

NATO DIANA

Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic



Purpose

The Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) is NATO's strategic initiative to harness the power of dual-use deep technologies, those with both civilian and defence applications—to address the most pressing challenges in security, resilience, and operational capability across the Alliance. DIANA focuses on technologies that can operate in denied, contested, or austere environments, protect critical infrastructure, and enhance transatlantic resilience. By working closely with the private sector and academia, DIANA ensures that NATO remains at the forefront of technological innovation and standard-setting in defence. Companies selected into DIANA programmes receive non-dilutive funding, tailored accelerator support and access to testing and validation facilities across the Alliance.

Objectives

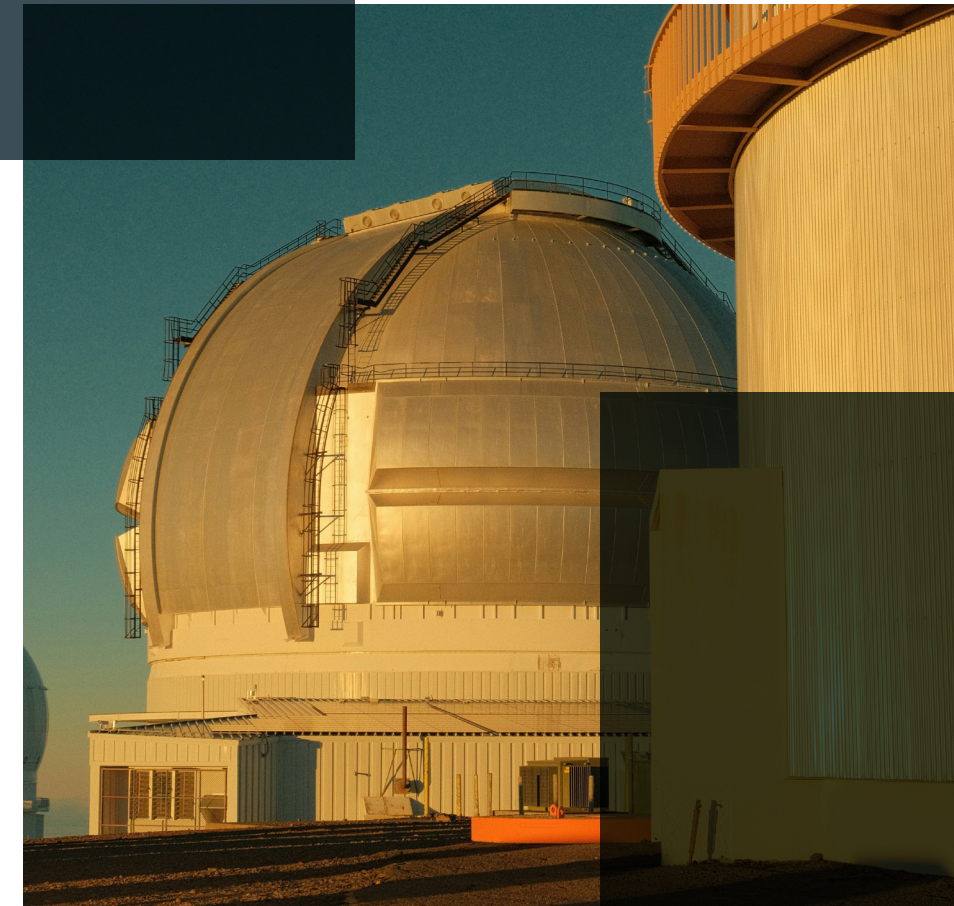
- Harness the best dual-use innovation across NATO Allies
- Accelerate the development and deployment of emerging and disruptive technologies (EDTs)
- Strengthen Allied defence, security and societal resilience
- Connect innovators with military and governmental end-users early in the development cycle
- Complement national initiatives and the NATO Innovation Fund (NIF)

Who can Apply

- Startups, SMEs, spin-offs, and entrepreneurial teams from NATO member countries. Pilots: more than € 2.5M
- Innovators with technologies aligned to DIANA's strategic Challenge Calls.
- Applicants must be capable of developing solutions with potential for both commercial and defence adoption.

Eligibility

DIANA launches an annual Challenge Call around June/July each year. All calls for applications will



Technology Level Requirements

DIANA typically seeks technologies at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4 to 7. Lower TRL solutions (below TRL 4) may also be considered if they show disruptive potential and strategic relevance.

Funding Support

Phase 1 (Acceleration – 6 months): Each selected company receives EUR 100,000 to support participation in the accelerator, including solution iteration, mentorship, and access to test centres.

Phase 2 (Portfolio Support – additional 6 months): After a competitive down-selection, selected participants may receive up to EUR 300,000 in additional funding to continue development, testing, and scaling activities. DIANA's Accelerator Programme (both Phase 1 and Phase 2) is a part of the DIANA Challenge Programme.

Timeline

DIANA launches an annual Challenge Call around June/July each year. All calls for applications will be posted on the DIANA website and LinkedIn. Companies have 6 weeks to submit their applications. Once the selection process has been completed, companies start the DIANA Accelerator Programme the following January.

Application Process

A single-company applications are the norm; formal consortia are not required. Strategic partnerships with RTOs, universities, primes or key suppliers can enhance competitiveness.

Step 1: Proposal Submission

Documents Required:

- Quad Chart (1 page): A visual summary of the company, the proposed solution, its impact, and the team.
- Proposal (4 pages): Includes company profile, challenge alignment, technical overview, development plan, and team experience.

Step 2: Selection and Onboarding

Competitive process based on challenge relevance, technical merit, and dual-use potential. Selected innovators are assigned to one of DIANA's 17 accelerator sites across NATO countries.

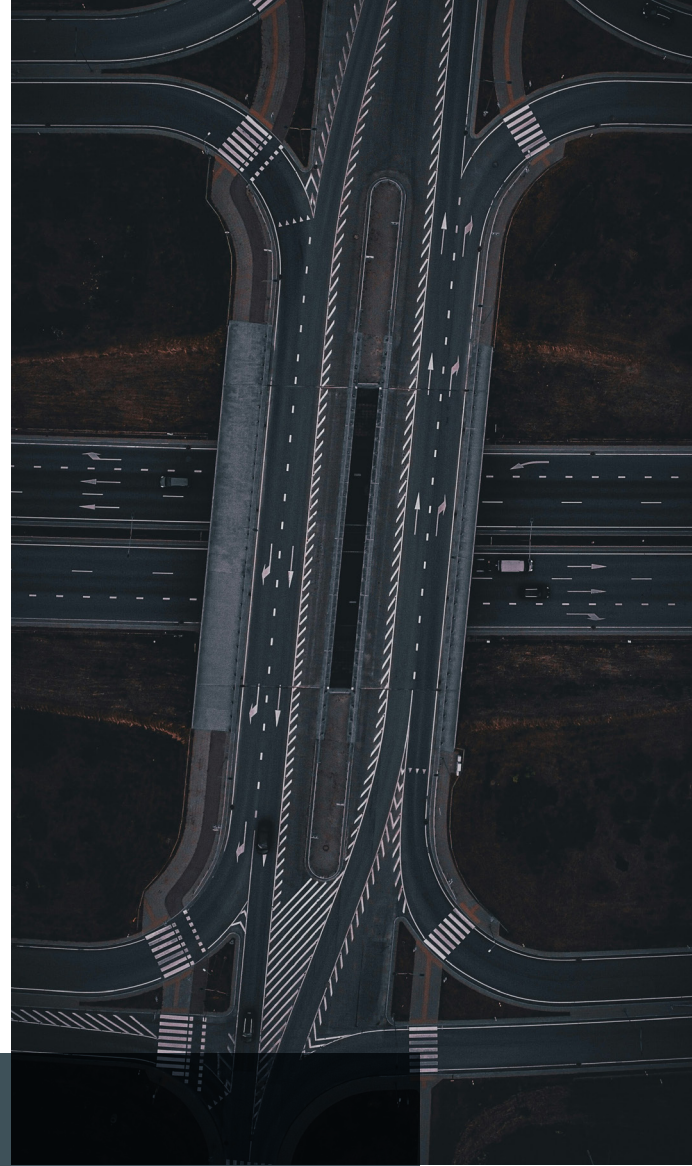
Step 3: Phase 1 – Acceleration

Duration: 6 months, Activities include:

- Iteration of the proposed solution
- Training and mentorship
- Operational validation

Step 4: Phase 2 – Portfolio support

Selected Phase 1 graduates may receive up to EUR 300,000 in additional funding. Focus shifts to scaling, commercialisation, and deeper engagement with NATO stakeholders.



DIANA 2026 Focus Areas:



Energy resilience & power management



Sensing, undersea & space-based surveillance



Human Health, performance & medical technologies



Critical infrastructure protection, logistics & supply-chain resilience



Secure information sharing, cyber security and trusted data infrastructure



Advanced communications, quantum technologies & photonics

Why Work With Nordic Innovators

We support a selective portfolio of high-potential DIANA candidates to:

- Analyse fit with DIANA Challenges versus EDF, Horizon Europe, EIC and national schemes
- Sharpen the dual-use business and technology narrative for NATO audiences
- Design high-scoring DIANA applications that speak to both evaluators and operational stakeholders
- Plan a funding roadmap that leverages DIANA as a cornerstone for long-term growth in defence and security markets



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