



# FACT SHEET

## Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA)

**NATO Allies established DIANA to identify and support deep tech innovators developing dual-use solutions in Allied countries. DIANA will provide selected innovators with tailored help, in turn fast-tracking technological solutions which can meet Allied defence and security needs.**

DIANA's ambition is to develop emerging and disruptive technologies (EDTs) in a range of different fields – including big data, artificial intelligence, autonomy, quantum, biotechnologies and human enhancement, energy and propulsion, novel materials and manufacturing, hypersonics, and space. This year DIANA is engaging start-ups and other innovators in three pilot challenges to develop dual-use technological solutions. The focus areas for its 2023 challenges are:

- **Energy resilience:** seeking more resilient and efficient energy solutions – including technological solutions that enable the modular design of microgrids that can meet energy demand reliably.
- **Secure information sharing:** looking for ways of creating a secure and trusted information environment – with the emphasis on live data streams which can operate over open networks, and which can function in 'austere' or 'disadvantaged' environments.
- **Sensing and surveillance:** addressing the need for better sensing and information gathering in subsurface coastal zones – including novel techniques for seafloor mapping, undersea infrastructure monitoring, manmade object and marine-life tracking, climate-change-effects sensing and more.

### Shaping a secure future

Emerging and disruptive technologies are changing the way the Alliance operates – in peace, crisis and conflict. Allied nations are working with the private sector to maintain and grow NATO's technological edge. Importantly, NATO is deeply committed to *principles of responsible use* reflecting our shared values.

DIANA's accelerator programme and test centre network are expressly designed to bring start-ups and other innovators together with operational end-users, scientists, and systems integrators – in order to advance compelling dual-use deep tech and uncover solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems. Companies accepted into the DIANA accelerator programme gain access to:

- **grants** to support technology development and demonstration, and participation in the DIANA accelerator programme
- 10+ **accelerators** across the Alliance, with more planned over the coming years
- 90+ **test centres** (with more planned) across the Alliance where entrepreneurs can de-risk, demonstrate and validate their proposed dual-use solutions
- **mentoring** from scientists, engineers, industry partners, end users, and government procurement experts
- an investor network for **trusted third-party funding**
- **opportunities to demonstrate** technology in operational environments
- **pathways to market** within the NATO enterprise and 31 Allied markets

## Innovators, investors & industry partners

Through DIANA, NATO is working with public and private sector partners, academia and civil society to develop and adopt new technologies, establish and apply international principles of responsible use, and maintain NATO's technological edge.

- **Innovators:** If your company is headquartered in a NATO member nation, and works in an emerging and disruptive technology area, our accelerator programme might be a perfect fit. We are especially keen to find companies with advanced commercial or dual-use capabilities wanting exposure to new commercial and government end-users.
- **Investors:** DIANA helps to de-risk investments in companies in our accelerator programme by conducting business and technological due diligence, and by demonstrating that technologies coming out of our accelerator have significant market opportunities. We want to partner with proven investors to support our innovators.
- **Industry partners:** We know that industry partners have a key role to play in fostering and developing the technologies that will change the future. We're looking for established companies to join our industrial partnership network. We want to partner with companies in both defence and non-defence sectors who have an interest in supporting DIANA's innovation ecosystem with mentoring, joint events and more.

## Accessible network of accelerator sites and test centres

DIANA has a regional office operating in London (UK), another planned in Halifax (Canada), and a regional hub soon to open in Tallinn (Estonia). In addition, DIANA will leverage a transatlantic network of more than ten accelerator sites and close to 100 test centres in innovation hubs across the Alliance (map available on the DIANA website). This network will continue to grow.

## Launching now

**DIANA opened its call for participants in three pilot challenges on 19 June 2023.**

Selected challenge awardees will receive grant funding and participate in the first accelerator programme starting in late 2023. Once DIANA achieves full operating capability in 2025, DIANA will run up to ten challenge programmes per year, and have the capacity to interact with hundreds of innovators each year.

## Uniting disruptors to shape a peaceful future

**Apply for challenges!**

DIANA website



**Keep up to date!**

DIANA LinkedIn



**Register interest!**

DIANA Registration

