



MINISTÈRE
DES ARMÉES
ET DES ANCIENS
COMBATTANTS

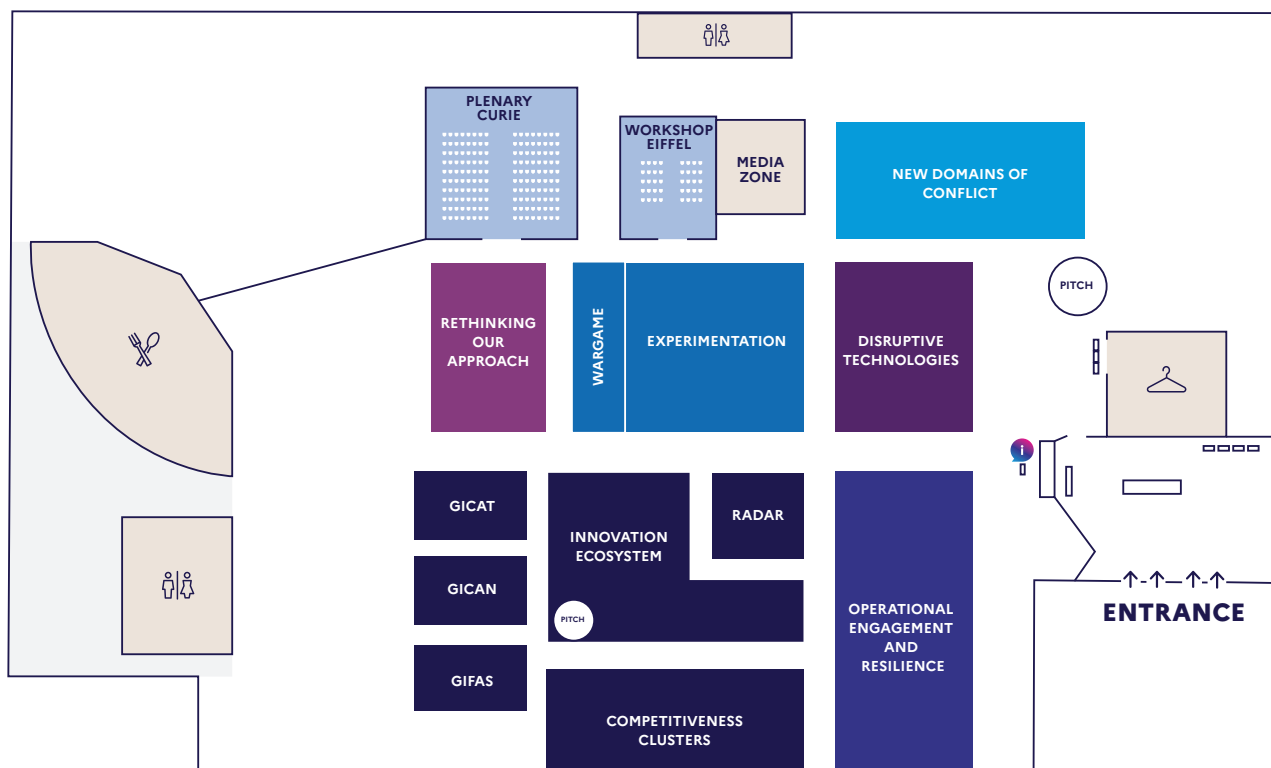
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

DEFENCE INNOVATION FORUM

27 / 28 / 29 NOV.
PARIS EXPO
PORTE DE VERSAILLES
PAVILLON 2.2



FORUM MAP



TOILETS



VISITOR CLOAKROOM



FOOD AND DRINK



INFORMATION

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I. DEFENCE INNOVATION – A PILLAR OF STRATEGY AND SOVEREIGNTY

Faced with an increasingly unstable global environment and rapid technological advances, innovation in the defence sector has become a strategic priority for both France and Europe. The 2024-2030 Defence Spending Law (LPM) and recent initiatives by the French Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans underscore this ambition to enhance our ability to anticipate threats and strengthen our resilience.

To the French Defence Procurement and Technology Agency (DGA) and the Defence Innovation Agency (AID), innovating means working today to prepare for the threats of tomorrow. As states resort more freely to force, technology becomes ever more accessible and military budgets surge worldwide, the threats we face will undoubtedly continue to grow and diversify. In a world that is increasingly complex and harder to predict, **innovation is key to staying ahead of our adversaries and ensuring our security.**

In Ukraine and across the Near and Middle East, technology has already reshaped conflict, owing to the growing industrialisation of low-cost equipment such as Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs), alongside advanced capabilities like cruise missiles, manoeuvring ballistic missiles and command systems. These developments are shifting escalation dynamics and lowering restraint in the use of mass violence, including against civilian infrastructure and populations.

France's 2025 *National Strategic Review* warns that the rapid acceleration of technological development represents a decisive challenge for both France and Europe. Preserving France's position as an industrial and defence power, while contributing to strengthening Europe's defence capabilities, is therefore essential. Any delay in the acquisition of new technologies – particularly artificial intelligence and quantum technology – would carry a serious strategic risk of France being overtaken on the global stage.

France and Europe face numerous challenges: industrial decline, the appropriation of expertise, and attempts to capture digital data as well as scientific and entrepreneurial talent. Reducing technological, industrial and commercial dependencies on foreign suppliers has become a global sovereignty priority. The challenge is to foster the emergence of champions¹, close existing gaps, export innovative technologies and actively promote French norms and standards.

¹ Innovative, high-performing and competitive companies.





France's Strategy for Innovation

In this context, France must reinforce its defence posture and stay ahead of technological disruption while safeguarding resilience in everyday life. The 2024-2030 Defence Spending Law dedicates 10 billion euros to innovation – an unprecedented investment. The goals are to consolidate our technological superiority and ensure we can master emerging domains of conflict, including outer space, the seabed, information warfare and cyberspace.

A year after the LPM came into effect, the results are already tangible, with the creation of the Ministerial Agency for Artificial Intelligence in Defence (Amiad), the *Commissariat au numérique de défense* (Defence Digital Directorate, CND), the Quantum Campus and the Space Operations Command and Control Centre (C3OS). The 101 Space Air Base and the AI-dedicated supercomputer have also been inaugurated. The launch of the Space Pact and of the Strategy for Higher Airspace (HA)² were announced on 17 June 2025 at the Paris Air Show. The Drone Pact was signed at the Eurosatory exhibition on 17 June 2024.

The scale of the effort is significant. As noted in the 2025 *National Strategic Review*, the overall procurement outlook set out in the LPM has given future armament programmes greater visibility, creating the right conditions for supporting innovation.

To strengthen the recruitment of qualified personnel, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans are working with local stakeholders to develop new talent pools. The creation of the Defence Industrial Reserve (RID) also enables the recruitment of skilled reservists who can support defence-industry actors and the Defence Procurement and Technology Agency (DGA) in times of crisis.

In terms of funding, the government has introduced a range of instruments to support innovation and businesses that contribute to France's strategic autonomy. These include Definvest, an investment fund created in January 2018 to support the development of defence-critical SMEs, and the Defence Innovation Fund. Established in 2020 by the Ministry for the Armed Forces on the initiative of the Defence Innovation Agency and managed by Bpifrance, the Defence Innovation Fund backs the growth and development of innovative companies whose dual-use technologies are of particular interest to the defence sector, through equity and quasi-equity investments. Measures have also been taken at the European level to secure defence companies' access to both public and private financing.

Innovation within the Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans

Within the Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans, the Defence Innovation Agency brings together all innovation initiatives, steering programmes across the Ministry and ensuring they remain aligned.

The Agency, which is placed under the responsibility of the General Delegate for Armament, was established on 1 September 2018. While continuing its work on long-term technological innovation, the Agency also aims to detect opportunities for innovation that will benefit all end-users, regardless of their field: operations, equipment, support, functioning, administration, etc.

The creation of the Defence Innovation Agency was provided for in the Defence Spending Law and reflects the Ministry's determination to make innovation a top priority.

² Airspace spanning altitudes between 20 km and 100 km, now a new factor in modern conflicts.

II. THE DEFENCE INNOVATION FORUM – INNOVATING FOR THE ARMED FORCES

A true showcase for innovation, the biennial Defence Innovation Forum (FID) brings together thousands of visitors, experts and exhibitors who come to explore the major innovation projects shaping the defence sector.

■ Uniting and Promoting the Defence Innovation Community

Offering an immersive experience, the Defence Innovation Forum is a key meeting place for defence professionals and industry leaders to exchange ideas and explore the major themes driving defence innovation.

This flagship event will take place on 27, 28 and 29 November in Pavilion 2.2 at the Porte de Versailles exhibition centre.

It brings together the entire defence ecosystem around the innovations supported by the Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans. The first two days are reserved for professionals, while the final day is dedicated to the general public.

This year's **extensive programme** will offer visitors:

- an opportunity to explore the latest technological advances;
- access to interactive conferences and workshops;
- meetings with representatives of the French armed forces and the Ministry's directorates and departments, along with all their partners.

Above all, the Defence Innovation Forum demonstrates that innovation arises from collective effort and shared risk-taking. It brings together the players leading innovation around projects spearheaded by the Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans : start-ups, SMEs, investors, international partners, manufacturers, institutions, research centres and students.

■ Discover Major Innovations

Around a hundred innovation projects supported by the Ministry are presented in an **exhibition village** organised into five themed areas : *new domains of conflict, disruptive technologies, operational engagement and resilience, experimentation and rethinking our approach*. The Forum offers an opportunity to meet the project leads and discover the diversity and quality of defence innovation projects.

The Defence Innovation Forum also provides a prime occasion to discover the latest results of the Radar programme³. At a time when Defence must mobilise the entire Nation, this new initiative, supported by the Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans, aims to work with civil society on strategic anticipation and defence foresight.

The **"ecosystem"** area showcases the Ministry's directorates and departments involved in innovation, together with their many partners, all working to accelerate innovation.

³ The Radar initiative builds on the earlier Red Team Défense project. Launched in 2019, it aims to anticipate future threats that could directly endanger France and its interests between 2030 and 2060.



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III. FIVE THEMED AREAS TO EXPLORE THE MAJOR INNOVATIONS OF 2025

New Domains of Conflict

This area shows how, in a world where traditional borders are blurring and threats are multiplying, the Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans is working to gain command over new domains of conflict such as outer space, the seabed, higher airspace, information warfare and cyberspace.

In these now contested environments, where the boundary between civilian and military spheres is increasingly indistinct, attributing hostile actions has become particularly challenging. In these new domains, innovative strategies are needed to guarantee national sovereignty and operational superiority.

Featured projects include:

- **Dephys**, a hybrid-propulsion space engine demonstrator designed to place satellites into orbit at short notice. This innovation combines operational demands with technological boldness, particularly for Higher Airspace Operations (HAOs).



- **M3SFA**. This sovereign, dual-use innovation concerns connectivity in space. It provides an advanced solution for military communications, particularly in mobile and demanding environments. This first Ka-band electronically-scanned array satcom terminal can also maintain a video link onboard a moving platform via a geostationary satellite.



- **SpaceDream**. This project aims to deploy launch pads that are independent of fixed launch sites, thereby increasing the number of access points to space while boosting availability and resilience through an offshore spaceport.



- **Toutatis**, the satellite capable of countering hostile satellites. This low-orbit defence system involves implementing opposition and cooperation scenarios between two satellites with distinct but complementary capabilities.



- **Vortex** or Spaceplane. This Reusable Orbital Transport and Exploration Vehicle (*Véhicule Orbital Réutilisable de Transport et d'Exploration*) meets the logistical needs associated with space-based operations.



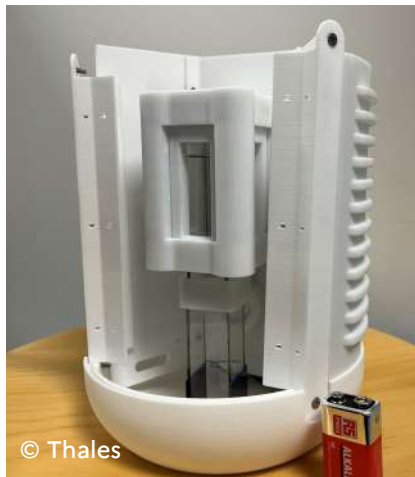
Disruptive Technologies

Simply adapting to the new domains of conflict is no longer sufficient. We must also **anticipate the technologies** that will transform the battlefield. To maintain its strategic edge, the Ministry is harnessing disruptive technologies that will redefine military superiority in the years ahead.

These innovations open up entirely new possibilities: quantum sensors capable of detecting the invisible; artificial intelligence that accelerates the decision-making process; innovative materials that improve protection and mobility; Directed-Energy Weapons (DEWs); and laser communications offering unprecedented capabilities.

Featured projects include:

- **Adequade.** Quantum technology to enable GPS-denied navigation. Designed for defence applications, these quantum sensors offer robust protection against jamming and electromagnetic spoofing targeting radars and communication systems.



- **ISL Drone Swarm.** Using artificial intelligence, this project explores how UASs can reconfigure themselves collectively. The drone swarm adapts in real time to a given situation, enabling the autonomous surveillance of sensitive areas.



- **Helma-P.** (High Energy Laser for Multiple Applications-Power). As the first counter-UAS laser weapon developed for the armed forces, Helma-P contributes to both C-UAS and counter-IED (Improvised Explosive Device) capabilities. It was notably deployed to help secure the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Operational Engagement and Resilience

The area **Operational Engagement and Resilience** focuses on strengthening resilience both during operations and in everyday activity by showcasing projects that support training, In-Service Support (ISS), logistics and combatant health, as well as solutions designed to maintain security and the continuity of operations. Equipment, UASs, ISS, health and energy are central themes, aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the armed forces.

Featured projects include:

Centurion. The Centurion programme is an innovation ecosystem that offers support and funding to speed up the development of next-generation equipment for the armed forces.



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- **Damoclès**, France's first mass-produced Remotely-Operated Munition (ROM). Designed to provide a new capability for action in the contact zone, Damoclès is agile, precise and rapidly deployable, while keeping costs and lead-times under control. It has a range of more than 10 km and 40 minutes of autonomy.



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Rethinking our Approach

The area **Rethinking our Approach** reveals the collective ambition of the armed forces and the Ministry's directorates and departments to test future capabilities outside their usual comfort zone. By putting ingenuity at the service of operational performance, the Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans anticipates disruptions, accelerates decision-making and strengthens the agility and resilience of both the forces and industry. This proactive approach is used to trial new strategies and to shape a Ministry capable of acting faster and more effectively, while maintaining operational superiority in a constantly evolving environment.

Featured projects include:



© B2RS

- **Specialised OSINT Reserve Battalion (B2RS).** This new unit, dedicated to open-source intelligence research, is composed of operational reservists recruited for their expertise. The B2RS provides a concrete response to the proliferation of current threats, while also contributing to national cohesion and resilience.

Experimentation

The area **Experimentation** highlights the practical approach adopted by the Ministry to rethink how it conducts experimentation.

Staying at the forefront of innovation requires integrating strategic foresight and designing and testing solutions directly in the field, while rethinking established methods. Experimentation depends on open and incremental innovation. This approach makes it possible to rapidly validate concepts, assess their effectiveness and adapt their design for large-scale deployment, while reducing risk and increasing the responsiveness of the armed forces.

Featured projects include:

- **CoHoMa**, the Human-Machine Collaboration Challenge. Launched in 2022, this challenge aims to test air-land robotic systems against operational scenarios in complex environments. In just three editions, CoHoMa has become both a technical benchmark and a recognised label.



- **DSTRESS**. This Virtual Reality solution enables the early and objective detection of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in military personnel returning from deployment. Its innovation lies in the speed and objectivity of the detection process.



- **Single Air Picture (SAP)**. This smart demonstrator designed to aggregate data from multiple sources supports C-UAS operations. Integrated into the Shared Air Picture solution, it meets an operational need for an algorithmic tool capable of generating a UAS-specific tactical air picture.



Defence Innovation Forum | Ministry for the Armed Forces and Veterans

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