Meet the winners of the ASSETs+ European Defence Challenge II edition

May 2022

The **ASSETs+ European Defence Challenge (EDC)** is an open competition to attract young talent to the Defence industry and to encourage them to initiate a career in defence-related technologies.

In this second edition of the Challenge, 130 registered students from 16 different countries were asked to share their vision on the topic "Remote everything? To what extent can unmanned assets interact with humans in the field for defence operations?".

The EDC II edition Awards Ceremony was streamed online trough YouTube on May 27th, with the presence of **Lukas Mandl**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice President of the Subcommittee on Security and Defence, **Michael Gahler**, Member of the European Parliament, Subcommittee on Security and Defence, **Christina Wilen**, Policy Officer DG Defence Industry & Space, European Commission, **Daniel Mosquera**, Project Officer Air Systems Technologies from the European Defence Agency (EDA), **Maurizio Betta**, Head of Learning & People Development at Leonardo, **Mateo Burgos**, EDC II organizer from Universidad Politecnica de Madrid and **Gualtiero Fantoni**, ASSETs+ Coordinator from the University of Pisa.

It is a pleasure to announce that the winners of the EDC II edition are:

WINNING TEAM

Andreas Wouters and **Nathan Prakopetz**, from the Royal Military Academy (Belgium).

Their proposal, "Autonomy in Air Defence Systems", analyses the problematic characteristics of hypersonic missiles and how these missiles manage to evade air defence systems.

- Download the essay here.
- Watch their presentation here.

FINALISTS

Susanna Hein and **Emilien Maquaire**, from Sciences Po Lille (France).

Their proposal, "Human-Robot teaming Research Initiative for a Combat Aerial Network (HURRICANE)", outlines the opportunities and challenges that robotics and artificial intelligence technologies offer for future air combat by indicating how we can gain an advantage through human machine teams.

- Download the essay here.
- Watch their presentation here.

Anaëlle Salamon from Sciences Po Lille (France) and **Sinan Bekka** from University of Edinburgh (UK).

Their proposal is a three-step development program of European Defensive Autonomous Submarine Systems (EURO DASS) which will follow strict principles and hopefully will set a precedent for the making of unmanned systems in defence operations.

- Download the essay here.
- Watch their presentation here.

SPECIAL MENTION TO YOUNG STUDENTS

In this edition there has been also a special mention to the best essay from students up to 20 years, and the winners are:

Carlos Daniel Farias, from the University of Cadiz (Spain), and **Carlos Thurn**, from Nordakademie (Germany).

Their proposal "Can I trust you? An AI for secure, authenticated communication" aims to create a method of secure communication between two or more individual parties in order to allow interaction of human and machine for the application in the defence field. In order to achieve this, a combination of encryption and identity authentication will be implemented.

- Download the essay here.
- Watch their presentation here.

Congratulations!

You can watch the video of the full Awards Ceremony here.

The third edition of the ASSETs+ European Defence Challenge will be announced soon.

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The ASSETs+ project

The Alliance for Strategic Skills addressing Emerging Technologies in Defence (ASSETs+) is a four year **Erasmus+ project**, built on close collaboration between Defence Industry, Sectoral Organisations, Higher Education Institutions, Vocational Educational & Training providers and Research Centres, with 30 partners from 8 countries and a broader ecosystem of stakeholders.

ASSETs+ aims to build a sustainable human resources supply chain for the European Defence Industry, that boosts innovation by both attracting highly-skilled young workers and upskilling its employees. Complementary education & training programmes are addressing the following main technologies: Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, C4ISTAR* and Cybersecurity.

(*) C4ISTAR is an acronym for Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Information/Intelligence, Surveillance, Targeting Acquisition and Reconnaissance

ASSETs+ Consortium partners

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