

**General Manager**

Boulevard Léopold III  
B-1110 Brussels, Belgium

Telephone: +32 (0)2 707 8200  
Fax: +32 (0)2 707 8474

NCIA/EM/SCPO/2020/00344  
08 April 2020

To : See distribution list

Subject : **NCI Agency Defence Innovation Challenge 2020**

The NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency is seeking to enhance engagements with businesses that have harnessed the disruptive power of digital technologies and can consolidate the Alliances tactical, operational and strategic capabilities in NATO's military solutions of tomorrow.

To this end, I would like to seek your nation's support in sharing information and encouraging your National industry, including non-traditional defence suppliers, to join, and compete in, the NCI Agency Defence Innovation Challenge.

The submissions portal for the fifth NCI Agency Defence Innovation Challenge is now open, and for the first time, the NCI Agency may provide an opportunity to the winners, with the most promising solutions, to bid for a contract in their area of technological specialisation. As a part of the bidding process, invited winners will demonstrate their solutions to key stakeholders within the most applicable NATO business and/or operational environment.

Through the Defence Innovation Challenge, the NCI Agency aims to incentivise innovations that are adaptable to NATO environments. Start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises from all 30 NATO Nations are particularly encouraged to apply.

Submissions for the NCI Agency Defence Innovation Challenge, this year, will focus on improving Radar Performance and must address one or more of the following functionalities:

- Correlation of Aerial Discovery Radar outputs; combining real-time outputs from two or more radar sources to produce a single and combined aircraft position.
- Automatically convert aircraft plots (location) to tracks (vector).
- Providing resultant confidence levels.
- Operating in bad weather conditions and/or spoofing.
- Modification capability to operate with civilian and/or non-civilian radar data.



NATO Communications  
and Information Agency  
Agence OTAN d'information  
et de communication

[www.ncia.nato.int](http://www.ncia.nato.int)



Solutions may use digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning algorithms to approach these challenges; however, solutions are not limited only to these technologies.

The impact of digitisation is cascading across every industry; the NCI Agency wants to hear from the Alliance's defence and commercial industries. The NCI Agency depends on Nations to promote the Defence Innovation Challenge via individual national channels and invites relevant companies to submit their entries by 15 June 2020.

Further details about the NCI Agency Defence Innovation Challenge, the Terms of Reference as well as the Submission Form are available at <https://nitec20.com/innovation-challenge-2020/>.

The NCI Agency point of contact is Ms Michaela Simakova, Industry Relations Office, tel.: +32 2 707 8807, e-mail [michaela.simakova@ncia.nato.int](mailto:michaela.simakova@ncia.nato.int).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin J. Scheid', written in a cursive style.

Kevin J. Scheid

General Manager

Distribution:

External

Investment Committee

National Delegations to NATO

Internal

Head, Data Science and Innovation