EU · START-UPS & SMES · RAPID INNOVATION

AGILE

Programme for Agile and Rapid Defence Innovation

A new EU instrument for fast defence innovation, aimed at start-ups and SMEs.

The proposed budget is **€115 million**, with up to €5 million per project and a target time-to-grant of four months. AGILE is still a legislative proposal and launch is expected around 2027.

EU · START-UPS · GRANT · HIGH TRL

WHAT IT IS

1. Grants of up to €5 million per project for development and market uptake
2. Target time-to-grant of four months, against around eight months under EDF
3. Simplified procedures and a direct link to procurement to speed up deployment
4. Mission-driven development of emerging and disruptive defence technologies
5. Funding for the testing, validation and demonstration of defence solutions
6. Proposed budget of around €115 million, reallocated within the existing EU budget

WHO IT IS FOR

New Defence Players — SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups, including single beneficiaries without a consortium. Ukraine is fully associated. Exact eligibility rules will be set in the regulation and work programme.

AT WHAT STAGE

Mature solutions at high TRL. The programme supports innovation and deployment rather than basic research, with the emphasis on cost-effective technology ready to move into use.

FUNDING PER PROJECT

€5 million

Maximum per project, with a target time-to-grant of four months

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY

1. Watch for publication of the work programme and first calls on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal
2. Check eligibility once the regulation and work programme set out the detailed rules
3. Prepare a proposal built around the priority capability needs defined with member states
4. Submit online through the portal, using the AGILE programme filter

TIMING

The Commission adopted the proposal in March 2026 and the Council was ready to open negotiations with the European Parliament in June 2026. Operation and the first calls are expected in early 2027; no deadlines yet.

NOTE / TIP

AGILE is a proposal, not an open call — as of July 2026 no call is open under the AGILE filter. Until launch, map the alternatives (EDF/EUDIS, EIC, EDIP) and prepare a concept with clear dual-use logic and high TRL.

FREE CONSULTATION · INDEPENDENT

Could AGILE fit your technology?

Defence Hub CzechInvest will help you pick the right programme and work through the whole application — free and independent.

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Book a consultation