

Prize Contest

Counter - Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Rules of Contest



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1. Introduction

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, is dedicated to ensuring a coherent and effective European integrated border management system. By facilitating the implementation of existing and future measures related to the management of external borders, Frontex plays a key role in maintaining the security and integrity of the European Union (EU), in full respect of fundamental rights. Building upon the previous prize contest “DeLFO”, which focused on testing and assessment of detection, tracking, and identification technologies, it has become evident that while detection solutions are available, there remains a significant capability gap in effectively neutralizing UAS threats.

In collaboration with national **European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) authorities** and supported by a Host Member State, Frontex is organizing a **Counter - Unmanned Aircraft System Solutions Prize Contest**. This contest seeks to stimulate the development of innovative, effective, and efficient solutions to counter unauthorized UAV activities such as illicit surveillance or smuggling across EU borders.

In alignment with the [Technical and Operational Strategy for European Integrated Border Management 2023-2027](#), this contest seeks to advance capabilities essential for maintaining secure and effective external border protection. The strategy emphasizes future-proofing external borders through innovative technological integration, situational awareness, and operational excellence, ensuring that the European Border and Coast Guard remains resilient against emerging threats while facilitating legitimate border crossings and preventing unauthorized access. This initiative reflects the strategic goal of accelerating innovation to address dynamic border management challenges effectively.

This contest aligns with the [Capability Roadmap of the European Border and Coast Guard](#), a strategic guide that emphasizes future-proofing the EU's external borders through innovation, integration, and long-term capability planning, fostering resilience and operational excellence in addressing contemporary and emerging border security challenges.

Importance of Counter-UAS for border management

Unauthorized UAS activities pose significant challenges to border security, including hostile surveillance, smuggling, and other illicit operations.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) refers to a system comprising an unmanned aircraft and the associated equipment required to control it remotely. This system includes the unmanned aircraft itself, the ground-based controller, and the communication link between the two. UAS can serve various purposes, such as surveillance, reconnaissance, and data collection, and may operate either autonomously or under remote control. Under this initiative the focus is on off the shelf and custom-made unmanned aircrafts below 25 Kg.

Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) refers to systems, technologies, and processes designed to detect, track, identify, and neutralize unauthorized or hostile Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). These solutions employ a variety of methods, including but not limited to electronic jamming, spoofing, directed energy, kinetic actions, and cyber-based neutralization, to mitigate or neutralize threats posed by UAS. Under this initiative the focus is on neutralisation methods assessment relevant for EU border management authorities.

Effective C-UAS are essential for:

- **Protecting the EU External Borders:** Safeguarding the integrity of the EU external borders and of its infrastructure.
- **Enhancing Situational Awareness:** Improving the ability of border authorities to detect, track, identify and eventually neutralize UAS-related threats promptly.
- **Maintaining Operational Integrity:** Ensuring that border management operations are not compromised by unauthorized or hostile UAS activities.

Objectives of the Contest

The primary goals of the contest are to:

- **Stimulate Innovation:** Demonstrate innovative C-UAS capabilities (UAS detection, tracking, identification and neutralisation) and associated procedures relevant for border management with a focus on the neutralization / mitigation components of the C-UAS solution.
- **Assess Effectiveness:** Identify and assess in a simulated operational environment, C-UAS solutions capable of detecting, tracking, identifying and most importantly neutralizing UAV-related threats - off-the-shelf and custom-made UAVs, including those equipped with advanced counter-countermeasures.
- **Assess Fit for Purpose:** Identify and assess practical operational solutions to be deployed and used by the EBCG community to strengthen border security.
- **Evaluate Operational Efficiency:** Assess the ability of C-UAS solutions to achieve optimal operational performance with minimal resource consumption, focusing on deployment feasibility, operator requirements and training, maintenance needs, and cost-effectiveness over extended operational periods.

By achieving these objectives, the contest aims to **strengthen the EBCG capabilities** for preventing and combating unauthorized, uncooperative UAS activities at external borders, thereby contributing to a higher level of internal security within the EU.

Contest Overview

The contest is structured in two distinct phases:

- **Phase 1:** Submission and evaluation of C-UAS **technical proposals**. Once the Applications meet the eligibility, exclusion and admissibility criteria, they will go through the technical evaluation process. The Top Five applicants will be selected based on the merit of their technical proposals based on Phase 1 Prize award criteria and will each receive a prize.

The solutions described in the technical proposals shall be feasible for deployment and operations in phase 2, if selected in phase 1.

- **Phase 2:** **Live operational trials** in a simulated border environment at a designated test site in Europe. The Top Five finalists from Phase 1 will be invited to participate as contestants in these trials over a period of 3-4 weeks. The solutions will be ranked based on the performances against the Phase 2 Prize award criteria.

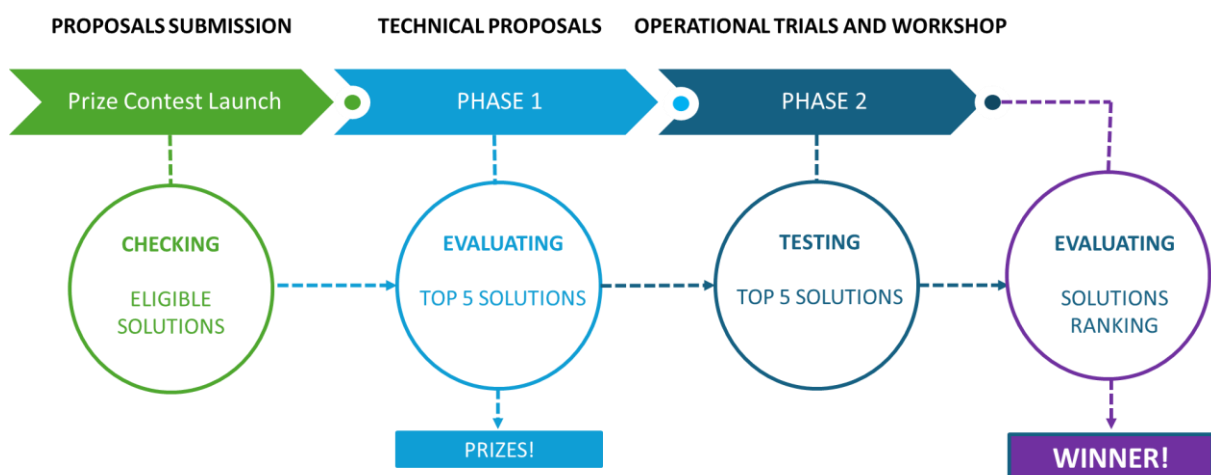


Figure 1 - Prize Contest C-UAS roadmap

Scope of the contest

Applicants are invited to design, develop, and submit C-UAS solutions that are:

- **Innovative:** Introducing new methods or improving existing technologies.
- **Effective:** Capable of detecting, tracking, identifying, as well as neutralizing off-the-shelf and custom-made UAVs, including those equipped with advanced counter-countermeasures.
- **Efficient:** High added value and cost benefit.



Neutralization, in the context of this contest, refers to the prevention and combating of UAS illicit activities at the border. This includes:

- **Preventing:** Disrupting a UAV's ability to perform its flight (e.g., jamming communications, interfering with navigation).
- **Combating:** Taking over control of the UAV or causing a critical failure that results in the UAV being unable to sustain flight and/or complete its mission.

Overall Technical Proposal Requirements

- **Maturity of Solution:** Applicants should submit C-UAS solutions that are sufficiently mature to enter Phase 2. Solutions should be ready for live operational trials and demonstrate practical applicability and have a minimum of TRL 7.
- **Safety:** Proposed solutions must be able to be safely used in a border environment by border management authorities, either in a remote border area or in a populated area with considerations of local critical infrastructure.

Types of neutralization methods

Applicants are encouraged to utilize various methods or combinations thereof to neutralize UAS, including but not limited to:

- Jamming Systems
- Spoofing Systems
- Directed Energy Systems
- Cyber-based Neutralization
- Kinetic Methods
- Other Innovative Approaches

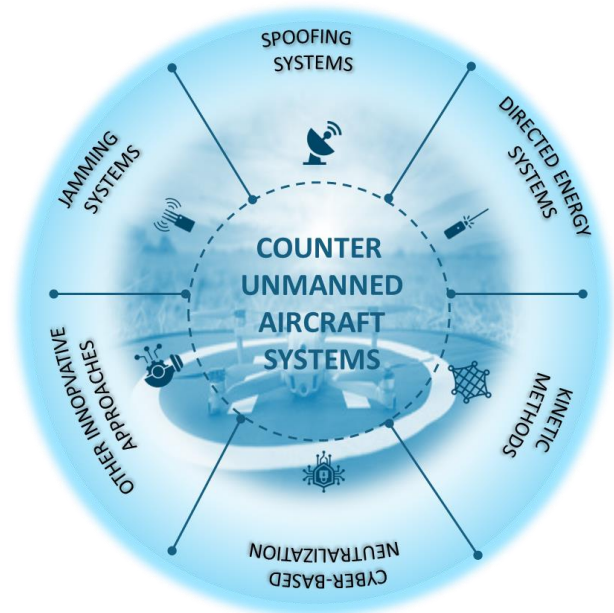


Figure 2 Counter UAS methods

The C-UAS solution may include one or more neutralisation methods effective against off the shelf UAVs available on the market as well as custom made models.

Testing Scenarios

The testing scenarios will be based on the main threats the EBCG faces at the external EU borders (e.g. unauthorized or hostile surveillance and smuggling).

For the purpose of Phase 2, the testing scenarios will be customized to assess the proposed C-UAS solutions and evaluate the performance of each subsystem. Scenarios will include among others:

- Testing against off-the-shelf and custom-made UAVs.
- Assessing effectiveness against UAVs with various counter-countermeasures.
- Repeating scenarios multiple times (at least twice) to ensure accurate measurements.

Indicative Dates and Deadlines

- Call for Prizes Opening: 20 December 2024
- Deadline for Submission of Applications: **17 March 2025 13:00 h Warsaw time**
- Announcement of Top Five Applicants (Phase 1 Winners): June 2025
- Announcement of Top Five Applicants (Invited to Phase 2): June 2025
- Live Operational Trials and Workshop (Phase 2): October 2025
- Announcement of Phase 2 Winner: November 2025

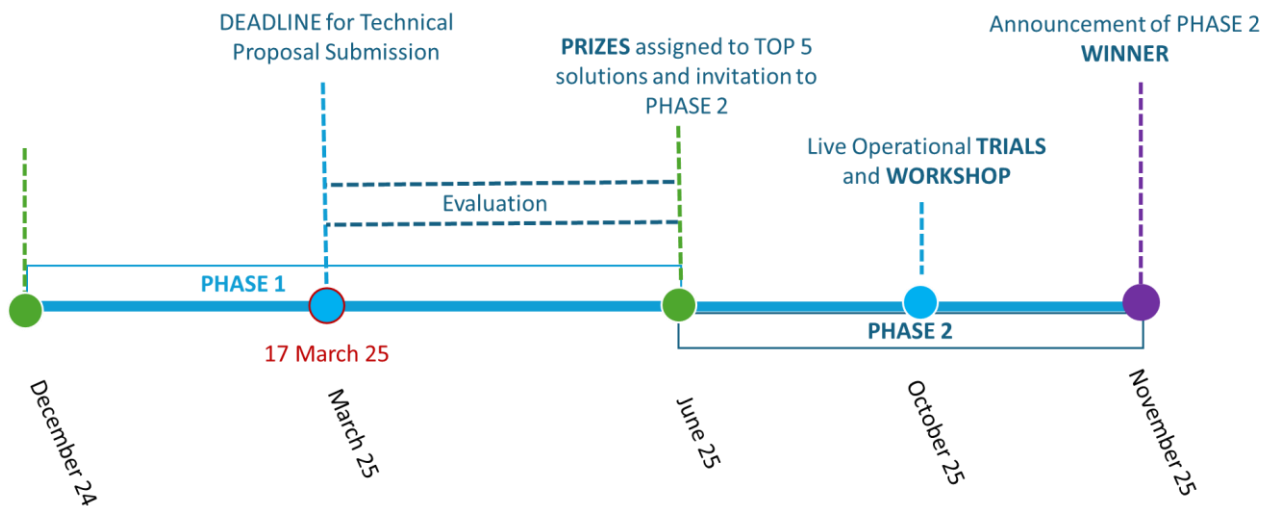


Figure 3 - Prize Contest C-UAS timeline

Applicants shall note that this timeline is indicative and may be changed without prior notice. The most updated version of this schedule will be available, and continuously updated, on the Prize Contest website below.

<https://www.frontex.europa.eu/innovation/research-and-innovation/prize-contests/c-uas-prize-contest-sFXJdl>

Applicants are encouraged to adhere strictly to these deadlines to ensure a smooth progression through the contest phases.

For further details on eligibility criteria, application procedures, evaluation methods, award processes, and additional information, please refer to the subsequent sections of this document.

Available Prizes

The total value of prizes is EUR 960 000.

Frontex will award financial rewards to applicants that comply with the requirements and meet or surpass the criteria laid out in this document.

Frontex will award the following prizes per phase to the top scoring applicants:

END OF PHASE 1 - Technical Proposal

- 5 awards of EUR 20 000 each

Top Five Applicants will be invited to Phase 2

END OF PHASE 2 - Operational trials

- 1st Prize: EUR 270 000
- 2nd Prize: EUR 220 000
- 3rd Prize: EUR 170 000
- 4th and 5th Prize EUR 100 000

2. Application Process

2.1. Step-by-Step Guide to Submit an Application

The Prize Contest welcomes proposals from all sources, sectors, and types of organizations, including public entities, private sector companies, and non-profit organizations.

Single and Joint Applications

Applications can be submitted either as a single applicant or as a joint application.

Joint Application Composition:

- Joint Applications are submitted by multiple legal entities represented by a lead applicant.
- The Lead Applicant is responsible for the submission and coordination of the proposal.
- All members of the joint application share responsibility for fulfilling and adhering to the conditions and requirements outlined in these Rules of Contest.
- Each member of the joint application must meet individually the eligibility criteria and has identical legal and administrative obligations and rights as single applicants.

Subcontractors

- Applicants are free to subcontract any part of the work to any economic operators from any country (including outside of EU).
- Sub-contracting is allowed, provided that the subcontractor(s) roles and responsibilities, along with its estimated scope of work, is clearly indicated in the Technical Proposal.

Preparation of Application Documents

- Submit your **paper and digital** (scanned paper version of the Application on a USB drive) **format** documents.
- To ensure clarity and accuracy, please submit information that is clear, concise, and well-organized, with proper attention to grammar, spelling, and formatting, and fully compliant with the Rules of Contest. Supporting graphics and data should be used to enhance understanding of proposed ideas and concepts.
- Supplementary documents may be requested by Frontex during application evaluation process.

2.2. Application composition:

Applicants must prepare their application, which includes the mandatory list of documents below, in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Rules of Contest.

In order to submit an Application all the following documents provided as annexes must be filled and signed.

2.2.1. Technical Proposal document

- **Technical Proposal (ANNEX 1):** A document that provides a clear and concise in-depth description of the proposed C-UAS solution, its staff and logistical support to perform the live operational tests in the simulated operational border environment, not longer than 50 pages.

2.2.2. Administrative documents:

- **Declaration on Honour (ANNEX 2):** Each applicant(s)' Declaration on Honour.
- **Legal Entity Form (ANNEX 3a Legal Entity Form Natural Person; ANNEX 3b Legal Entity Form Private-Public Law Body With Legal Form; ANNEX 3c Legal Entity Public Law Body):** (applicants should select a template adequate to the type of legal entity).
- **Financial Identification Form (ANNEX 4):** Form to be filled and signed by the single applicant(s) or lead applicant in case of joint applications and the representative of their banks, the signature of the bank representative can be replaced with the latest bank account statement.
- **Privacy Notice (ANNEX 5):** For information, no signature required.

2.2.3. Administrative online form

- **[Online Registration form \(EU Survey link\)](#):** applicants must fill in the questionnaire to finalise the application before the deadline for submission of Applications.

Annex No.	Document Name	Instructions for Single Applicants	Instructions for Joint Application	
			Lead applicant	All applicants
ANNEX 1	Technical Proposal	To be filled in and signed by the Applicant	To be filled in and signed by the Lead Applicant	Not required
ANNEX 2	Declaration on Honour	To be filled in and signed by the Applicant	To be filled in and signed by all Applicants of the Joint Application	
ANNEX 3	Legal entity form	To be filled in and signed by the Applicant	To be filled in and signed by all applicants of the Joint Application	
ANNEX 4	Financial Identification Form	To be filled in and signed by the Applicant, its bank representative/or the last bank statement should be provided	To be filled in and signed by the Lead Applicant, its bank representative/or the last bank statement should be provided	Not required
ANNEX 5	Privacy notice	For information only, no signature required	For information only, no signature required	
ONLINE	Registration form (EU Survey)	To be filled in by the Applicant	To be filled in by the Lead Applicant	Not required

Table 1 - Prize Contest C-UAS Application checklist

Submitting the Application

- Applications must be sent before the deadline of submission in **paper and digital** (scanned paper version of the Application on a USB drive) **format** by courier services or in person to **Frontex Research and Innovation**

Unit, plac Europejski 6, Spire Building Reception Office Ground Floor 00-844 Warsaw, Poland indicating the title C-UAS Prize Contest.

- **Registration form (EU Survey):** must be submitted before the deadline for submission of Applications.

Applications submitted after the specified deadline date and/or sent in a different way than described above will not be considered.

Deadline of Submission

Deadline of Submission of Applications is **17 March 2025, 13:00 h Warsaw time.**

Confirmation of Receipt

Frontex will not confirm the receipt of Application once it gets delivered to Frontex HQ.

Important Note

Frontex will not reimburse any costs or expenses incurred in preparing and submitting Applications in response to this contest.

3. Award Procedure

Overview of the award procedure

Evaluation of the Applications undergo 3 steps, the

1. Eligibility, Exclusion and Admissibility check,
2. Phase 1 Evaluation of the Technical Proposals,
3. Phase 2 Evaluation of the proposed technical solutions in a simulated operational border environment.

The evaluation of Applications will be conducted in accordance with the requirements and conditions outlined in these Rules of Contest.

The evaluation will be carried out confidentially by the **Evaluation Committee**, in accordance with the regulatory framework. The Evaluation Committee is nominated by Frontex and consists of a minimum of 3 evaluators.

Applications will undergo an **admissibility, eligibility and exclusion criteria check** by Frontex prior to evaluation. Failure to meet any of the admissibility, eligibility and exclusion criteria will result in the rejection of the Application.

Eligible Applications will then be subject to a **merit-based evaluation** lead by Frontex.

At both phases of the Prize Contest, Frontex will assess the Applicants based on the award criteria established for each phase of the contest.

The evaluation will be conducted in two stages:

- **Individual evaluation:** At first stage, each evaluator from the Evaluation Committee will independently assess each Applicant.
- **Consensus:** At second stage, the evaluators will reach consensus on the Applicant final scoring.

Evaluators will assign each Application a final score ranging from 1 to 5 points, 5 being the maximum scoring.

Each phase of the contest will have its own ranking list. Applicants will be ranked in descending order of their scores, with the highest scorer at the top of the ranking list. In the case of a tie (ex aequo scoring), a secondary evaluation criterion will be applied: the ranking will be determined based on the higher score in the effectiveness metric.

In Phase 1 Top Five ranked Applicants will be awarded prizes and invited to Phase 2.

In Phase 2 the Top Five Applicants will be awarded prizes.

The results of each Phase evaluation will be sent to all Applicants by Frontex.

Applicants in the Prize Contest irrevocably acknowledge that Frontex's Evaluation Committee **deliberations are confidential and will not be disclosed.**

3.1. Eligibility, Exclusion and Admissibility check

3.1.1. Overview of the Eligibility, Exclusion and Admissibility check process

After the deadline, Frontex will perform eligibility, admissibility and exclusion criteria checks on the applications.

Frontex may contact the Applicants during the checks:

- If clarification or additional evidence of the administrative information is required.
- If any obvious clerical errors in the Application need to be corrected.

The Technical Proposal should not be modified as a result of clarifications or corrections.

Application will be rejected in case of a failure in:

- Providing the supporting documents/corrections/clarifications within the indicated time limit.
- Not meeting any of the Eligibility, Exclusion and Admissibility criteria.

Outcome of the check will be sent out after completion of results of the evaluation of the Technical Proposals.

3.1.2. Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for Application, Applicants must meet the following criteria:

Legal Entity Status:

- Applicants (or the Lead Applicant in the case of Joint Applications) must be **legal entities**. This includes natural persons and public or private bodies.
- Entities without legal personality under their national law may exceptionally apply, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and proposal guarantees equivalent to those proposed by legal persons for the protection of the EU's financial interests.

Place of registration:

- Applicants must be **established in one of the European Union (EU) Member States** including overseas countries and territories or in one of the **Schengen Associated countries or EEA countries**.
- For natural persons, the legal domicile must be registered in **one of the European Union (EU) Member States** including overseas countries and territories or in one of the **Schengen Associated countries or EEA countries**.

3.1.3. Exclusion criteria

Applicants who are the subject of an EU exclusion decision or are in one of the following exclusion situations that prevent them from receiving EU funding are not eligible to apply:

- **Bankruptcy or Insolvency:** Bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities, or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the Applicant's debts).
- **Breaches of Obligations:** In breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the Applicant's debts).
- **Professional Misconduct:** Guilty of grave professional misconduct (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners, or persons essential for the award/implementation of the prize).
- **Criminal Activities:** Committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organization, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour, or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners, or persons essential for the award/implementation of the prize).
- **Non-Compliance with EU Contracts:** Shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by

persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners, or persons essential for the award/implementation of the prize).

- **Regulatory Irregularities:** Guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners, or persons essential for the award/implementation of the prize).
- **Circumventing Legal Obligations:** Created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social, or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity for this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners, or persons essential for the award/implementation of the prize).
- **Special Entities:** Entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/05) shall not be eligible to apply in any capacity.

Applicants are **not eligible to apply or to be awarded** if:

- During the award procedure, it is verified that they misrepresented information required as a condition for applying or failed to supply that information.
- They were involved in the preparation of this initiative, and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).
- They have already received an EU or EURATOM prize, and therefore are not eligible to receive a second prize for the same scope of activities.

The exclusion criteria will be checked based on the submitted Declaration on Honour (Annex 2) where Applicants self-declare they are not in the situations described above.

3.1.4. Admissibility criteria

Submission Requirements:

- Applicants should fill in the **Online Registration Form** before the deadline of Application submission. After this deadline the EU Survey registration form will be closed, and Application shall no longer be submitted.
- Applications must be sent before the deadline of submission in paper and digital (scanned paper version of the Application on a USB drive) format by courier services or in person to **Frontex Research and Innovation Unit, plac Europejski 6, Spire Building Reception Office Ground Floor 00-844 Warsaw, Poland** indicating the title **C-UAS Prize Contest**.
- Multiple Applications (Technical Proposals) submitted by a single Applicant or Lead Applicant in case of joint applications (e.g. consortia, multiple legal entities) are not allowed.
- Application must be prepared using standardized templates provided as annexes to these Rules of Contest. The filled in templates must be correctly signed and stamped where indicated.
- An Applicant must provide all supplementary documents requested by Frontex during the evaluation of the Application within the indicated deadline.
- The application must be readable and written in English and the technical Proposal of not larger than 50 pages.
- Applications out of the scope defined in the Rules of Contest are inadmissible.

3.2. Phase 1 evaluation

3.2.1. Overview of the Phase 1

The purpose of Phase 1 is to review and evaluate eligible Technical Proposals submitted for C-UAS solutions focusing on UAV neutralization. This phase aims to select the Top Five Applicants whose solutions will advance to Phase 2 for live operational trials.

Technical Proposal overview

The Technical Proposal should comprehensively present the Applicant's C-UAS solution, covering its core capabilities and deployment feasibility. The Technical Proposal must detail:

- **Solution Concept and Capabilities:** Describe the solution’s approach to UAV neutralization, including specific methods (e.g., jamming, spoofing, directed energy, cyber-based neutralization, or kinetic actions). Outline the operational range, response time, and effectiveness across single and swarm scenarios.
- **System Composition and Specifications:** Provide detailed technical specifications of each component (hardware and software), addressing power output, mobility, interconnectivity, and automation levels. Include system capabilities for mitigating and neutralizing multiple UAV threats.
- **Deployment Feasibility and Requirements:** Explain the solution’s configurations (portable, mobile, deployable, fixed), setup and deployment time, operator needs, training, and maintenance requirements, focusing on its ease of deployment and operational autonomy.
- **Data Management and Reporting:** Outline data collection and reporting methods, including formats compatible with other systems and reporting capabilities.
- **Safety, Limitations, and Cost Estimates:** Address solution safety standards, environmental and operational limitations, lifecycle expectations, and an estimated cost structure covering acquisition, operation, training and maintenance.
- **Documentation and Training:** Provide supporting documentation, including manuals, training requirements, and certifications to ensure the solution’s regulatory compliance and operational readiness.

Evaluation and Ranking

All submitted Technical Proposals will be assessed and ranked based on their alignment with the requirements for innovative, effective and efficient UAV neutralization. The evaluation process will ensure that only the most promising solutions proceed to the next phase.

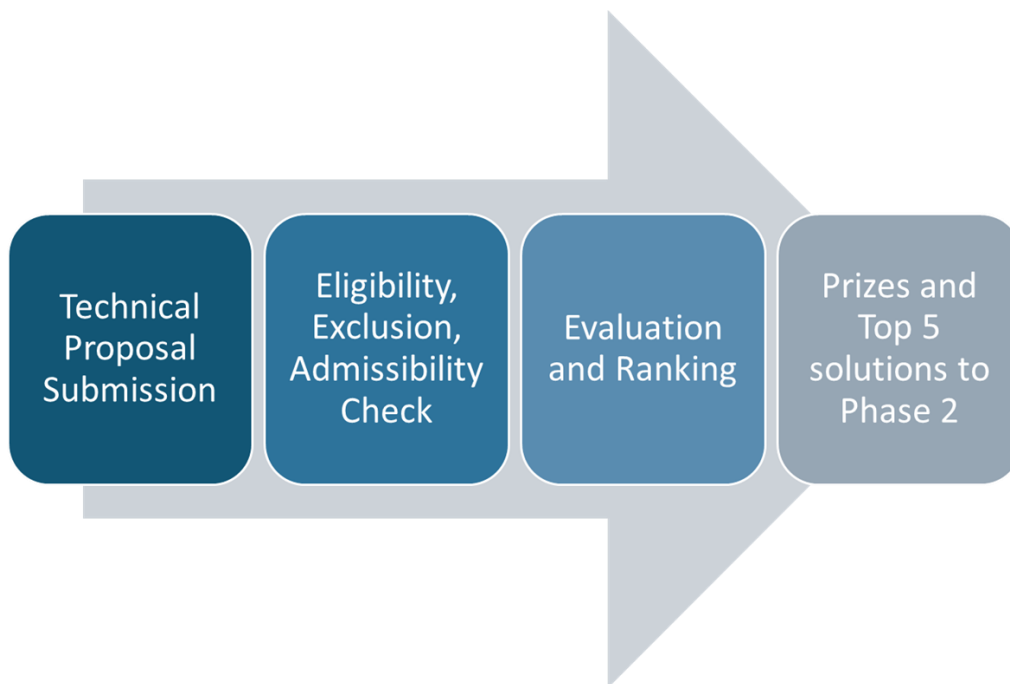


Figure 4 - Phase 1 Technical Proposal workflow

Quality Threshold

Only Technical Proposals that score a minimum of 3 ("Good") on the evaluation scale will be placed in the ranking list. This score reflects C-UAS solutions that meet most requirements, are feasible, relevant, and show potential for effective implementation, though they may lack exceptional strengths.

3.2.2. Phase 1 award criteria

Frontex will assess the applications against the Phase 1 award criteria described below

Section		Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Score (1-5)	Weighted Score	
Comprehensiveness of the technical solution	Overall Feasibility	Adequacy with C-UAS requirements, and feasibility within project constraints	10%	5	0.5	25%
	Alignment with EBCG needs	The solution is relevant for border management use cases and it is designed to be used by law enforcement authorities at the border	5%	5	0.25	
	Team Composition and Responsibilities	Expertise and experience of the team in UAV neutralisation area, clear role definitions and plan to operate and manage the solution once deployed in the test site	5%	5	0.25	
	Readiness	Readiness to be deployed in a operational test environment. The solution is complete and operational, backed up by support staff and logistics necessary to be operated 8h\day for 3-4 weeks on a site in Europe (mandatory requirement)	5%	5	0.25	
Innovativeness of the technical solution	Progresses beyond the state of the art	The solution is introducing new methods or improving existing technologies for UAV neutralisation	5%	5	0.25	20%
	System Composition and Technical Specifications	Integration and interoperability of hardware and software components, performance metrics, and automation level	10%	5	0.5	
	Solution maturity	TRL (Technology Readiness Level) starting from level 7 up to 9	5%	5	0.25	
Effectiveness of the technical solution	Technical Capabilities and Functional Requirements	Effectiveness of threat mitigation methods (e.g., jamming, spoofing, kinetic, directed energy) and scalability for handling single and swarm drones	15%	5	0.75	35%
	Performance	Operational range, altitude capability, and neutralisation time	10%	5	0.5	
	Precision	Precision in targeting specific UAV vulnerabilities, precision in power output and precision in targeting a single UAV from a UAS swarm	5%	5	0.25	
	Data Management, Reporting, and Systems Integration	Data collection and reporting capabilities, compatibility with existing systems	5%	5	0.25	
Efficiency of the technical solution	Operational Requirements and Deployment Feasibility	Mobility (portable, mobile, deployable, fixed), setup time, operator needs, logistical needs and footprint	5%	5	0.25	20%

	Safety, Vulnerabilities, and Limitations	Safety for operators and bystanders, assessment of environmental and technical limitations	5%	5	0.25
	Maintenance	Maintenance and sustainability plan for a 3-4 weeks deployment in the test site	3%	5	0.15
	Documentation and Supporting Materials	Availability and completeness of manuals, training requirements, certifications, and regulatory compliance documentation	2%	5	0.1
	Product Lifecycle and Cost Estimation	Cost-efficiency, lifecycle costs, and anticipated upgrade needs	5%	5	0.25
	Total	The maximum weighted score you can achieve for a proposal, if every criterion is rated as a 5, will be 5.0	100%		5

Table 2 - Award criteria for Phase 1 - Technical Proposal

Score	Description
1 - Poor	Proposal does not meet the basic requirements for this section. Major weaknesses are present, and the approach is inadequate or missing key elements. Little to no innovation, feasibility, or relevance to objectives is demonstrated.
2 - Fair	Proposal partially meets the requirements but has significant weaknesses. The approach may lack clarity, depth, or feasibility. Some aspects are addressed, but with limited potential effectiveness or innovation.
3 - Good	Proposal meets most requirements with a sound approach and acceptable level of detail. The solution is feasible and relevant, though it may lack standout features or exceptional strengths. Some innovation or differentiation is shown.
4 - Very Good	Proposal exceeds requirements, providing a clear, detailed, and feasible approach. The solution is well-developed, addresses the section criteria effectively, and demonstrates notable innovation or competitive advantage. Minor improvements may be possible.
5 - Excellent	Proposal significantly exceeds requirements with a highly detailed, innovative, and exceptionally feasible approach. The solution is comprehensive, fully aligned with objectives, and displays outstanding strengths in this area, with no notable weaknesses.

Table 3 - Scale for assessment of award criteria for Phase 1 - Technical Proposal

3.2.3. Phase 1 prizes

In Phase 1, prizes of **20.000 EUR** will be awarded to the **Top Five ranked** technical proposals based on their solution description, and their readiness to proceed to phase 2.

The **Top Five** ranked technical proposals will be invited to **Phase 2** - the live operational trials in a simulated operational border environment against simulated UAS threats.

3.3. Phase 2 evaluation

3.3.1. Overview of the Phase 2

Objectives: Phase 2 aims to test and evaluate the Top Five ranked C-UAS solutions from Phase 1 in a simulated operational border environment. The focus is on assessing the neutralization capabilities of the selected C-UAS solutions under realistic and progressively challenging scenarios against simulated UAV threats by various UAS, including a range of off-the-shelf and custom-made UAV's, within a simulated operational border environment in the test site.

Workflow:

- **Solution Deployment:** Deployment of the C-UAS solution at the test site. Frontex provides only office and secure storage spaces for equipment; all other infrastructure or logistical support for deployment, installation and operation is the Applicant's responsibility.
- **Integration and Calibration:** Initial integration, calibration, and testing post deployment of the C-UAS solution without active UAV threat emulation to ensure functionality.
- **Baseline Testing:** Basic testing against UAV threats to establish baseline performance metrics for further advanced testing.
- **Progressively Complex Testing:** More complex tests, introducing multiple UAV threat variables within the testing scenarios, to evaluate adaptability and effectiveness under varied conditions.
- **Live Workshop:** Near the end of the operational trials, a two-day workshop will be held with Frontex delegates, representatives from EU Member States, EU Commission, and other EU agencies to observe and discuss findings and performance outcomes.

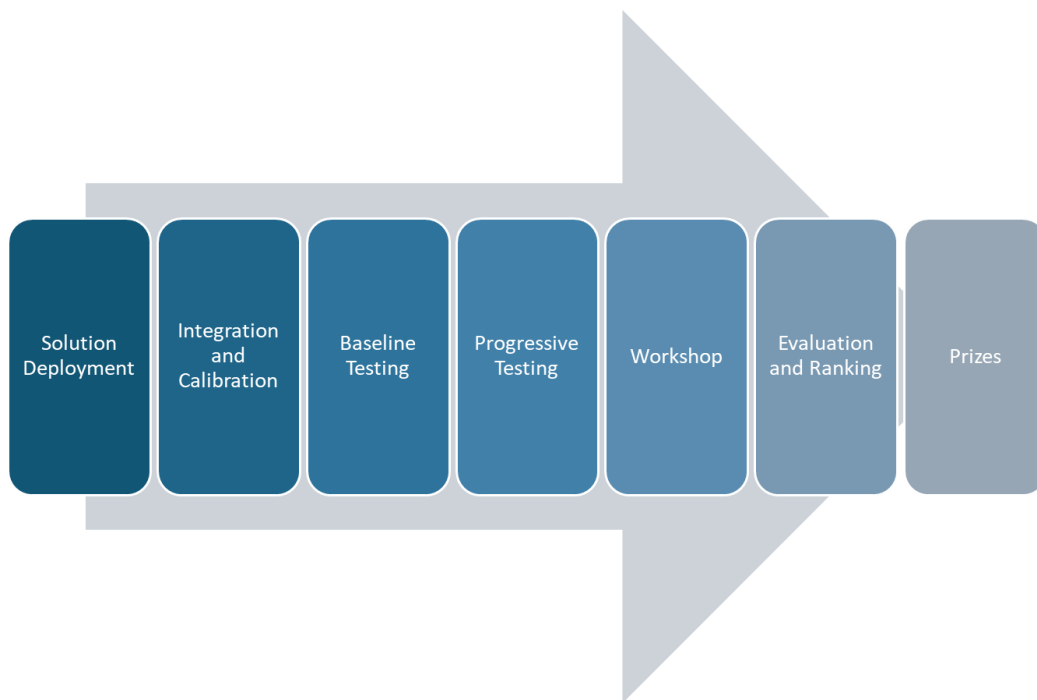


Figure 5 - Phase 2 Operational Trials workflow

Reporting Requirements:

- **Data Collection:** Data such as power output, frequencies, direction or sector used, and neutralization methods for each scenario must be systematically recorded. Each Applicant will provide logs for each scenario in an open geospatial format (such as shapefile, geopackage or kml, which can be opened in GIS software) containing timestamp, location of detected aircraft, distance to aircraft, type of detection/neutralisation method used will include effector power output, frequency and direction. For each log, a short description is to be provided.
- **Final Reports:** At the end of the operational trials, Applicants must provide detailed daily reports for each scenario tested, capturing the specific power outputs, frequencies, direction or sector, neutralization methods used, and outcomes.

UAV threat emulation: Frontex will provide the test site and as well the off the shelf and custom made UAS threat emulation through a red teaming service. The emulated threats will be sufficient in numbers and variations on models include up to 25 kg UAV.

Generic Testing Scenario: A typical test involves launching a UAV from Zone A (Red Team territory), simulating an illicit cross-border activity toward Zone B (Blue Team territory), and returning it to Zone A, with neutralization occurring during the scenario.

Testing Scenario Variables: Scenarios will vary by UAV type (off-the-shelf or custom-made UAV), direction, speed, altitude, number of UAVs, and environmental factors available onsite (e.g. weather conditions, natural obstacles). Prior to each scenario, Applicants **will not receive** information on the UAV flight tracks, speeds, altitudes, or UAV models before each scenario starts.

Duration: The operational trials will last 3-4 weeks.

Site Location: Indicatively planned to be held near Lisbon, Portugal, with flexibility for location changes in another EU member state due to unexpected circumstances. Location details will be provided in the invitation to Phase 2 to the selected 5 applicants closer to the operational trials.

Site Restrictions: Testing will occur at a remote site with limited logistical support (for power, communication, and transportation). Frontex will provide office and storage spaces for equipment- **In order to prevent interference with critical communication or local infrastructure, frequency limitations, power output and direction restrictions will be required**, hence the solution must be able to have configurable power, frequencies and direction output to limit its effect beyond the test site area. Precise information on the test site limitations will be given to the 5 applicants invited to Phase 2.

Financial Responsibility: Applicants must organize and cover all costs associated with deployment, operation, and maintenance and taking the equipment off site for Phase 2, as **Frontex will not reimburse such expenses**.

3.3.2. Phase 2 award criteria

The evaluation criteria for Phase 2 are divided into effectiveness and efficiency and reliability. Each solution will be assessed against a defined set of metrics to determine its overall performance under operational conditions.

Metrics for Evaluation of the C-UAS solution effectiveness:

- **Neutralisation Capability:** The ability of the solution to neutralize the UAV threat. This includes disrupting its flight or its ability to perform unauthorized missions (e.g., simulated surveillance or smuggling scenarios) or completely disabling its flight electronics, software, or physical components (in part or in total).
- **Neutralization Range:** The maximum effective range for neutralizing a target UAV, tested at various altitudes and speeds.
- **Precision:** The ability to neutralize only the designated target UAV without affecting friendly UAVs, decoy UAVs in a swarm, or interfering with local infrastructure (such as critical communications). The solution must operate in ISM frequency bands for UAV control, telemetry, video feed and GNSS positioning, with configurable power output and direction.
- **Single and Multi-Target Neutralization:** The ability to neutralize multiple UAVs simultaneously.
- **UAV Compatibility:** The solution's effectiveness against various UAV types, including off-the-shelf (e.g., DJI) and custom-made models. It should demonstrate effectiveness against UAVs equipped with:
 - Electromagnetic shielding
 - Resistance to high energy effector systems
 - Low or no electromagnetic emissions
 - Capabilities to function in GNSS-denied environments using alternative navigation methods (e.g., visual odometry or inertial navigation systems).
- **Deployment mobility:** Classification of the solution as portable, mobile, deployable, or fixed, and its adaptability for various deployment scenarios.

Metrics for Evaluation of the solution efficiency:

- **Operational Readiness:** Time required to set up the system, manpower needs, including calibration, and bring it to full operational state.
- **Readiness Time:** Time taken for a deployed solution to transition from an off state to an operational state.
- **Response Time:** Time required to neutralize a UAV target within the system's effective range (measured from target acquisition to the disruption or neutralization effect).

- **Logistical Footprint and Power Requirements:** Assessment of the solution’s power autonomy (e.g., battery life or local power dependency), and dependence on local infrastructure.
- **Operational Efficiency:** The number of operators and support staff required, the operational workload, and ease of use. Fully autonomous solutions will receive higher ratings.
- **Human-Machine Interface:** The user-friendliness of the interface, including visibility of equipment status and ease of adjusting frequencies, power output, direction, and neutralization modes.

Metrics for Evaluation of the solution reliability and resilience:

- **Reliability:** The solution’s consistency in achieving the same results under identical scenarios. Each scenario will be repeated at least twice to assess consistent performance under similar test conditions.
- **Resilience:** The solution’s ability to perform reliably without downtimes or interruptions under challenging environmental conditions (e.g., rain, fog, or high wind).

Additional Capabilities

- **Detection, Tracking, and Identification (DTI):** Performance will not be assessed.

Frontex will assess the applications against the Phase 2 award criteria described below:

Section	Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Score (1-5)	Weighted Score	
Effectiveness	Neutralization Capability	15%	5	0.75	60%
	Neutralization Range	15%	5	0.75	
	Precision	10%	5	0.5	
	Multi-Target Neutralization	5%	5	0.25	
	UAV Compatibility	10%	5	0.5	
	Deployment Mobility	5%	5	0.25	
Efficiency	Operational Readiness	5%	5	0.25	30%
	Readiness Time	5%	5	0.25	
	Response Time	5%	5	0.25	
	Logistical Footprint and Autonomy	5%	5	0.25	
	Operational Efficiency	5%	5	0.25	
	Human-Machine Interface	5%	5	0.25	
Reliability and Resilience	Reliability	5%	5	0.25	10%
	Resilience	5%	5	0.25	
Total		100%		5	

Table 4 - Award criteria for Phase 2 - Operational Trials

Score	Description
1 - Poor	Does not meet the basic requirements; major weaknesses.
2 - Fair	Partially meets requirements but has significant weaknesses.
3 - Good	Meets most requirements with acceptable quality.
4 - Very Good	Exceeds requirements with strong performance.
5 - Excellent	Significantly exceeds requirements with outstanding performance.
	benchmark for assessing each section

Table 5 - Scale for assessment of award criteria for Phase 2 - Operational Trials

3.3.3. Phase 2 prizes

In Phase 2, the following Prizes will be awarded:

- 1st Prize: EUR 270 000 (Prize Contest Winner)
- 2nd Prize: EUR 220 000
- 3rd Prize: EUR 170 000
- 4th and 5th Prize EUR 100 000

Quality Threshold

Only Applicants that score a minimum of 3 ("Good") on the evaluation scale will be awarded. This score reflects solutions that meet most requirements, are feasible, relevant, and show potential for effective implementation, though they may lack exceptional strengths.

4. Additional Information

4.1. Legal provisions

The C-UAS Prize Contest is a call for EU prizes (Contest) on C-UAS focusing on UAV neutralisation solutions.

The regulatory framework for the Prize Contest is set out in Regulation 2024/2509 of the European Parliament of 23 September 2024¹, as well, as in the Frontex Financial Regulation adopted by Management Board decision No 19/2019 of 23 July 2019².

The Call for Prizes is launched in accordance with the Single Programming Document 2024-2026 and will be managed by Frontex.

The Contest is governed by the applicable European Union law complemented, where necessary, by the law of Poland. The General Court or, on appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Union, shall have sole jurisdiction to hear any dispute between the Union and any Applicant concerning the interpretation, applications, or validity of the rules of this Contest, if such dispute cannot be settled amicably.

This document and its annexes set out rules governing the C-UAS Prize Contest. Additional documentation providing further information and clarifications to the applicants will be published on the dedicated Prize Contest website below.

<https://www.frontex.europa.eu/innovation/research-and-innovation/prize-contests/c-uas-prize-contest-sFXJdl>

4.2. Reimbursement of costs

- Frontex shall not reimburse any costs nor expenses incurred in preparing and submitting the Applications in response to this Prize Contest.
- Frontex shall not reimburse any costs nor expenses incurred by the Applicants in Phase 2 - Operational Trials.

4.3. Award decision and payment arrangements,

Based on the evaluation carried out by the Frontex in accordance with the principles of transparency and equal treatment, the awarding authority will:

- Award Phase 1 prizes to the Top Five applicants.
- Invite the Top-Five ranked Applicants to Phase 2.
- Award Phase 2 prizes.

¹ [Regulation - EU, Euratom - 2024/2509 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

² <https://prd.frontex.europa.eu/document/management-board-decision-19-2019-adopting-the-frontex-financial-regulation/>

All Applicants will be informed about the evaluation results through an “evaluation result letter” sent out after the completion of each phase of the contest. Information on the awarded Applicants will be published at the Prize Contest website.

The prizes will be paid to the prize winners within not more than 1 month after the publication of the results of each Phase of the Prize Contest. In case of joint applications, the payment will be made to the Lead Applicant.

4.4. Complaints

Applicants may request further clarifications or submit an appeal concerning the evaluation process of their application to the awarding authority at prize.award@frontex.europa.eu during the **10 calendar days** following the date of the letter informing about the evaluation results of each phase of the contest. After this period the selection procedure will be officially concluded. Appeals must focus on aspects concerning the evaluation of the Applications (e.g., admissibility or eligibility checks, evaluation procedure, etc), **not their merits**. Thus, applicants can raise procedural irregularities, factual errors, manifest errors of assessment or abuse of powers. The Prize Contest Applicants irrevocably acknowledge that Frontex’ deliberations are confidential and shall not be disclosed.

4.5. Fundamental rights and ethical standards

- Applicants must recognise that Frontex guarantees the protection of fundamental rights in the performance of its tasks under EBCG Regulation in accordance with relevant Union law, in particular the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFREU), and relevant international law, including the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and obligations related to access to international protection, in particular the principle of non-refoulement (Art. 80 EBCG Regulation).
- Applicants must comply with all relevant EU law and national laws.
- Applicants must comply with highest ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and respect the key values the EU is founded on (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, transparency, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).
- Applications involving ethical issues may undergo an ethics review. Applications that involve the use of military or dual-use systems shall clearly describe in their Technical proposal any potential ethical issue regarding their Application. Specific ethical requirements may be requested to authorise funding.

4.6. Security

- Applicants shall be aware that Frontex is aligned with the principle of transparency and the rights of individuals to access documents of EU bodies, and so it may provide public access to documentation³.
- Applicants’ Technical proposals and documentation will be treated as confidential by Frontex throughout the Prize Contest. No commercially confidential information submitted by applicants will be disclosed by Frontex unless otherwise authorized by Applicant.

4.7. Communication and dissemination of results

4.7.1. Contacts between applicants and Frontex

Contacts between Frontex and the applicants before the deadline for submission of applications may take place only in exceptional circumstances, and under the following conditions only:

³ The principle of transparency and the rights of individuals to access documents of EU bodies are laid down in both Article 15 of the TFEU and Article 42 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU and implemented through Regulation (EC) [No 1049/2001](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001). The internal framework for Public Access to Documents held by Frontex is set by Frontex Management Board Decision [No 25/2016 of 21 September 2016](#).

Link: https://prd.frontex.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/mb_decision_25_2016_on_adopting_practical_arrangements_regarding_pad.pdf

- Frontex may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission, or other clerical error in the text of the Prize Contest documents. This information will be published solely at the Prize Contest website.
- Applicants may request clarifications regarding the Prize Contest documentation. The requests for additional information must be made in writing only through the dedicated functional mailbox (prize.award@frontex.europa.eu) with subject: “Clarification request for C-UAS Prize Contest”.
- Frontex is not bound to reply to requests for additional information made less than 5 business days before the deadline for submission of Applications.
- Any other contacts are prohibited and can lead to the exclusion of the Applicant.

After the deadline for submission of applications, contact may take place between Frontex and applicants only in exceptional circumstances, and under the following conditions only:

- If clarification or additional evidence in relation to the Application is required.
- If clarification is requested or if obvious clerical errors in the Application need to be corrected, provided that the terms of the Technical proposal are not modified as a result.

In the above-mentioned cases, the contracting authority may contact the applicant and request a response within a time-limit stipulated in its request.

Any other unrelated contacts are prohibited and can lead to the exclusion of the Applicant.

4.7.1. Rights to use the information for dissemination purposes

Frontex has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the prize and materials and documents received from the winners (such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes.

Photos and videos taken by Frontex throughout the Prize Contest are the sole property of the Frontex and EU.

4.7.2. Dissemination of results

Prize winners may promote the prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) with respect to the following restrictions:

- Communication activities related to the prize (including media interviews, press statements, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate).
- The EU emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands, or text. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.
- Any communication or dissemination activity related to the prize shall use factually accurate information.
- Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate): “Recipient of a Frontex Prize Award, funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not reflect those of the European Union or Frontex nor the awarding authority can be held responsible for them.”
- In terms of communication and dissemination throughout the Prize Contest, Applicants shall collaborate with Frontex’ request to provide pictures, videos and any other graphical elements to further increase visibility of the initiative through the production of promotional videos and other graphical elements.

4.8. Data protection

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) collects and processes personal data in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with



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regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

Frontex is the Data Controller regarding the C-UAS. You may contact the Controller at: frontex@frontex.europa.eu. The Responsible Unit is DEDCAP/TRANSFORM/INNOVATE, which may be contacted at: RIU.Data.Controller@frontex.europa.eu. You may contact Frontex Data Protection Officer at dataprotectionoffice@frontex.europa.eu with regard to any issue related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

Processing of the personal data is necessary for the performance of the Prize Contest and, therefore it shall be processed solely for the purposes of the performance, management and follow up of the Prize Contest. According to REGULATION 2024/2509 of 23 September 2024⁴, Article 57, for the purposes of safeguarding the financial interests of the Union, Applicants' personal data may be transferred to internal audit services, to the Court of Auditors, to the EPPO or to OLAF and between authorising officers of the Commission, and the executive agencies.

The personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System managed by the Commission, should the persons or entities be in one of the situations mentioned in Article 137 and Article 142 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of 23 September 2024.

The personal data shall be processed for the duration of the Prize Contest the data will be kept:

- For unsuccessful applicants for the duration of 5 years following the closure of the procedure.
- For successful applicants, all application documents submitted during the Prize Contest including those containing personal data will be retained for 10 years after the completion of the activity, in line with the policy on retention of documentation concerning financial documents and activities on Frontex research and innovation).

The Applicant shall have the right of access to his personal data and the right to rectify any such data that is inaccurate or incomplete. Should the Applicant have any queries concerning the processing of his/her personal data, he/she shall address them to the Responsible Unit or the Data Protection Officer of Frontex. The Applicant shall have the right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

For more information, please refer to the Privacy Statement (Annex 5 to this Rules of Contest)

4.9. Checks of Applicants in relation to the prize award and withdrawal of the prizes

The Frontex, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) may carry out **checks, audits, and investigations** in relation to the prize⁵.

The Awarding authority may **withdraw the prize** after its award and be eligible to recover all payments made, if it finds out that:

- False information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain to meet the criteria and/or obtain the prize

⁴ [Regulation \(EU, Euratom\) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union \(recast\)](#)

⁵ For the powers of OLAF, EPPO and ECA, see Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1), Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/1996 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2), Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') and Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

- The prize winners were not eligible or should have been excluded or
- The prize winners are in serious breach of their obligations under these Rules of Contest.

4.10. Cancellation of the Prize Contest

The awarding authority may cancel the Prize Contest or decide not to award the prizes – without any obligation to compensate Applicants on following situations:

- No significant number of eligible applications
- No significant number of quality applications
- Frontex is unable to evaluate the criteria to determine laureates
- The laureates are found to not be eligible or must be excluded
- Changes in the geopolitical environment prevent the execution of the scheduled activities
- Changes in the epidemiological situation that may affect travel
- Other force majeure circumstances

In all cases, all Applicants will be notified by Frontex.

5. Terms and definitions

The terms in the table below, appearing either in a complete or in an abbreviated form, when used in this document and its annexes, shall be understood to have the following meaning:

Term	Acronym	Description
Agency	Frontex	The European Border and Coast Guard Agency.
Airspace	-	Airspace is designated as the portion of the atmosphere controlled by a country above its territory, including its territorial waters or, more generally, any specific three-dimensional portion of the atmosphere.
Applicant	-	A natural person or legal entity that expresses interest in applying in the Prize Award by submitting an application. The applicant must meet the eligibility criteria specified in the rules of the contest and comply with the relevant EU procurement regulations.
Applications	-	Refers to the submission of documentation ("technical proposal") by an applicant to participate in the Prize Contest. This documentation outlines the applicant's plan, solution, or innovation in response to the rules of the contest.
Beyond Line of Sight	BLOS	Radio communication capabilities that link the transmitting and receiving station that are too distant from each other or fully obscured by terrain for Line of Sight communication.
Beyond Radio Line of Sight	BRLOS	Describes radio communications capabilities that link personnel or systems, which are too distant or fully obscured by terrain for Line-of-Sight communication (LOS or RLOS).
Beyond Visual Line of Sight	BVLOS	Describes operation of RPAS at distances outside the normal visible range of the pilot.
Consultant	-	A Consultant provides expert advice and strategic guidance to organizations seeking to implement, optimize, or improve solutions. They analyse client needs, assess existing systems, and recommend appropriate technologies or methodologies to achieve desired outcomes. Consultants leverage their industry knowledge and technical expertise to design tailored strategies, oversee project implementation, and ensure that solutions align with the client's goals and objectives.
Counter Unmanned Aircraft System	C-UAS	A system or device capable of lawfully and safely disabling, disrupting, or seizing control of an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system.
Counter-Counter Measures	-	Techniques or technologies used by adversarial UAVs to defeat or evade C-UAS technologies.
Cyber Takeover	-	The process of hacking into a UAV's control system to take control of the UAV.
Data Link	-	A telecommunication link over which data is transmitted.
Data Processor	DP	As defined in Article 3 of Regulation 2018/1725 and Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a Data Processor is a natural or legal person, public authority, agency, or other body which processes personal data on behalf of the Data Controller.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	DPIA	A DPIA is a process designed to describe the lifecycle and impacts of personal data management, including assessing its necessity, proportionality, and risk management. It involves evaluating and determining appropriate measures to address any identified risks and issues related to the processing of personal data.

Developer or Manufacturer	-	A Solution Developer or Manufacturer is responsible for designing, creating, and producing the solution. This entity focuses on research and development to innovate and build the solution. It manages the entire lifecycle of a product from conception through production. Also known as OEM (original equipment manufacturer)
UAV Neutralization	-	The process of rendering a UAV incapable of completing its intended mission. Neutralization methods can include safely steering the UAV outside the area of interest, taking over control of the UAV, or causing a complete and irreversible critical failure in its ability to sustain flight or perform its designated flight path.
Electromagnetic Pulse	EMP	A burst of electromagnetic radiation that can disrupt or damage electronic equipment and communications systems.
European Border and Coast Guard	EBCG	In 2016, the Agency's mandate was enhanced, and its name changed to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency still to be commonly referred to as Frontex.
European Commission	EC	The European Commission is the EU's politically independent executive arm. It is alone responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.
European Integrated Border Management	EIBM	As defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1624 (European Border and Coast Guard Regulation), this term refers to the coordinated and cooperative efforts at both national and international levels among all relevant authorities and agencies. These efforts focus on border security and trade facilitation to establish effective, efficient, and coordinated management of external EU borders, achieving the objective of open yet well-controlled and secure borders.
European Union, European Economic Area, Schengen Associated Countries	EU, EEA, SAC	These refer to three distinct regional organizations or agreements within Europe. The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of member states that are located primarily in Europe. The European Economic Area (EEA) allows for the extension of the EU's single market to non-EU member states. The Schengen Associated Countries (SAC) are countries that are part of the Schengen Area, which enables passport-free travel across the participating nations.
Fixed Wing	FW	A fixed-wing aircraft is a heavier-than-air flying machine, such as an airplane, which is capable of flight using wings that generate lift caused by the aircraft's forward airspeed and the shape of the wings.
Fundamental Right Office	FRO	A dedicated office with an independent role within Frontex, responsible for promoting and protecting fundamental rights, ensuring that the agency's activities are carried out in accordance with fundamental rights standards and providing expertise on fundamental rights issues, as per Article 109 of the EBCG Regulation.
Fundamental Right Office Monitors	FROMs	Statutory staff deployed to the operational areas on behalf of the Fundamental Rights Officer, to monitor and assess the fundamental rights compliance of Frontex activities, provide advice and assistance in this regard, as per Article 110 of the EBCG Regulation.
High-Powered Microwave	HPM	A directed-energy weapon used to disable UAVs through the emission of high-powered microwaves.
Integrator	-	An Integrator specializes in combining various components, technologies, or systems into a cohesive and functional solution. It possesses expertise in different technologies and ensure that disparate elements work seamlessly together, optimizing performance and compatibility. Integrators manage the installation, configuration, and customization processes, bridging gaps between different products or services.
Jamming	-	The deliberate radiation, re-radiation, or reflection of electromagnetic energy for the purpose of disrupting adversary use of electronic devices, equipment, or systems.
Kinetic Energy Interceptor	-	A physical projectile used to neutralize a UAV by direct impact.
Laser Systems	-	In the context of Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS), Laser Systems refer to directed-energy weapons that use focused laser beams to disable, damage, or destroy unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs). These systems operate by delivering high-intensity energy to critical components of the UAV, causing it to fail or forcing it to land.
Law Enforcement	-	Law enforcement refers to the organized activities of government agencies and personnel responsible for maintaining public order, preventing and investigating crimes, and enforcing laws and regulations. This includes police forces, investigative agencies, and other entities authorized to carry out legal and regulatory duties.
Lead Applicant	-	Designates a Participant that represents a joint application submitted by a group of entities
Line of Sight	LOS	Type of propagation that can transmit and receive data when the transmitting and receiving stations are in view of each other without any obstacle between them.
Low Level Airspace	-	Defined as the volume of airspace below 300m above ground level.
Member State	MS	A country that meets the accession criteria as defined by the Copenhagen European Council of 1993 and signs the accession Treaty with the individual EU Member States becomes a Member State of the European Union.
Operational Trial	-	An Operational Trial refers to the testing phase in which Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) technologies and solutions are evaluated under realistic conditions to assess their effectiveness, reliability, and performance. In the context of a prize contest, operational trials involve structured exercises where applicants demonstrate their solutions' capabilities in neutralizing UAVs, adhering to predefined criteria and scenarios.
Proposal	-	Refers to the submission of documentation by an "applicant" to participate in the Prize Contest.
Radio Frequency	RF	The oscillation rate of an alternating electric current or voltage or of a magnetic, electric, or electromagnetic field or mechanical system in the frequency.

Radio Line of Sight	RLOS	Radio communication capabilities that link the transmitting and receiving station within mutual radio link coverage.
Remotely Piloted Aircraft System	RPAS	A system comprising a remotely piloted aircraft (RPA, also known as UAV), its associated remote pilot station(s), the required command and control links, and any other system elements necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the RPA. RPAS are typically used for tasks such as surveillance, reconnaissance, and data collection, and they can operate either autonomously or under the remote control of a pilot.
Reseller	-	A Reseller acts as an intermediary between manufacturers or solution developers and the end-users.
Rotary Wing	RW	A rotorcraft or rotary-wing aircraft is a heavier-than-air aircraft with rotary wings or rotor blades, which generate lift by rotating around a vertical mast. Several rotor blades mounted on a single mast are referred to as a rotor.
Spoofing	-	The act of deceiving a UAV's communication systems by sending false RF signals.
Technology Readiness Level	TRL	Method for estimating the maturity of technologies during the acquisition phase of a program. https://ec.europa.eu/research/applicant/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-g-trl_en.pdf Where a topic description refers to a TRL, the following definitions apply, unless otherwise specified: TRL 1 – Basic principles observed TRL 2 – Technology concept formulated TRL 3 – Experimental proof of concept TRL 4 – Technology validated in lab TRL 5 – Technology validated in relevant environment TRL 6 – Technology demonstrated in relevant environment TRL 7 – System prototype demonstration in operational environment TRL 8 – System complete and qualified TRL 9 – Actual system proven in operational environment
Unmanned Aircraft System	UAS	Comprises an unmanned aircraft and the associated equipment required to control it remotely. This system includes the unmanned aircraft itself, the ground-based controller, and the communication link between the two. UAVs can be used for a variety of applications, including surveillance, reconnaissance, and data collection, and can operate either autonomously or under remote control. The terms Unmanned/Uncrewed Aircraft Systems (UAS), Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), and UAVs are often used interchangeably.
Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle	UAV	An Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle (UAV) is an aircraft that operates without a human pilot on board. It can be controlled remotely by a human operator or operate autonomously based on pre-programmed flight plans or more complex dynamic automation systems. The term UAV is often used interchangeably with UAV.
Portable	-	A portable solution is a fully autonomous, self-contained system designed for individual transport and use without relying on external infrastructure. It features its own power source, such as batteries, enabling operation anywhere a person can carry it. Portable solutions are lightweight and compact, making them easy to transport via backpacks, or similar means. They are engineered for quick deployment with minimal. It includes all necessary components to function independently without reliance on external infrastructure.
Mobile	-	A mobile solution is integrated into a larger, movable platform such as a vehicle, aircraft or vessel, leveraging the inherent mobility of its host to operate while in motion or stationary. It can draw power either from its own sources or directly from the platform's power supply, providing flexibility in various operational contexts.
Deployable	-	A deployable solution is designed for temporary or short-term deployment, often housed within transportable units such as containers or trailers. These solutions include integrated power sources like generators or solar panels with battery storage, enabling rapid setup and operation upon arrival at the deployment site.
Fixed	-	A fixed solution is permanently installed in a specific location, intended for long-term or continuous operation. It relies on existing local infrastructure support, such as power grids, communication networks, to maintain functionality.