

PADR 2017 INFODAY AND BROKERAGE EVENT


12 April 2018

- Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning! It is a great pleasure to welcome you to this Information Day on the 2018 Calls of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research.
- The objective of today's event is clear: we are here to provide you with first-hand explanations on the 2018 topics of the Preparatory Action, as well as on the rules and conditions for participation in the calls for proposals.
- We want to help you to set-up high quality proposals and to build strong consortia. We are seeking proposals providing high innovative ideas and substantial evolution, beyond the state of the art. You will receive further details later today, when we elaborate on the criteria for the evaluation process.
- This is the second Info Day organised since the launch of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research. After a first successful edition in 2017, I am very happy to be here, opening this Info Day for the second time in a row.
- Since the publication of the calls, we have been working hard to organise this event and I am pleased to see how many requests for participation we have received, namely around 200 representing 196 entities from 19 EU Member States and from various organization types: industry, clusters, Defence industry associations, national or European research institutes and academia.
- And beyond this diversity, we have an excellent distribution with almost a perfect balance between large and small industry, with also a good representation of research institutes, universities,

associations, clusters, and governmental entities. This again is a remarkable outcome of the registration process.

- One month ago, precisely on the 15th March, three calls for proposals were published. We know that these calls generated very high expectations and interest from industry, research entities and other defence-related stakeholders. That is why we have decided to organise, in collaboration with the European Commission, this Info Day to provide you with detailed information and answers to any questions you might have.
- Overall, this morning, we will provide you with:
 - general information about the calls for proposals,
 - details on the legal and procedural conditions,
 - as well as clarifications linked to the call areas.
- Finally, this afternoon, during the brokerage event, you will have the opportunity to meet one another and to start the discussions on possible proposals. About 50 bilateral meetings have been booked in our brokerage platform, which I consider an additional success indicator for today's event.
- And now, it is my great pleasure to introduce the EDA Chief Executive, Jorge Domecq, who will give the keynote speech.
- After the key note speech of EDA Chief Executive, I would like to move to the next part of the agenda where you will receive all the information you need from today's event. Thanking you for your attention, I immediately give the floor to [REDACTED] for the opening remarks on behalf of the European Commission.