Guide: EDIP USI, drones and counter-drone systems with Ukraine

Step by step to an application by 16 February 2027, 17:00 Brussels time

Topic **EDF-EDIP-USI-2027-LS-IRA-CUXS** belongs to the 2nd call for **Industrial Reinforcement Actions** under the **Ukraine Support Instrument** of EDIP. The aim is simple: more drones and counter-drone systems produced and delivered in Ukraine, faster, through cooperation between EU and Ukrainian companies.

DEADLINE 16 FEB 2027 | MAX. €10M PER PROJECT | 100 % FUNDING | UKRAINIAN PARTNER REQUIRED

1. What the call funds

The call does not pay for developing a new product but for **production capacity and supply** of these systems and their components:

- **(Swarming) UxS** including FPV, modular payloads, relay and autonomy-enabled variants, and **UxS interceptors** protecting critical nodes and logistics routes.
- **EW-resilient UxS:** fibre-optic controlled or able to operate in GNSS- and RF-denied conditions.
- **Counter-UxS and supporting EW systems:** detection, jamming and spoofing, spectrum management for friendly UxS, terminal navigation, optronic and radar-guided systems.

Forms of cooperation: joint EU-Ukraine production lines, reinforcement of specific capacities (integration, testing of alternative navigation, assembly and test for high monthly volumes), scale-up of Ukrainian systems, **MaaS** (Manufacturing as a Service) and conversion of dual-use heavy industry for defence surge.

You may add an optional work package on **physical and cyber protection** of production (counter-drone site protection, NIS2, ISO/IEC 27001, IEC 62443), with an EU contribution of up to €200,000.

2. Who can apply

- [ ] Entities from **EU Member States and Ukraine**. Entities in areas of Ukraine not controlled by the Ukrainian government are not eligible.
- [ ] **The consortium must include at least one entity from Ukraine** (established, with executive management, in Ukraine), up to 15 entities. Only a Ukrainian entity may apply alone.
- [ ] If the project includes activities under Article 12(1)(d) of the EDIP Regulation and no SEAP takes part, you need at least **3 independent beneficiaries from 2 different countries** (EU or Ukraine).
- [ ] No beneficiary is **controlled by a non-associated third country** (other than Ukraine). Exception only with guarantees approved by the Member State.
- [ ] Activities, infrastructure and subcontracting are in eligible countries. **Not everything has to be in Ukraine**, as the Commission's Q&A on the topic confirms.

3. Money

ITEM	RULE
Topic budget	€80M (the Commission may move funds between calls)
Grant per project	up to **€10M**
Minimum size	total eligible costs of at least **€2M**
Funding rate	**100 %** of eligible costs
Form	lump sum (fixed in advance from the project budget)
Payments	prefinancing normally **35 %**, interim and final payments only for **completed work packages**, paid to the coordinator
Indirect costs	flat rate of 7 % of direct costs
Limits	WP1 (management) max. 10 % of costs, subcontracting above 30 % must be justified, FSTP is not allowed

Example: a €6M project can receive a grant of up to €6M and prefinancing of around €2.1M (35 %), provided it passes the threshold and fits within the topic budget.

4. Hard conditions

- **Components:** max. **35 %** of component costs from outside the EU and Ukraine, for the whole action, proven in the **procurement strategy** annex and in progress reports.
- **Design authority:** full control over the product design, with no veto for any non-associated third country.
- **Intellectual property** from the project may not leave the EU and EDIP associated countries without approval.
- **Timing:** no start before 5 March 2024, no completion before signature of the grant agreement, normally 36 to 60 months, end by 31 December 2033.
- **KPIs** with a baseline: output (units per month), time-to-rate, lead-time reduction, line availability, qualified output delivered in Ukraine, and where relevant MaaS throughput and staff trained.

5. How it is evaluated

CRITERION	SCORE	WEIGHT
Objectives	0 to 5	2
Timely availability and supply of defence products in UA	0 to 5	2
Cross-border cooperation between UA and EU	0 to 5	2
Expected results	0 to 5	1
Production lead time and increase in production capacity in UA	0 to 5	2
Implementation	0 to 5	3

Maximum 60 weighted points, **threshold 39**, no minimum per criterion. Ties are broken by lead time and capacity in Ukraine first.

6. Step by step

1. **Check your fit:** your product or component is a UxS, interceptor, EW-resilient UxS or C-UxS and you can prove the 35 % rule and your ownership structure.
2. **Find a Ukrainian partner.** Without one the application fails. Use the topic's partner search, the BRAVE1 platform and Defence Hub.
3. **Agree Ukraine's role in the project:** joint line, production in Ukraine, MaaS or supply. Evaluators score this in three of the six criteria.
4. **Register on the portal:** PIC in the Participant Register, LEAR, legal entity validation and financial capacity. Two-factor authentication is mandatory since 30 June 2026.
5. **Create the proposal** via Start submission (EDF Lump Sum Grants) and fill in **Part A** online.
6. **Write Part B** in the Word template, max. **70 pages**, along the six criteria. The project summary must be in English; the Commission strongly advises writing it all in English.
7. **Annexes:** detailed budget table (USI LS), participant information, list of infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources, ownership control declarations and procurement strategy. Then a password-protected zip (AES-256, under 100 MB); send the password, proposal ID and zip name to DEFIS-EDIP-PROPOSALS-PWD@ec.europa.eu before the deadline.
8. **Submit by 16 February 2027, 17:00** Brussels time. Never upload classified information.

7. Timeline

STEP	WHEN (INDICATIVE)
Call opening	17 June 2026
Call document revised (conditions unchanged)	8 November 2026
Deadline	**16 February 2027, 17:00**
Evaluation	February to May 2027
Information on results	June 2027
Grant agreement signature	September 2027

8. What to watch out for

- **The Ukrainian partner must be real**, not just a name in the consortium. Half of the points depend on supply, cooperation and capacity in Ukraine.
- **100 % does not mean money up front:** prefinancing is normally 35 %, the rest only after completed work packages. Plan your cash flow.
- **Consortia need a consortium agreement** and progress reports every 6 to 12 months, including component origin.
- **Security:** classified information follows national rules and the grant agreement will include a security aspect letter. Staff with access to sensitive information may need a national security clearance.
- **Start now.** Finding a partner in Ukraine, registration and ownership control declarations take weeks.

Want to talk your application through?

Defence Hub CzechInvest will help you free of charge to check your fit, find partners and review Part B before submission. Book a consultation on the Defence Hub website.

defencehub@czechinvest.org

Topic: EDF-EDIP-USI-2027-LS-IRA-CUXS

Call document: call-fiche_edf-edip-usi-2027-ls-ira

Questions on the call: DEFIS-EDIP-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu

Topic on the portal

Sources: call document EDF-EDIP-USI-2027-LS-IRA (sections 2 to 10, revised 8 November 2026) and the topic page EDF-EDIP-USI-2027-LS-IRA-CUXS on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal including Q&A, as of 20 November 2026. Interpretation and advice are Defence Hub's. The call text on the portal always prevails.