

Building Business in a Changing Defence Era

Exploring Opportunities in NATO and the European Defence Fund

When: April 29 2026, 09:00-17:00 CET
Where: World Trade Centre, Stockholm

Morning Session:

NATO Business Opportunities for SMEs in the Baltic Region

Unlocking Business Opportunities with NATO – From Insight to Action

The NATO membership opens new doors for businesses, but how do you turn this opportunity into concrete results? This event is designed to give small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) practical guidance on engaging with NATO and its ecosystem.

Program

08:15–08:45	Registration and coffee
08:45–09:00	Welcome & Introduction <i>Moderator: Jessica Hjerpe Olausson, RISE</i>
09:00–09:30	Opening Remarks: Member in NATO – What does it mean for business? <i>Olof Oddbjörn, Head of Section for Defence Materiel and Industry, Department of Armament and Industry, Swedish Ministry of Defence</i>
09:30–10:00	How to Do Business with NATO: Opportunities and Entry Points for SMEs <i>Fredrik Högberg, Advisor NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA), The Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV)</i>
10:00–10:15	Coffee Break
10:15–10:35	From civilian ingenuity to defence impact: Opportunities for SMEs for a more secure future <i>Alma Jacobson, Program Director, Vinnova</i>
10:35–10:55	NATO DIANA and its opportunities <i>Marleen Rootamm, Accelerator Programme Manager NATO DIANA</i>
10:55–11:55	SME stories – Lessons learned from NATO projects <i>Erik Ehrenfors, APR Tech Daniel Öhlander, Blixt Tech Katja Hellgren, Scaleout systems</i>
11:55–12:20	Panel discussion: From words to action – Concrete steps for SMEs <i>Moderator: Jessica Hjerpe Olausson, RISE Participants: Speakers of the day Summary and next steps</i>
12:20–13:30	Networking & Lunch

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Afternoon Session:

European Defence Fund (EDF): Opportunities for SMEs

Empowering Innovation with EDF – Turning Ideas into Impact

Join us for an insightful afternoon focused on European Defence Fund (EDF) opportunities for SMEs. The purpose of this event is to provide practical guidance on how small and medium-sized enterprises can successfully engage in EDF projects and cross-border collaborations. You will learn how the EDF works, explore funding opportunities, and hear real-life experiences from companies that have participated in defence and security projects. The program includes expert presentations, a panel discussion with key stakeholders, and networking opportunities to help you position your business for success in upcoming EU initiatives.

Program

13:30-13:35	Presentation of the afternoon <i>Moderator: Jessica Hjerpe Olausson, RISE</i>
13:35-14:10	EDF explained: How does it work and funding opportunities for SMEs <i>Jonathan Lindqvist, International advisor, The Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV) – EDF Office</i>
14:10-14:30	Opportunities for SMEs in EDF research projects <i>Peter Stenumgaard, Research Portfolio Coordinator, Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI)</i>
14:30-15:00	EDF opportunities and challenges – IMMUNE and MaJoR Consortia <i>Kenneth Strand, Senior Project Manager, RISE</i>
15:00-15:20	Coffee Break
15:20-15:40	Cross-border collaboration: How to build a strong consortia - EUROGUARD <i>Mattias Liefvendahl, Head of Computational Hydrodynamics, RISE</i>
15:40-16:20	Lessons learned from EDF Projects <i>EUROGUARD Project: Speaker TBC, Baltic Workboats</i> <i>SMEs in Consortia building: Björn Halling, Business Developer, SAAB Kockums</i>
16:20-16:45	Panel discussion: Positioning SMEs for success in EDF projects <i>Moderated by Jessica Hjerpe Olausson.</i> <i>Participants: Speakers of the day</i> Summary from the day & Next Steps
16:45-17:15	Round table mingle
17:15-18:00	Fingerfood and networking