



Diana Baranova
Director of Defence Industry and Innovation Department
Ministry of Defence, Republic of Latvia

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RFI – testing for the defence industry

Dear Diana,

Under Estonia's new Defence Industry Policy 2024-2030, developing a testing ecosystem for the defence industry is among priorities for the Ministry of Defence. To strive towards an ecosystem that accounts for the needs of Estonian and foreign defence industry companies, we would like to enquire about Latvia's experiences and expertise in building a structured and fair testing environment for the sector.

Therefore, I kindly ask for your support in answering the following questions **by September 30**:

Question 1: does Latvia possess a central platform (e.g. website, coordinator) to communicate with the defence industry about testing areas and testing possibilities?

Question 2: can individual defence industry companies book testing areas directly or are areas booked through an intermediary? In the latter case, is the intermediary a central coordinator or a local administrator?

Question 3: does Latvia have testing areas that prioritize testing for defence industry companies? If so, in which domains (land, air, naval, cyber, etc.)?

Question 4: if testing areas are shared, how do you find a balance between the interests of the armed forces versus the interests of the defence industry (e.g. creation of specific timeslots)?

Question 5: please describe the process leading towards testing for defence industry companies in the following scenarios. How does the process differ for technologies on different levels of readiness (TRL)?

- A. Your armed forces have identified a capability gap that they would like the defence industry to fulfil with a product or technology.
- B. A defence industry company has come up with a promising product or technology that is not a capability gap *per se* but needs testing with the armed forces nonetheless.

Question 6: which state sponsored programmes does Latvia offer to boost the defence industry that also involve the possibility for companies to test their products or technologies?

Question 7: how is testing coordinated between ministries in Latvia to ensure that the defence industry has access to all available testing areas in different areas of government?

Question 8: would Latvia be interested in cross-border cooperation in testing of defence industry technologies or products?

Thank you for your cooperation and contribution!

With my sincere wishes,



Miiko Peris
Director of Defence Industry Development Department
Ministry of Defence, Republic of Estonia