



DEFRA

Defence-related Research Action

Online Information Session

Call for proposals 2021



8 March 2021





Welcome and introduction

Practical rules for the session



8 March 2021





Agenda

- 14:00 : Welcome and introduction
- 14:10 : Meet the DEFRA team
- 14:20 : DEFRA program: purpose and objectives
- 14:30 : Content of the first call
- 15:00 : Submission procedure/use of the platform
- 15:20 : Evaluation procedure
- 15:30 : Q&A



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Meet the DEFRA team

RHID Royal Higher Institute for Defence -
Scientific & Technological
Research@Defence **STRD**

&

BELSPO Belgian Science Policy



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Air Force Colonel (GS) Filip Borremans

Director-general
Royal Higher Institute for Defence
filip.borremans@mil.be



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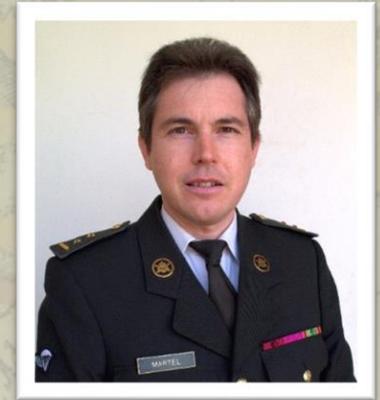




Colonel Filip Martel, ir

Director Scientific & Technological
Research for Defence (STRD)

filip.martel@mil.be



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Human Factors & Medicine

Major dr Erik de Soir

Domain Manager Human Factors & Medicine

erik.desoir@mil.be



Point of contact for theme 1:

Employment of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) for Belgian Defence



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Mobility Systems Protection

Major Bernard Sterpin, ir
Domain Manager Mobility Systems Protection
bernard.sterpin@mil.be



Point of contact for theme 2:
Small Energy Harvesting Systems (SEHS)



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Data Acquisition and Processing

Major Erik Van de Schoor, ir
Domain Manager Data Acquisition & Processing
erik.vandeschoor@mil.be



Point of contact for theme 3:
Space technologies for Defence applications



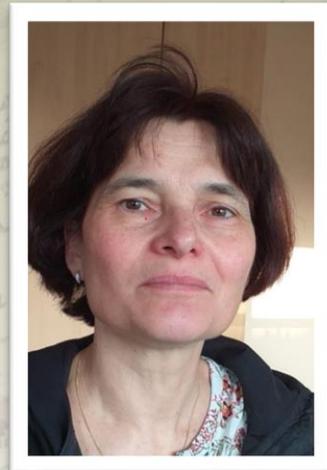
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Maaïke Vancauwenberghe
Director a.i. Research Programs
Coordinator BRAIN-be 2.0



Marleen Bosschaerts
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Véronique Feys
Program manager
Responsible online introduction platform



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Administrative assistant

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DEFRA program: purpose and objectives



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Purpose DEFRA program

- Increased support to face current & future security challenges through R&T collaboration between Defence, research institutions & industry (**triple helix**)
- Fits perfectly in and contributes to implementation of vision & general policy for Defence
- Information on research policy, strategic objectives & focus areas (website: <https://www.defence-institute.be/>)
- Current call: test phase with 3 selected research themes.
In future: larger calls with broader scope



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Objectives DEFRA program

- **Critical research** to contribute to :
 - **Belgian Defence capability development;**
 - **Culture of innovation** within Belgian Defence;
 - More & new ways of **employment** for Defence;
 - **Belgian industrial & technological base** (security & defence);
- **Encourage participation** of research institutes & industry in Defence & security related research activities;
- **Scientific excellence;**
- Promote **systemic, multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary and integrative approaches;**
- Strengthen research which **benefits potential users.**



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Content of the first DEFRA call

- Themes and Indicative budget
- Eligibility criteria
- Funding rules



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Themes & Indicative budget



Theme (project duration Max 2 years)	Indicative budget (K€)
Theme 1: NEET: Employment of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) for Belgian Defence	200
Theme 2: SEHS: Small Energy Harvesting systems for Defence applications	400
Theme 3: SPACE: Space technologies for Defence applications (improved image analysis for earth observation)	400



Content of the DEFRA call 2021

Theme NEET

Slide 17

- **Context:** growing group of the population remaining unemployed and without adequate training – the so-called NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) vs shortage of personnel for Defence.
- **Scope:**
 - Objectives for the society as a whole?
 - How to prevent youngsters to become NEET & activate this group?
 - Role for Belgian Defence? How to tailor recruitment requirements, campaigns, selection and training methods? Resources & costs?
- **Impact:** the Belgian Defence assumes societal responsibility, fills a gap in its own recruitment policy and improves diversity within the armed forces. Result = clear set of guidelines. Identification of opportunities and pitfalls for the Belgian Defence.



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Content of the DEFRA call 2021

Theme SEHS

- **Context:** small energy collection systems (or combination of such systems) offer advantage of contributing to energy transition & sustainability AND offer increased autonomy, or even a self-sufficient source of energy. For this call focus = small (specialised) teams of carrying out isolated and independent operations.
- **Scope:**
 - Solutions for optimising energy collection;
 - Best performance (weight, volume, autonomy, robustness, stability, resistance to electromagnetic interference, ...);
 - Interoperability: power supply for existing systems/standardisation;
 - Circular economy aspects (wherever possible).
- **Impact:** technology demonstrator of SEHS, TRL 6 (technology demonstrated in relevant environment with good compromise between improved energetic autonomy & operational flexibility/effectiveness)





Content of the DEFRA call 2021

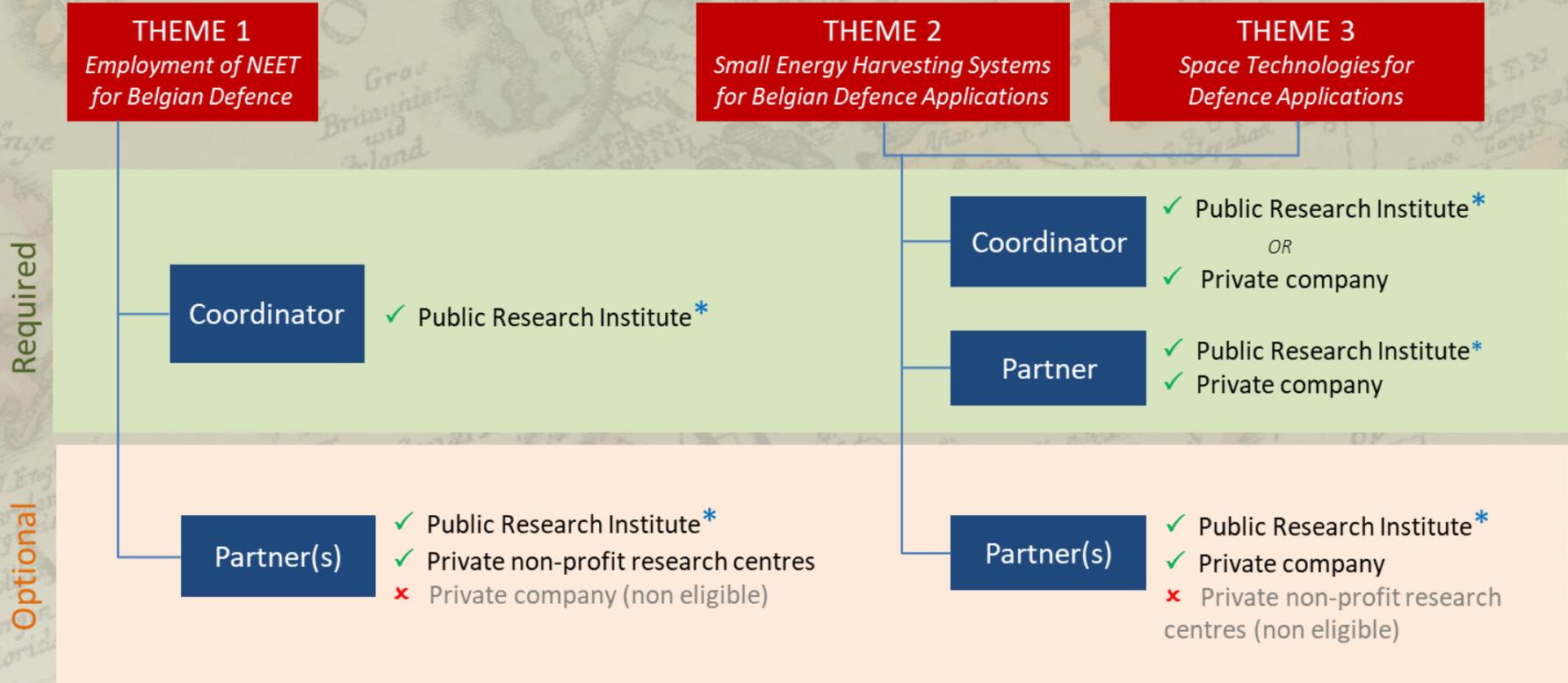
Theme Space - improved image analysis for earth observation

- **Context:** Since 1999, Belgian Defence participates in HELIOS II program & created Belgian Satellite Center (Evere) for image exploitation. In collaboration with BELSPO, Belgian Defence joined 3-satellites French program Composante Spatiale Optique (CSO), successor to HELIOS II, which will offer new generation assets.
- **Scope:** Efficient & timely exploitation of increasing number of available images from modern satellites portfolio of different passive and/or active sensors. Topics of interest: exploitation of time series, fusion of different types of RS (Remote Sensing) imagery, automatised data processing e.g. using AI, pattern recognition & change detection and standardization. Improved estimation of uncertainty of results is of major importance.
- **Impact:** enhanced & improved timely throughput of downwards services delivery of Space-Based Earth Observation (SBEO) data, permitting efficient exploitation & reducing analyst manpower.





Eligibility criteria



* The following Belgian Defence Research institutes can be a partner in the network. It is not mandatory to have one of these institutions as a partner; their presence/absence will not have an effect on the evaluation result.

*Royal Military Academy
Military Hospital Queen Astrid
Defence Laboratories*





Funding rules

	Required Partners		Optional partners
THEME 1 PARTNERS	<u>Coordinator:</u> Public Research Institute		Public Research Institute OR Private non-profit research centre
THEMES 2 & 3 PARTNERS	<u>Coordinator:</u> Public Research Institute OR Private Company	<u>Partner:</u> Public Research Institute OR Private Company	Public Research Institute OR Private company
TOTAL PARTNER BUDGET	<p>Public Research Institute: 100% eligible costs financed by Defence</p> <p>Private Company : maximum of 65% of eligible costs financed by Defence, with a potential maximum of 80%, according to the size of the company (SME: +20% or 80% total threshold, MidCap: +10%)</p>		<p>Public Research Institute OR Private non-profit research centre : 100% financed by Defence</p> <p>Private Company : maximum of 65% of the eligible costs, with a potential maximum of 80%, according to the size of the company (SME: +20% or 80% total threshold, MidCap: +10%)</p>





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Submission procedure & Use of the platform



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Website

<https://www.belspo.be/defra>

Important documents:

- Information document, incl. submission & evaluation guidelines and budget rules
- Evaluation matrices (pre & full proposals)
- Evaluators eligibility criteria
- Platform submission guidelines
- FAQ



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Online submission platform

<https://defra.belspo.be>

PHASE 1 - submission of pre-proposals:

- Pre-proposal template (Word file)

PHASE 2 – submission full proposals:

- Full Proposal template (Word file)
- Gantt chart (Excel file)
- Cash or in-kind commitment letter – non mandatory (Word file)

Online submission platform

Platform Homepage before Log In



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DEFRA submission platform

PRE-PROPOSALS : Submission deadline is 22/4/2021 14:00

Online Platform for submitting proposals in the context of the DEFRA-call 2021

In order to maintain the Belgian Defence military and technological edge to face current and future security challenges, scientific and technological research in the domain of security and defence is key.

The Royal Higher Institute for Defence (RHID) aims to promote the growth of Belgian scientific and technological research in the field of defence and security, as well as to restore and strengthen the links between administrations, universities and companies at this prospect.

To further develop its capabilities through collaborative research with external partners, the RHID, in collaboration with BELSPO, will launch open calls for proposals within the frame of the Defence-related Research Action (DEFRA). A first call of the DEFRA program is launched on 1st March 2021, based on three selected research themes.

In the future, larger open calls with a broader scope will be part of the program.

The first call of the DEFRA program covers the following research themes :

- Theme 1: Employment of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) for Belgian Defence
- Theme 2: Small Energy Harvesting systems for Defence applications
- Theme 3: Space technologies for Defence applications

More information can be found in the information file for applicants

Project coordinator creates personal account
One email address = one account

LOGIN if you want to have access to the online platform

[Platform submission guidelines](#)

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Online submission platform

Once logged-in: directed to your personal Homepage

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You are logged as: testcoordx@test.be [Logout](#)

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DEFRA submission platform

[Add Pre-proposal](#)

PRE-PROPOSALS : Submission deadline is 22/4/2021 14:00

Reference	Acronym	General information	Submitted

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Click on “Add Pre-proposal” button to create Pre-proposal.

Online submission platform

Pre-proposal page

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DEFRA submission platform

New Pre-proposal - Information sheet

THEME

Theme 1: Employment of NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) for Belgian Defence

- Individual Project
 Network

Theme 2:

- Small Energy Harvesting systems for defence applications

Theme 3:

- Space technologies for Defence applications

PROPOSAL'S ACRONYM (maximum 15 characters)

PROPOSAL'S TITLE (maximum 255 characters)

COORDINATOR

Lastname

Firstname

Email

Type of organisation

Organisation

Organisation's abbreviation

Department/Research unit/Division



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Online submission platform

Pre-proposal page – mandatory fields:

- Themes of the Call
 - **Proposal's Acronym**
 - **Proposal's Title**
 - Name, institution and contact details of the Coordinator
 - Partners (institution coordinates)
 - Summary
 - Keywords (min 2)
 - Approval statement for submission
- Minimal required info to start



Online submission platform

Personal Homepage will change after saving Pre-proposal

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You are logged as: **testcoordx@test.be** [Logout](#)

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[Add Pre-proposal](#)

PRE-PROPOSALS : Submission deadline is 22/4/2021 14:00

Reference	Acronym	General information	Submitted
▶ Pre-proposal Pre-027	TESTacron	Title: Title of Proposal TESTacron Coordinator: CoordinatorName Firstname , Laboratoires de la defence - Defensielaboratoria	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">Information sheet</div> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">Content</div> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">Experts</div> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">Print Pre-proposal</div> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 2px;">Submit</div>

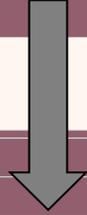
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Submission procedure

- **Information sheet:** displays Pre-proposal page for further editing
- **Content:** contains downloadable template to be filled in off-line and subsequently uploaded to platform
- **Experts:** allows introducing 6 evaluation experts
- **Print Pre-proposal:** preview Pre-proposal PDF-file
- **Submit:** for submitting the Pre-proposal



Submission procedure

- Download word template for pre-proposals
- Complete all fields, take into account evaluation criteria for pre-proposals (cfr evaluation matrix)
- Upload completed pre-proposal (PDF-file)
- Propose experts for evaluation of full proposals (min 2 Belgian and 2 foreign experts; 2 *non-grata*)



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Submission procedure

- Click on **'Submit'**. You will be directed to the Pre-proposal page
- At bottom of page, click on **'Check'**.
 - ⚠ This "function" ONLY checks if all necessary fields are completed. The content of the Pre-proposal and the fulfilment of the eligibility conditions are your responsibility.
- At bottom of page, click on **'Submit'**. The Pre-proposal will be submitted to BELSPO
- Confirmation by e-mail to coordinator
- **Deadline for pre-proposals: 22/04 - 14h**





Evaluation procedure

Two-step procedure:

- Phase 1: Pre-proposals
- Phase 2: Full proposals





Phase 1: Pre-proposal

- General eligibility check
- Evaluation by internal evaluation committee Defence
- Criteria:

Weight of the different criteria	NEET	SEHS	SPACE
Quality of the pre-proposal	50%	40%	40%
Quality & Composition of the partner or the partnership	25%	30%	30%
Impact	25%	30%	30%

- Per theme: max. 5 pre-proposals invited to submit full proposal

Phase 2: Full proposal

- Step 1 - Remote scientific peer review evaluation
3 independent experts (min 1 Belgian, 1 foreign)
- Step 2 - Panel evaluation, incl. interviews with the applicants
- Step 3 - Selection proposal formulated by Scientific Committee RHID
- Step 4 - Final selection proposals by Board of Directors RHID
- Selected projects start December 2021 (max 2 years)



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Key dates

Activity	Date	At / via
Information session	8 March 2021 (14h00 - 16h00)	Online
Deadline Pre-proposals	22 April 2021 - 14h00	Online submission platform
Communication of evaluation result pre-proposals	17 May 2021	Mail
Deadline Full proposals	30 June 2021 - 14h00	Online submission platform
Remote scientific peer review evaluation	05 July - 15 August 2021	Online evaluation platform
Feedback to applicants in preparation of panel meeting	end August 2021	Mail
Panel evaluation, incl. interviews with the applicants	beginning September	RHID or online
Selection proposal formulated by the scientific committee of the RHID	mid-September	NA
Final selection of proposals by the board of directors of the RHID and allocation of projects	beginning October	Mail
Signature contracts	01 December 2021	Online E-sign platform



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GOOD LUCK !

Further questions:
FAQ on website
defra@belspo.be



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