

Non-thematic development actions by SMEs

European Defence Fund

CODE	SCOPE
EDF-2026-LS-DA-SME	International
LOCATION	STATUS
Europe	Open
PROGRAM	CURATED BY
European Defence Fund	Maria Macedo
GENERATED AT	
May 26, 2026	

Financial Details

SUPPORT TYPE	MAXIMUM FUNDING RATE
Non-Refundable	100%
BUDGET	ELIGIBLE PROJECT VALUE
30M€	Up to 6M€

Dates & Deadlines

PUBLICATION DATE	OPENING DATE
February 25, 2026	February 11, 2026

Application Phases

- Phase 1: September 29, 2026 at 03:00 PM (126 days left)

Objectives

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This call aims to advance innovative SMEs in transforming technological and research results into defence products in a rapid and cost-effective manner. The objective is to support collaborative development activities for defence, including adaptation of civil-originated technologies to defence needs and fostering cross-border integration of European SMEs. Eligible entities are strictly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from at least three different

eligible countries (EU Member States or associated countries), with all consortium partners required to have SME status and be registered as such. The call covers a broad range of innovative defence solutions and technologies that enhance readiness, reliability, safety, and sustainability in defence operations, infrastructure, energy, or digital domains, prioritizing development applications from technology readiness level (TRL) 4 and above.

Funding

The total available budget for this call is EUR 30,000,000 with no fixed maximum number of supported projects. The maximum EU grant per project is capped at EUR 6,000,000. Funding rates vary by activity type and may include bonuses for consortia integrating cross-border cooperation, SMEs, or mid-caps, with the maximum funding rate reaching up to 100% for studies and certain development actions. Proposals must include co-financing for action costs not covered by the EDF grant.

Eligible Expenses

- Personnel Costs
- Travel costs
- Equipment costs
- Other goods, works and services costs
- Subcontracting
- Indirect Costs
- Financial support to third parties

Bonuses & Majorations

- PESCO bonus: +10% if project is developed under permanent structured cooperation
- SME bonus (non-cross-border): Up to +5% if e10% costs allocated to SMEs in same country as non-SME beneficiaries
- SME bonus (cross-border): Up to double the % of costs allocated to SMEs from other eligible countries
- Mid-cap bonus: +10% if e15% costs allocated to mid-cap enterprises

Eligibility

Eligible Sectors

- Aerospace & Defense

Company Sizes

- Sme

Application Mode

- Consortium / Copromotion

Action Types

- Feasibility studies
- Design of defence products or technologies
- System prototyping
- Testing

- Qualification
- Certification
- Development of technologies/assets for defence lifecycle efficiency
- Interoperability and resilience activities

EU Programme Details

CALL ID

EDF-2026-LS-DA-SME

EXPECTED PROJECTS

5

SUBMISSION MODE

Single-stage

FUNDING RATE RULE

Funding rate depends on activity type; studies and some activities may be funded up to 100% (including bonuses for PESCO, SME, and mid-cap participation), prototypes up to 55%, testing and qualification/certification up to 80%, as specified by Article 10(3) EDF Regulation and relevant bonuses.

Official Links

Official Regulation:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/EDF-2026-LS-DA-SME-NT?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027&frameworkProgramme=44181033>

Grantavia page: <https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/non-thematic-development-actions-by-smes>

Information Video: https://youtu.be/zt_WT5RCbQY?si=LH47a4ha533liCAX

Schedule a meeting: <https://calendly.com/ines-carreira-fi-group/reuniao>