

PacifiCan

Regional Defence Investment Initiative (RDII)

Virtual session - March 18, 2026



Pacific Economic
Development Canada

Développement économique
Canada pour le Pacifique

Canada 

Agenda

- **Context**
- **Objectives**
- **What makes a strong project (assessment criteria and priorities)**
- **Who can apply (eligible recipients)**
- **What funding is available**
- **What can be funded (eligible activities and costs)**
- **Reporting**
- **How to apply**
- **Getting defence-ready**

*This presentation is not a comprehensive record of all program and eligibility information.
Please visit PacifiCan's website for full information and contact PacifiCan with any questions.*

Context

- The Regional Defence Investment Initiative (RDII) is part of the Government of Canada's recently released Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS).
- RDII is a \$379.2-million national initiative delivered by Canada's Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) from 2025-26 to 2027-28. PacifiCan has been allocated \$67.5 million.
- PacifiCan is now accepting applications until noon PT April 15, 2026 from B.C. businesses seeking funding starting April 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2028.

Program objectives

RDII will strengthen Canada's defence capacity by investing in B.C. businesses with ambition to:

- Contribute to the capabilities of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), allies, and partners
- Grow the production and innovation capacity of Canada's defence and dual-use industries
- Integrate small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) into domestic and international defence supply chains
- Drive innovation in technology sectors like AI, quantum technology, and cyber security
- Foster regional economic development in B.C.

Dual-use technologies are items, services, or software that can be employed for civilian purposes and are critical to providing operational advantage to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Allied military operations

What makes a strong project?

Eligible, complete applications will be assessed on:

- Alignment with program objectives
- Clear alignment with priority defence capabilities of Canada or its allies and partners
- Clear, lasting economic benefits for B.C.
- Strong governance and management
- Sound financial capacity

Assessments will be focused on strong alignment with program criteria.

What makes a strong project?

Priority may be given to projects that:

- Target sectors that reflect Canadian military needs or defence priority areas
- Prioritize Canadian material and content
- Have strong regional economic benefits
- Advance Indigenous economic inclusion
- Advance productivity, production capacity, and competitiveness
- Have higher levels of support secured from other funding sources

RDII is a competitive program.

Who can apply? (eligible recipients)

RDII is open to both business and not-for-profits, but priority will be given to applications from companies.

1. For-profit businesses that:

- are incorporated in Canada;
- have been operating in Canada for at least two years;
- operate staffed facilities in British Columbia; and
- are currently in, or is positioning to be in, defence industry supply chains.

2. Indigenous-owned (First Nations, Inuit, or Métis) businesses or organizations

Not-for-profit organizations interested in applying should contact PacifiCan.

What funding is available?

Interest-free repayable contributions of \$100,000 to \$10,000,000 per project.

Funding source:

- PacifiCan may contribute up to 75% of eligible costs.
- Combined government assistances may support up to 100% of eligible costs.
- Priority may be given to projects with higher levels of funding from other sources.
- Indigenous-led businesses may be offered more flexible funding terms.

Repayment:

- Begins 1 year after project completion
- Repaid in monthly installments over 5 years
- No collateral required or penalty for early repayment

What can be funded? (activities)

All projects must contribute to producing a defence capability for Canada, its allies, or partners.

Please refer to the Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS) for information on Canadian defence priority areas

Eligible project activities include:

- Technology development, adoption, and productivity improvement
- Commercialization and market development
- Capacity building

All project activities must occur between April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2028.

What can be funded? (costs)

Costs that are **incremental, reasonable, and necessary** for carrying out the project, including:

- Material and labour (wages/benefits for new positions)
- Capital costs (machinery, equipment, and infrastructure)
- Consultancy fees and specialized testing services
- Costs to meet military certifications or standards

Ineligible Costs

- *Salary bonuses and dividends*
- *Entertainment expenses*
- *Refinancing of existing debts*
- *Amortization or depreciation of assets*
- *Lobbying activities*
- *Membership fees and donations*
- *Land acquisition*

Expected results

Required

- High-quality personnel (HQP) jobs created in Canada
- Non-HQP jobs created in Canada
- Revenue growth
- Export sales growth

Where applicable

- Number of defence or dual-use technologies, products, services developed and/or commercialized
- Business sales growth resulting from commercialization

Project results must be measurable and directly attributable to PacifiCan RDII funding support.

How to apply?

Through PacifiCan's [online application portal](#), open now and accepting applications until noon April 15, 2026.

Complete applications must also attach mandatory supporting documents:

1. Completed RDII Supplemental Form
2. Completed Detailed Budget
3. Current financial statements
4. Written confirmation of funding from all other (non-PacifiCan) sources
5. *For technology projects:* a completed Technology Questionnaire

For more information on how to apply, see the [RDII website](#) and Applicant Guide.

Get defence-ready

- UBC Sauder Scale-Up Program, Defence Stream
- Association of BC Marine Industries
- Alacrity Foundation of B.C. - The ARC Lab

Thank you!

Contact us

We are here to answer questions about the initiative.

Email: pacifican.RDII-IRID@pacifican.gc.ca

Website: Regional Defence Investment Initiative in British Columbia - Canada.ca



Global Affairs
Canada

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Canada

Canada

CANADA'S DEFENCE EXPORT STRATEGY



Canadian Trade Commissioner Service



Networks

- In-market support in 160+ cities worldwide
- Connections & introductions
- Help getting the most out of free trade agreements
- Problem solving



Funding

- CanExport SMEs
- CanExport Innovation
- CanExport GAC-Led Delegations
- Canadian International Innovation Program



Business Support

- Market intelligence
- Inclusive international business development
- Canadian Technology Accelerators
- Trade missions and events

Context & Relevance



Foundational Strategies

- Defence Industrial Strategy
- Trade Diversification Strategy



Key 2035 Targets

- Increase Canada's non-U.S. exports **by 100%**.
- Increase Canada's defence exports **by 50%**.

Key Defence and Security Trade Shows

2026	2027	2028
DEFSEC West (Mar)	IDEX Abu Dhabi (Jan)	WDS Riyadh (Feb)
DAIMEX Baltic (May)	DSEI Hannover (Mar)	DEFSEC West (Mar)
CANSEC (May)	DEFSEC West (Mar)	
Eurosatory (June)	DSEI Tokyo (Apr)	
Farnborough (July)	CANSEC (May)	
MSPO Kielce (Sept)	Le Bourget (June)	
DEFSEC Atlantic (Oct)	DSEI London (Sept)	
AUSA (Oct)	DEFSEC Atlantic (Oct)	
Euronaval (Nov)	AUSA (Oct)	

Early Win: Canada joining the EU's SAFE Initiative

Quick Facts



- SAFE: €150 billion EU loan facility designed to support joint defence procurement by some Member States under the Readiness 2030 initiative
- Agreement signed in February 2026 and Canada to officially join in March 2026
- Canada currently the only non-European member with preferred access
- Strategic opportunity to access EU's procurement market



Key Conditions



- Canadian content eligible **up to 80% of SAFE contract** value
- Initial Canadian contribution: €10M
- Annual contribution of 15% of Canadian content in contracts exceeding 35% Canadian content
- Content thresholds:
 - Third-country content capped at 35%
 - EU content must be no less than third-country content and at least 20% of contract value
 - opportunity to access EU's procurement market
- Canadian firms are treated equally to European firms under SAFE

Key Contacts

Pacific Regional Office – Vancouver and Victoria

- Serena Ko- Defence and Aerospace - serena.ko@international.gc.ca
- Cael Husband- Victoria Office, Oceantech and Marinotech - cael.husband@international.gc.ca
- Laurence Jutras- Cybersecurity, IoT, Fintech - laurence.jutras@international.gc.ca
- Ravneet Dhaliwal- Advanced Manufacturing, Emergency and Disaster preparedness and Response, Robotics - ravneet.dhaliwal@international.gc.ca

Defense Exports Division – Ottawa (GAC HQ)

- Jason Hann, Deputy Director – jason.hann@international.gc.ca
- Mark Phelps, Trade Commissioner – mark.phelps@international.gc.ca



Global Affairs
Canada

Affaires mondiales
Canada

Canada

Questions?





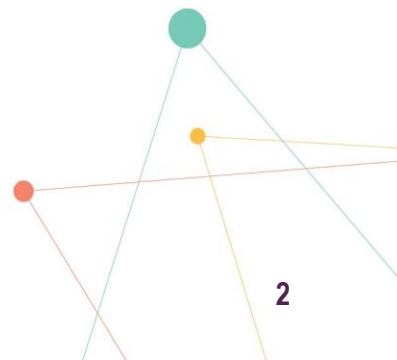
IDEaS

**INNOVATION FOR DEFENCE
EXCELLENCE AND SECURITY**



Our investment in innovation.

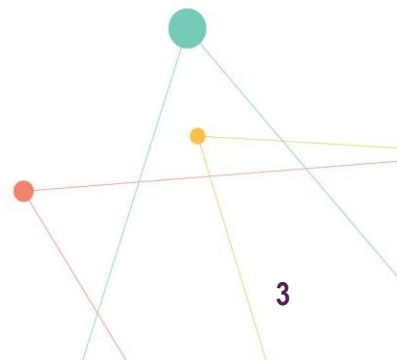
IDEaS connects Canada's toughest defence and security challenges with creative thinkers, providing them with the resources and guidance they need to bring new solutions to light.





Eligible innovators

- Canadian educational institutions
- Canadian not-for-profit organizations
- Canadian provincial/territorial or municipal government organizations
- Canadian for-profit companies or organizations
- Canadian individuals
- Small- and medium-sized enterprises
- International organizations partnered with a Canadian recipient
- Any group composed of eligible participants listed above

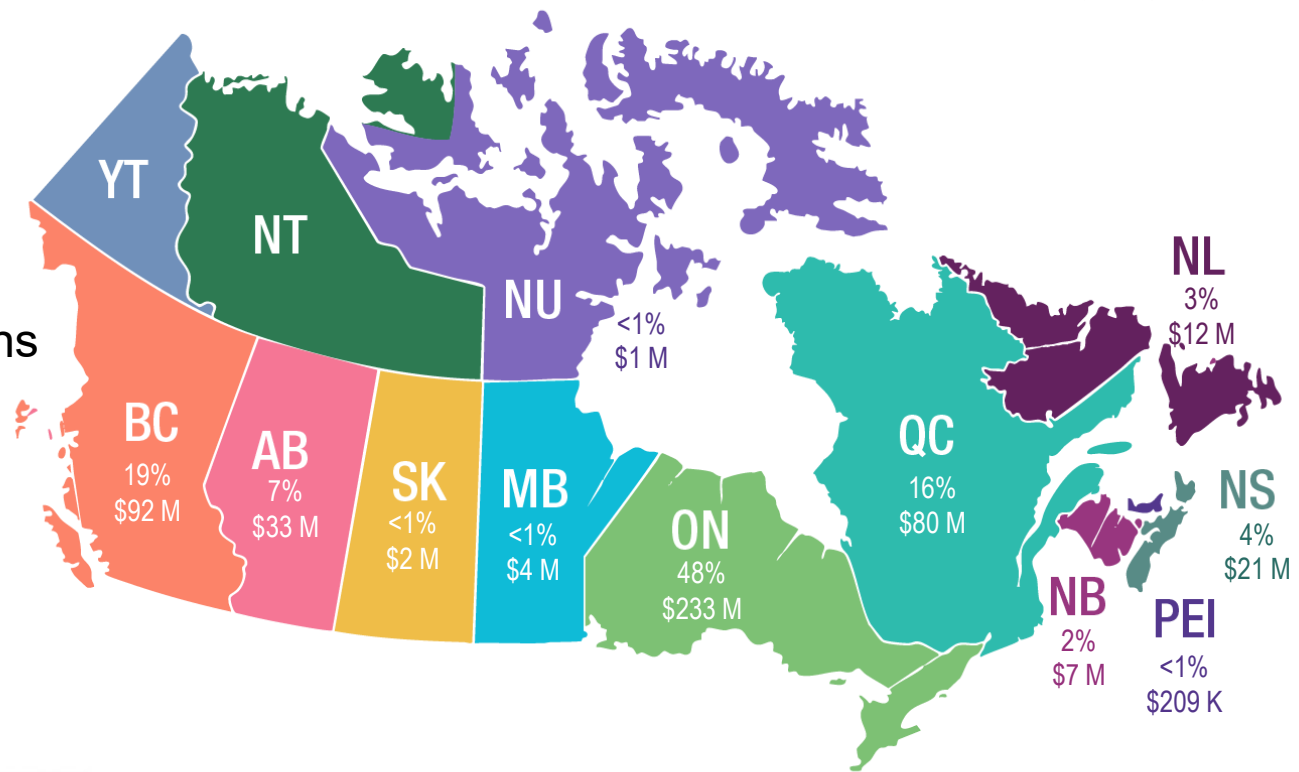




All types of Canadian innovators are applying

- 55% Small- and medium-sized enterprises
- 26% Academia
- 17% Large industry
- 2% Not-for-profit
- <1% Individuals
- <1% Other governments organizations

Total \$ committed and spent per province





Agile and collaborative in the realm of science and technology – today and in the future

- Done in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Canada.
- Technological development not only done in government research labs but also generated by non-traditional players, such as private sector and academia.
- IDEaS taps into the extraordinary talent and ingenuity resident in Canada.

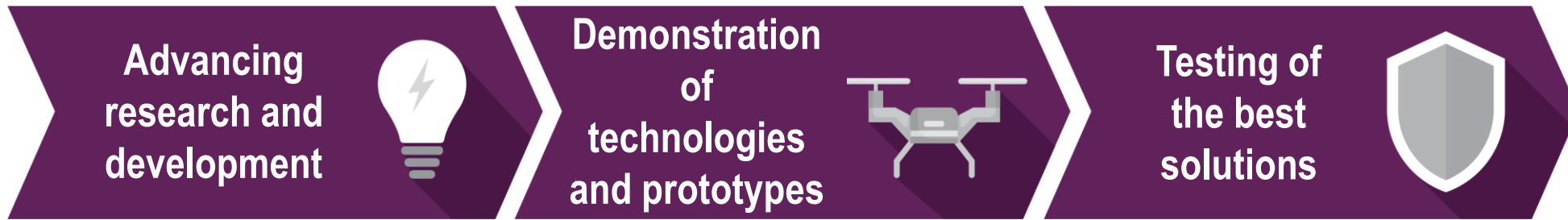


DRDC
RDDC





IDEaS funding continuum



Conceive. Design. Build.

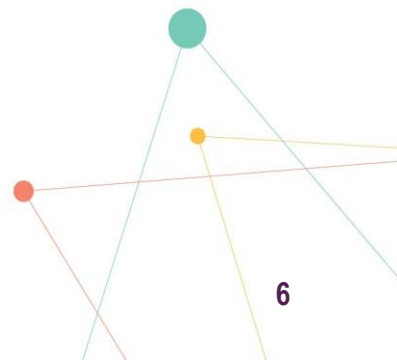
We invest in knowledge capacity and solution development at all stages.

Demonstrate and showcase.

Innovators showcase their solutions through their own work.

Test and evaluate.

Promising solutions are tested by the DND/CAF.



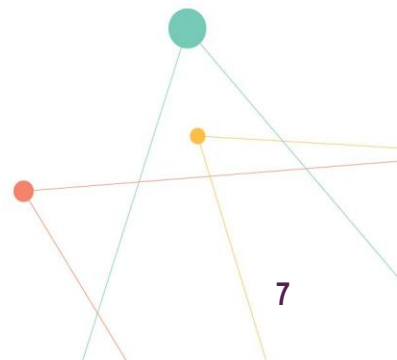


How IDEaS works



Participating in the IDEaS program gives many benefits to the innovators involved, from access to world-class subject matter experts to generous funding opportunities.

Each funding element is unique in how it is designed to advance science and technology and deliver support to innovators.





Advancing research and development



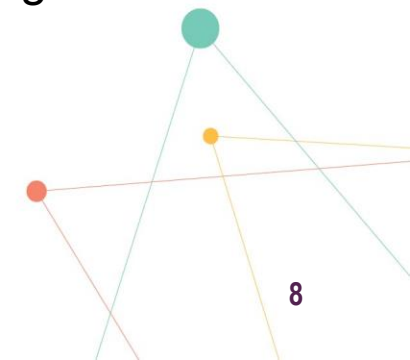
Innovation Networks – Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) 1-6

- Up to \$3M in funding per solution.
- To encourage collaboration and build a network of expertise.
- Advance R&D for Canada’s current and future defence and security innovation challenges.



Competitive Projects – TRLs 1-9

- Up to \$6.75 M per challenge in phased development funding to build and progress technology forward.
- Promising solutions can be selected to advance to demonstration/testing stages of the IDEaS funding continuum.





Demonstration of technologies and prototypes



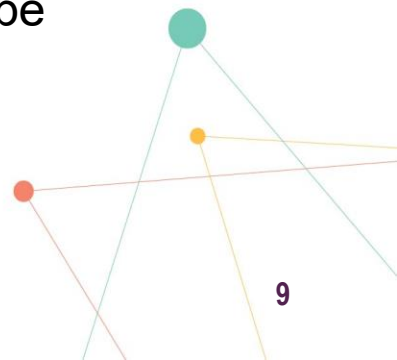
Contests – TRLs 1-9

- Challenges innovators issues to solve complex issues for cash prizes.
- Funding is Contest-specific.



Sandboxes – TRLs 6-9

- Innovators can test and demonstrate their solutions in the presence of military experts and users.
- Funding is available to partially cover travel expenses, and in some cases, prizes will be awarded.





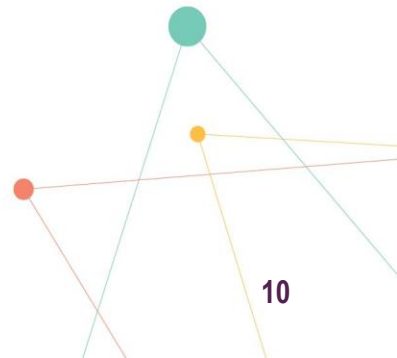
Testing of the best solutions



Test Drives – Completed TRL 6, TRLs 7-9

- Evaluated and tested for a military audience.
- Amount will vary per Test Drive.
- Is for the most advanced and promising technologies.
- Where possible, innovators receive operational feedback from military experts and personnel.

**FOUR TEST
DRIVES
COMPLETED
TO-DATE!**

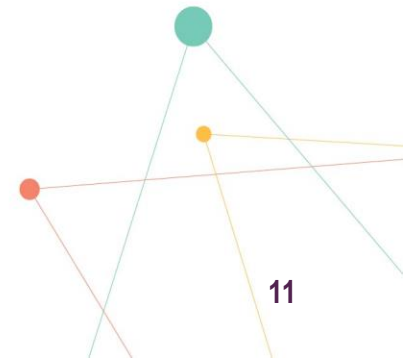


Intellectual Property is owned by the innovator

- Innovators own the IP they develop under this program.
- The Crown gets a license to use for its own purpose but cannot exploit it commercially. Standard Government of Canada contract conditions apply.
- Innovators are able to further commercialize their products after they've been through the IDEaS program.

Support during IDEaS projects

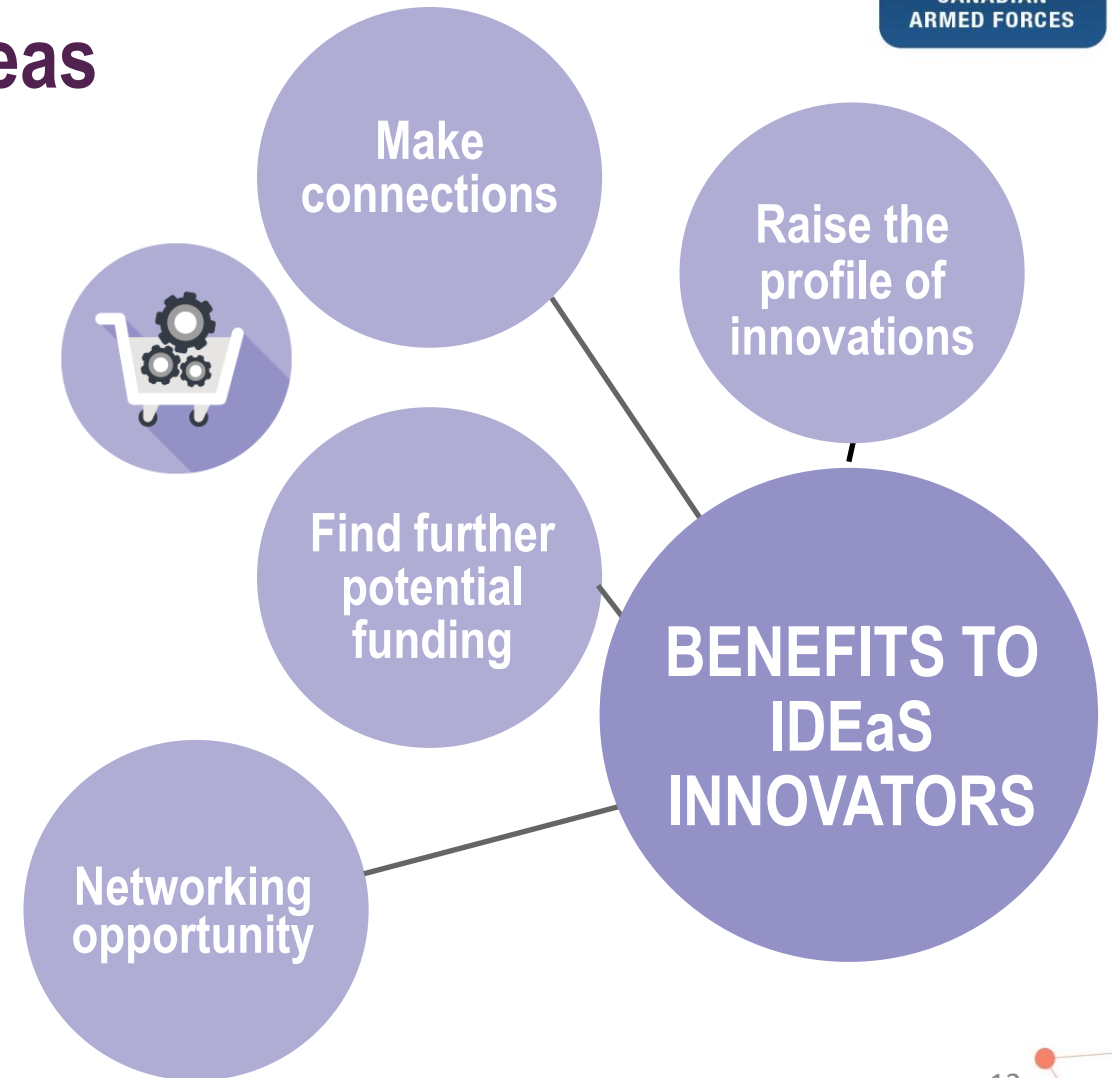
- Partnership with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office delivers training to our innovators on IP, and helps innovators get their questions answered to protect their IP.





IDEaS Marketplace: Bringing new ideas to light

- This annual event brings together IDEaS innovators, stakeholders, and potential end users.
- Showcases advanced-stage IDEaS-funded projects.
- Finds additional pathways for your technology to advance.





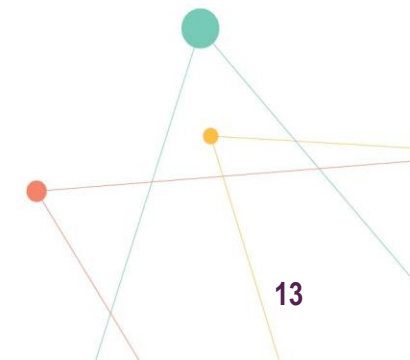
Stay connected

- Subscribe to our mailing list today via our website:
Canada.ca/defence-ideas
- Email us with any questions:
DND.IDEaS-IDEeS.MDN@forces.gc.ca
- Don't forget to apply when a challenge is right for you!

#DefenceIDEaS



MORE THAN
8,500
INNOVATORS IN
OUR ECOSYSTEM



Procurement Assistance Canada

- Supports smaller and diverse businesses through the federal procurement process
- Engages, assists and informs businesses on how to sell goods and services to the Government of Canada
- Works to reduce barriers to ensure fairness and inclusion in the process
- Looks for opportunities to advance supplier diversity through targeted outreach and advocacy



Grow your business. Sell to the government.

Procurement Assistance Canada helps smaller businesses sell to the Government of Canada

Questions? Reach out.
Canada.ca/PAC



Public Services and
Procurement Canada

Services publics et
Approvisionnement Canada

Canada



**EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CANADA
DEFENCE & SECURITY INDUSTRY INSIGHTS**

18 March 2026

DEFENCE & SECURITY INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Strengthen understanding of:

- ✓ The defence and security sector;
- ✓ The evolving Canadian and international landscape; and
- ✓ What we're seeing from our customers and stakeholders

TODAY'S AGENDA

- 1 Welcome and introduction
- 2 EDC's D&S position
- 3 Current landscape
- 4 Customer zone
- 5 Q&A

EDC'S D&S POSITION

DEFENCE & SECURITY POSITION

TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ EDC is playing an **active role to broaden support for the D&S sector**.
- ✓ EDC has supported Canadian companies in this space for decades, but 2025 marked a turning point.
- ✓ As global defence and security needs evolve, EDC has expanded our support to include a broader range of defence- and security-related opportunities, supported by rigorous, case-by-case; due diligence.
- ✓ EDC evaluates each opportunity individually, considering applicable international human rights commitments and relevant non-credit risks.
- ✓ For Defence & Security -related controlled goods, additional assessments may apply to ensure responsible and compliant support.



OUR SOLUTIONS INCLUDE:

FINANCING

Helping Canadian companies get **access to capital**

INSURANCE

Offering **protection that lowers the risk** for Canadian exporters

KNOWLEDGE

Providing **expertise that enables our customers** to make informed decisions

CONNECTIONS

Relationships to connect Canadian and international companies to help all parties grow



CURRENT LANDSCAPE

CURRENT LANDSCAPE

CANADA

Defence Industrial Strategy

- Buy – Build – Partner
- Spur development of Canada's industrial and technological base
- Increase Canada's defence exports by 50% over the next 10 years

Defence Investment Agency

- Overhaul and streamline Canada's defence procurement
- Building domestic manufacturing and supply chains
- Focus on standing up the organization, deploying integrated procurement teams, and advancing a first wave of high-priority defence procurements

Ecosystem

- Sets the conditions for growth and international competitiveness





CURRENT LANDSCAPE

INTERNATIONAL

Europe / NATO

- Ramping up defence readiness by 2030
- Canada participating in the European Union's Security Action for Europe (SAFE)

Indo-Pacific

- Canada committed to making meaningful contributions to the region's defence and security
- Enhancing Canada's defence and security relationships with regional partners and allies

CUSTOMER ZONE

CUSTOMER ZONE

WHAT WE'RE SEEING

- ✓ Strong interest in stakeholder collaboration
- ✓ Opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of EDC's role in supporting the D&S sector
- ✓ Increasing interest in exploring both domestic and international opportunities
- ✓ Subsectors of focus
 - Arctic
 - Drones
 - Munitions
 - Aerospace / Space
 - Land vehicles
 - AI
 - Cyber
 - Quantum
 - Critical minerals



SUCCESS STORIES

Maritime Launch Services

Developing Spaceport Nova Scotia, Canada's first commercial spaceport. In 2025, EDC committed \$10 million in financing to support the project's advancement toward its first orbital launch. Once operational, the spaceport will enable satellite launches for defence and security, weather monitoring, telecommunications, and other critical applications, contributing to Canada's sovereign launch capability

Weatherhaven Global Resources

British Columbia based company, specializes in rapidly deployable shelter solutions for global military, commercial and medical markets. As a longstanding customer since 2008, EDC has provided \$5 million in loan guarantees to its financial partner to provide working capital for its export sales.

Vosker

High growth technology company that specializes in surveillance technologies used across industrial, commercial, wildlife and security applications. EDC recently provided \$45 million in financing to accelerate its growth in dual-use technology and support the company's acquisition of Reconeyez, a European-based leader in AI-powered autonomous intelligent surveillance solutions for large enterprises (B2B) and international government agencies (B2G).

OSI Maritime Systems (Canada) Ltd

Based in Burnaby, British Columbia, is a leading Canadian defence technology company specializing in integrated marine navigation and tactical solutions for naval and maritime security operations. An EDC customer for more than 16 years, OSI is supported through a \$30 million Account Performance Security Guarantee (APSG) to provide non-financial guarantees required to secure and deliver large scale international defence contracts



Q&A

TAKE ON
THE WORLD

