



Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA)

Dear Romanian Innovators, investors and industry partners, please find attached:

The Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) is a NATO body working with leading researchers and entrepreneurs across the Alliance, helping them develop technologies to keep NATO populations safe and secure. With more than 200 accelerator sites and test centres across the Alliance, DIANA brings together universities, industry and governments to work with start-ups and other innovators to solve critical defence and security challenges.



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 2024 challenges are:**

- **Energy & Power:** They are seeking technology focused on enhancing energy and power resilience within—but not limited to—energy storage, smart grid technologies, nuclear micro-reactors, small modular reactors or novel reactors, cyber-physical security, data analytics and AI, vehicle energy infrastructure, energy efficiency, microgrid tech, energy recovery, materials science, systems engineering, or blockchain;
- **Data & Information Security:** They are seeking technology that facilitates data production, utilisation, distribution, and protection in multi-domain environments, be it quantum and



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post-quantum cryptography, data assurance, edge computing, blockchain technology, biometrics, zero-knowledge proofs, cyber deception technology, deepfake detection technology, and beyond;

- **Sensing & Surveillance:** They are seeking solutions that enable forecasting, indications and warning, situational awareness, post-action assessment, and understanding of behaviour drivers such as patterns-of-life analysis and sentiment including—but not limited to—advanced sensing technology, quantum materials, novel materials for sensing, drone surveillance, augmented reality, next gen wireless technology, secure sensor data transmission and storage systems, and intelligent resource allocation and planning systems;
- **Human Health & Performance:** Seeking solutions that improve the understanding and enhancement of human health and wellbeing, both physical and psychological through—but not limited to—next-gen wearable tech, personalised healthcare, bio-inspired tech, advanced exoskeletons and prosthetics, AI and autonomy enabled technologies; chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) detection and defence, materials science, and engineering;
- **Critical Infrastructure & Logistics:** Seeking technology focused on the secure and trustworthy operation of critical national and international infrastructure, and global supply chains across various domains. This includes—but is not limited to: IoT technology, component integration, advanced decentralised data-driven logistics, autonomy, underwater cable protection, climate change monitoring, data analysis and interpretation, material and manufacturing development, in-situ repair tech, alternate power supplies, effective communication, or modelling capabilities;

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Space

The environment of Space represents a vast and largely unexplored frontier with immense potential for scientific discovery and technological innovation. It encompasses a wide range of technical challenges, from space exploration and astronomy to satellite technology and space-based communication systems and sensing. Cutting across the challenges, space-based technologies involve topics that span climate change, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing.

Resilience

The Resilience theme emphasises the need for solutions and technologies that can withstand and quickly recover from disruptions or threats across all domains. The goal is to develop resilient energy systems, secure and robust data infrastructures, durable sensing and surveillance systems, adaptable human health and performance strategies, and strong critical infrastructures and logistics that can withstand various operational environments.

Sustainability

A key part of responsible innovation, the Sustainability theme encourages solutions that meet current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs. It seeks to emphasise the importance of developing and implementing environmentally friendly, energy-efficient technologies and practices that ensure long-term viability.



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Innovators selected into DIANA's programmes receive non-dilutive grants (i.e. investment capital that does not require them to give up equity or ownership in their company) and gain access to accelerator sites and test centres across the Alliance. DIANA's accelerator sites are based at facilities or organisations that have been selected by Allies to implement the unique DIANA dual-use (commercial/defence and security) acceleration curricula. DIANA's test centres are laboratories, testbeds or field environments that are available for testing, evaluation, validation and verification of technologies developed by innovators selected into DIANA's challenge programmes. Accelerator sites and test centres are based in existing universities and research centres in Europe and North America, which have applied to join DIANA through their national Ministries of Defence.

Innovators also have access to a network of mentors (scientists, engineers, industry experts, end-users and government procurement experts) and a community of trusted investors. Lastly, DIANA offers pathways to market both within NATO as an organization and with NATO Allies, connecting innovators with Allied military and governmental end-users who will work with the selected companies to help them adapt their solutions to Allied military needs.



➤ **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.



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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 derisk, 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 dualuse 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.**



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Launching now DIANA opened its call for participants in five pilot challenges on June 024. Selected challenge awardees will receive grant funding and participate in the first accelerator programme starting in late 2024. 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

➤ **Information Webinar 23 July 2024, @15:00 UTC (18:00 EEST -Bucharest)**

? Do you have questions about our Challenges call? ? Over the next few weeks, DIANA will hold free informational webinars to help innovators understand the application process and how to build a strong submission.

Register here: https://lnkd.in/gEvn_3CS

The image is a promotional poster for the DIANA 2024 Challenges Information Webinar. It features a blue background with a blurred image of a person. On the left, there is a small inset photo of Prof. Deeph Chana, Managing Director, with his name and title below it. The main text on the right reads 'DIANA 2024 Challenges' in large white letters, followed by 'INFORMATION WEBINAR: What makes a strong application?' in smaller white letters. Below this, a grey box contains the text 'Information Webinar 23 July 2024, @15:00 UTC (18:00 EEST -Bucharest)'. At the bottom right, there is a white play button icon and the text 'Register now.' in white.

Note: 15:00 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) =18:00 Eastern European Summer Time (EEST)



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This paper aims to provide information to all interested Romanian innovators, investors and industry partners aiming in participating at the DIANA-NATO Challenges 2024.

For additional information, do not hesitate to contact the Romanian Representative in the D.I.A.N.A. - NATO Board of Directors. Ph.Dc. MSc. Aerospace Eng. Horia-Razvan Botis.

Email: razvan.botis@mcid.gov.ro or razvan.botis@ici.ro.

More information on how to apply can be found at:

Uniting disruptors to shape a peaceful future

Apply for challenges!
DIANA website



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Register interest!
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