

As the group of independent not-for profit European research organizations with a broad cross domains portfolio, EDRIN, the European Defence Research and Innovation Network welcomes the consultation on the Commission's roadmap for an action plan to create synergy between civil, defence ,and space industries.

As we believe the seeding ground for innovation, disruptive technologies and emerging game changers must be kept open throughout the entire value chain, freedom and flexibility are required to explore new technologies from defence, space, security and civil sectors. This will be the condition of an efficient cross fertilization. Indeed, bringing technologies and concepts from different domains offers such advantages as: lowering overall costs for research, reducing risks; opening a wider market for SMEs and Midcaps, supporting standardization processes with a positive effect on time spans from lab to market.

Typically, some European RTOs have significant expertise in the defence, space, security and civil fields. In their DNA lies the culture of using scientific skills developed for one field to adapt technologies for other areas. This means they have an “*in house*” network they can gather to maximize mutual benefits starting possibly with a wider use of space-related research and industry. To ensure a dynamic adaptation of technologies between the different sectors, EDRIN as a network can play a key role as a facilitator and interface between these worlds, and offers the Commission to consider the following:

First, a coherence assessment tool should be created to monitor the effective consistency and to identify synergies between relevant programmes as well as between programmes and EU Industrial strategy and EU political priorities.

Second, there should be a funding stream to support a **continuous, structured process to ensure the exploitation of solutions from defence, space, security and civil sectors in cross domains** in the frame of EC framework programme. This is an ambitious, challenging endeavour. However, establishing a data warehouse platform ensuring the availability of the essential information about ongoing projects across the entire span off the MFF programme and exploitable ones about the funded projects from the last MFF, would lower the risk of loss of expertise and duplication of efforts.

Third, capitalizing on this data warehouse it should be foreseen a budgetary stream for **innovative ideation formats** on identified cross domains subjects, particularly on strategic value chains. Such formats could include hackathons, start-up-labs, technology-days, innovation-forums, foresight workshops, serious gaming etc. promoting technologies identified in the data warehouse towards industry R&D managers including mid-caps and SMEs. Aside from linking innovative results with long-term needs of military, space or other industrial end-users, this element would also be an excellent opportunity to help building the next generation Technologies transfer experts, key asset for a future competitive EU industry. Thus, instruments easing pan-European talent scouting, career fairs, and expert-mobility should be considered.

As EDRIN, we recommend the European Commission to **back networking activities with resources** throughout the entire framework to make a solid cross domains European research community a reality.

Finally, we suggest the European Commission considers establishing an expert group that provides high level expertise, gathering independent representatives from industry (SMEs, Midcaps, and larger ones), and RTOs of defence, space and key strategic sectors for the EU future. Technological sovereignty and European technological ecosystems resilience must underpin all actions to seek synergy and cross-fertilization. Due to its specific panel of RTOs involved in the 3 sectors to be cross fertilized, EDRIN is ready to play a major role in supporting the Commission in this process.

