

**DATE**

04 May 2022

OUR REF.

2026/023

FROM

The Executive Director of the Joint Air Power Competence Centre (JAPCC)

TO

Lieutenant General Andrus Merilo
 Estonian Defence Forces
 Commander

SUBJECT

Invitation to Attend the Joint Air & Space Power Conference 2026 from 22–24 September 2026 at the Grugahalle in Essen, Germany.

Dear Lieutenant General Merilo,

The Joint Air Power Competence Centre (JAPCC) cordially invites you to attend the Joint Air & Space Power Conference 2026, taking place from 22–24 September 2026 at the Grugahalle in Essen, Germany.

Held annually, this conference is NATO's leading forum for senior military leaders, policymakers, industry representatives, and academic experts to exchange views on the future of air and space power. This year's conference theme is 'Air Power at the Edge - Securing NATO's New Frontiers.' During the conference we want to examine the impact of an increasingly complex and interconnected security environment, exploring how Air and Space Power must adapt to enable NATO's 360-degree approach to collective defence.

Participants can expect a comprehensive programme of high level keynote speeches and panel discussions addressing strategic, operational, and technological challenges, alongside valuable opportunities to engage directly with experts from across NATO, partner nations, industry, and academia. In addition, the conference is co-located with the inaugural Euro Defence Expo (EUDEX), giving our attendees also access to a broader exhibition of emerging defence technologies and innovations.

Please note that participation in the conference is subject to a registration fee of €265 per person. This fee contributes to the organisation of the event and includes full access to all conference sessions as well as entry to the Euro Defence Expo.

The conference will take place at the modernised Grugahalle venue in Essen, providing an enhanced environment for professional dialogue, networking, and collaboration across the Air and Space Power community. We encourage early registration, as attendance is limited and demand is expected to be high.

For any enquiries or expressions of interest, please contact us at conference@japcc.org. Further details regarding registration, programme updates, and administrative information are available at www.japcc.org/conference.

We look forward to welcoming you to Essen in September 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Thorsten Poschwatta
 Lieutenant General DEU AF
 Executive Director

JOINT AIR POWER COMPETENCE CENTRE

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