **80% upon completion of the 8-month accelerator programme**



3 defence focused themes plus an open defence call to launch the first edition of the EUDIS accelerator



Collaborative Combat & Autonomous Operations

Enhancing military **operational effectiveness** and **decision-making across** land, air, maritime and cyberspace domains. This theme focuses on creating **highly adaptive** and **resilient combat environments** where advanced technologies enable seamless coordination between manned and unmanned systems, ensuring **effective human-machine** cooperation in high-intensity scenarios.

Exemplary relevant **topic areas**:

- Autonomous systems (land/air/sea)
- AI-assisted mission planning & operation solutions
- Unmanned swarm operations solutions
- Enabling AI on edge (HW & SW)
- Advanced sensors & sensor fusion
- Next Generation Communications
- ...



Cyber Warfare & Information Superiority

Cyber **threats** continuously evolve, targeting military **systems, communications,** and **data integrity.** Advanced, automated defence solutions are essential to counter these threats in real time, ensuring **operational resilience, mission** assurance, and the protection of **sensitive information.**

Exemplary relevant **topic areas**:

- Cyber defence situational awareness
- AI threat detection and defence
- Defence cyber physical system security
- Quantum encryption for secure military communications
- Data integrity in operational environment
- Cybersecure space assets
- Secure connectivity
- ...



Combat Medicine & Battlefield Health Resilience

Ensuring **rapid, data-driven medical support** is essential to providing real-time, adaptive care in defence operations. These innovations **enhance survivability, decision-making and medical readiness** by integrating AI and automation ensuring faster diagnosis, optimized treatment, and improved outcomes for military personnel in high-risk situations.

Exemplary relevant **topic areas**:

- Injury assessment / diagnoses AI
- Wearable biosensors
- Portable life-support units
- Autonomous evacuation
- Automated triage & predictive casualty management
- ...



Open Call – Disruptive technologies for Defence Superiority

Developing **next-generation breakthrough defence technologies** to maintain tactical and strategic superiority across land, air, maritime, cyber and space domains for European armed forces. This theme seeks (enabling) technologies with potential disruptive and high-impact outcome on military operations if successful

Topic areas relevant for defence from STEP (Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform):

- Deep and digital technologies
- Clean technologies
- Biotechnologies



Start-ups & Scale-ups will be supported by dedicated coaching framework and complete learning material package



Coaches

Weekly calls

- **Agile sprint cycles**, enabling companies to set **short-term goals**
- **Regular feedback** and **adapt quickly** throughout bootcamp

Profiles

- Defence industry professional with proven track record in guiding start-ups and scale-ups
- Former or active entrepreneur with previous experience in acceleration programmes



Accelerator Lead

Bi-weekly touchpoints

- **Dedicated accelerator lead per site**, ensuring personalised approach for each attributed company

Profiles

- Pre-selected consortium talents with extensive experience managing innovators
- Strong and established network within the local defence ecosystem



Field Experts

Ad-hoc basis

- **Pool of field experts**, to address specific skills or knowledge gaps

Profiles

- High-level defence professionals (C-level, military majors or higher, MoD representatives, etc.)
- Seasoned industry experience



Trainers

Workshop leaders during bootcamps

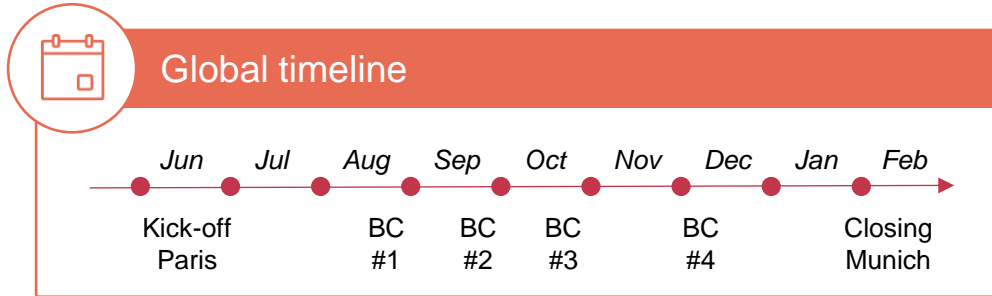
- **Top-quality speakers** from the European defense ecosystem will deliver **specific workshops** during bootcamp events.

Profiles

- Seasoned professionals
- Experience in business development, strategy, fundraising, export control etc. within defence



The 8-month accelerator will feature six onsite bootcamps, each with a unique agenda tailored to engage with the local defence ecosystem



-
- General Overview**
- **3-day Bootcamp** per location with kick-off on Tuesday ~12:00pm and finish on Thursday ~2:00pm
 - Bootcamps are **organized by local accelerator sites**
 - Bootcamp **agendas feature**
 - ~ 3-4 lectures / workshops (~2hrs each)
 - ~ 1-2 guest speakers¹⁾
 - ~ 2 activities
 - 1 coaches reunion sessions
 - 1 evening event²⁾ incl. keynotes, panel discussions

SCHEDULE

Exemplary Bootcamp Agenda³⁾

Location: Paris, France	Tue	13:00: Training – Workshop: Peer pitching and feedback
		15:00: Training – Workshop: Master negotiation strategies for defence start-ups
		17:00: Training – Guest Speaker: Inside the investor’s mind: key criteria for defence start-up investment
	Wed	08:30: Networking – Icebreaker breakfast
		09:30: Training – Workshop: General concepts of export controls
		11:30: Training – Lecture: Regional Regulation and Procurement Process (MoD speaker)
		14:00: Site visit: testing facility/local defence players
		18:00: Networking – Free time
	Thu	09:00: Networking – Matchmaking: Organised defence event, opportunity to pitch and network

1. Guest speakers are representatives of government agencies, success defence startups etc.
2. Evening events feature broad ecosystem of defence industry beyond EUDIS Business Accelerator cohort and target around 40 – 50 participants
3. Exemplary agenda, representing general Bootcamp outline





EUDIS BA offers a significant advantage for companies aiming to enter or consolidate their footprint into the European defence market

As a participating start-up & scale-up, you will benefit from this programme by



Engaging in an **8-month accelerator programme** with onsite defence-focused bootcamps, offering unique learning and networking opportunities within different local European defence ecosystems



Benefiting from **unique engagement** with European defence **end-users (including Ministries of Defence), corporates & investors**



Gaining **access to continuous learning materials** tailored for defence innovation



Enhancing your company visibility thanks to multiple defence-related events and active communication efforts from the EUDIS team



Receiving **seed voucher funding of 65k€** to support your defence technology development



Access to state of the art **defence testing facilities** with dedicated technical support



EUDIS BA offers a significant advantage for investors, corporates and defence end-users

As investor, corporate or defence end user your benefits are



Being involved in an **8-month accelerator programme** offering unique learning and networking opportunities with most promising European defence innovators



Connecting with colleagues from European defence ecosystem, including defence end-users



Gaining **access to continuous learning materials** tailored for defence innovation



Enhancing your visibility thanks to multiple defence-related events and active communication efforts from the EUDIS team



Receiving **financial compensation** for providing a workshop or ad-hoc expertise hours



Enjoying a unique team spirit as a pioneering participant in the first edition of EUDIS Business Accelerator



Apply now until April 27th to take part of the first pan-European Defence accelerator



If you are...

- 1 Established in an EU Member State or Norway
- 2 A Start-up or Scale-up
- 3 Active in the Defense Industry or Seeking Entry
- 4 Committed to Engaging with Stakeholders (defence end-users, corporates, investors etc.)

APPLY NOW!



Application Form



Eudis-business-accelerator.eu
eudis.europa.eu



Deadline: April 27th, 2025



Get in touch with the implementation team at contact@eudis-business-accelerator.eu if you want to participate in the programme



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*If you have any questions, please reach out and visit our websites
for further information*

*eudis-business-accelerator.eu
eudis.europa.eu*