

Press Information

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Improving Europe-wide cooperation: INT co-hosts European Defence Conference in Warsaw

The Fraunhofer-Institute for Technological Trend Analysis INT is one of the Hosts of the European Defence Conference (EDC), which will take place on the 20th and 21st of October, 2011 in Warsaw. The main goal of the conference is to help SMEs acquire funding from the European Union's various security research programmes. Recent studies on this topic revealed that SMEs, especially those from new member states, are underrepresented among the winners of EU research grants.

In order to enhance Europe wide cooperation in defence technology and to bridge the gap between security and defence research from old and new member states, Fraunhofer INT from Germany, together with WISER Consultancy (Netherlands) will be hosting the EDC in close cooperation with the AeroSpace and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) and the European Defence Agency (EDA). The Conference's aim is to foster cooperation in the defence and security sector between private companies, knowledge institutes, Governments and International Organizations. The programme provides opportunities for discussion on policies and procedures, briefing of recent R&T results and proposals for future cooperation.

In plenary sessions at the beginning of the conference, high level authorities will express their views on how european cooperation in the defence sector might look like in the future. The recent additions of speeches by vice chairman Mr. Krzysztof Lisek of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence of the European Parliament, and of Lt. Gen. Ton van Osch, director general of the EU military staff, to the plenary session underline the importance of this topic. Furthermore, Rob F. de Jong, Chairman of EDA NAD's, and Christian Bréant, the EDA Director of R&T, will, among others, speak at the conference.

Following the plenary session there will be several interactive sessions, where the participants will be invited to exchange their views on future european defence cooperations. As this years edition of the conference will be focussed on R&D issues, there will also be room for presenting current research projects. This will also offer the opportunity to propose or join new projects.

For more information on the EDC, see www.defenceconference.eu

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