

PRESS RELEASE

London, 1 July 2024

DIANA issues new set of challenges to Allied innovators

On Monday (1 July 2024), NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) launched its second set of challenges. DIANA is looking for innovators across the Allied nations with dual-use, deep technologies that could solve critical defence and security problems.

"Innovators across the Alliance are working on ground-breaking technologies to address the world's most complex and profound security challenges," said Deepth Chana, DIANA's Managing Director. "With our second group of Challenges, we're inviting the best and brightest minds across five deep technology focal areas to join the effort to build a more peaceful and resilient future."

DIANA provides selected innovators with funding, accelerator programming, mentorship, testing facilities and access to investors and end-users.

For its second year, DIANA is inviting innovators to submit proposals in five challenge areas: Energy and Power; Data and Information Security; Sensing and Surveillance; Human Health and Performance; and Critical Infrastructure and Logistics. Each challenge area addresses a critical and complex challenge facing the world, and invites emerging and disruptive technology developments as part of a portfolio of potential solutions.

Applicants are asked to explore three key cross-cutting themes: Space, Resilience and Sustainability. While not compulsory, these themes encourage innovators to situate their technologies within the broader context of DIANA's goal to build resilience and reduce the risk of conflict through dual-use applications.

In 2023, 44 companies from 19 countries were selected to form DIANA's inaugural cohort, joining a six-month accelerator bootcamp programme at five accelerator sites in Europe and North America.

The 44 companies submitted ideas in three key challenge areas: Energy Resilience; Sensing and Surveillance; and Secure Information Sharing. Selected innovators developed a broad range of technologies including innovative fuel cells, micro wind and hydro-turbines, secure optical communications, drone identification technology and more.

The window for applications will close at 1200 UTC on Friday 9 August, giving applicants approximately six weeks to prepare and submit their applications. Proposals will be assessed against criteria such as the potential transformational impact, novelty, technological feasibility and commercial viability.

Quick facts/links:

- DIANA is the Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic, a NATO organisation with a mission to locate and accelerate dual-use innovation across the

Alliance. DIANA provides technology developers with the resources, networks and expertise to address critical defence and security challenges, to create a more peaceful and resilient future.

- DIANA's Challenges Programme works with start-up, scale up and spin-out companies from across the Alliance, supporting them with funding, training and commercial advice as well as connections to a wide network of investors, end users and industry partners.
- DIANA is inviting applications in five 'Challenge areas': Energy and Power; Data and Information Security; Sensing and Surveillance; Human Health and Performance; and Critical Infrastructure and Logistics. Applicants will also be asked to consider three cross-cutting themes in their application, providing further context for their innovations: Space, Resilience and Sustainability.
- This is the second Call for Proposals issued by DIANA since its inception in 2023. The first Challenges issued in June 2023 comprised Energy and Resilience; Secure Information Sharing; and Sensing and Surveillance.
- DIANA's accelerator programme is designed to equip businesses with the skills and knowledge to navigate the world of deep tech, dual-use innovation. It provides an immersive curriculum over a six-month 'bootcamp'.
- In 2023, 44 companies from 19 countries were selected to form DIANA's inaugural cohort, joining a six-month accelerator bootcamp programme at five accelerator sites in Europe and North America.
- DIANA has a regional office in the United Kingdom, a regional hub in Estonia, and will be opening another office in Canada later in the year. It also has a network of more than 200 accelerator sites and test centres in innovation clusters across the Alliance.

Further information is available on LinkedIn and on the DIANA website: www.diana.nato.int. For more information on the challenges go to: www.diana.nato.int/challenges.html

Contacts

For press and media enquiries, please contact press@diana.nato.int.