European Commission

# WHITE PAPER

## ON ENHANCING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT INVOLVING TECHNOLOGIES WITH DUAL-USE POTENTIAL

24 January, 2024

**Factsheet**

**Economic Security package**

- As announced by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in November 2023, **this White Paper aims to launch a public consultation on EU-level research and development support involving technologies with dual-use potential.**
- **Technologies with dual-use potential are critical for the EU's economic security and strategic autonomy.** Maintaining a competitive edge would make the EU stronger in the world.
- They are relevant for many fields in both civil and defence domains and **could benefit the green and digital transition, European industry and the wider economy.**
- **The White Paper suggests three options for the future in an open way to stimulate a comprehensive dialogue with public authorities, civil society, industry and academia:**
  - **Option 1**: Going further based on the current set-up
  - **Option 2**: Remove the exclusive focus on civil applications in selected parts of the successor programme to Horizon Europe
  - **Option 3**: Create a dedicated instrument with a specific focus on R&D with dual-use potential

The consultation is open for comments until 30 April 2024.

# EXAMPLES OF EU-FUNDED PROJECTS INVOLVING TECHNOLOGIES WITH DUAL USE POTENTIAL

**ECHO** – brought together several European cybersecurity players to develop software that could prepare for and mitigate **cyberattacks.**

The project helped lay the groundwork for the creation in 2021 of the **European Cybersecurity Competence Centre** (ECCC).

**Robotic exoskeletons** enhancing the human body have long been the subject of military research.

Now, they are used for civil purposes to **assist in strength or endurance, reducing injury and help manual workers.**

**METAMASK** – tech for radar camouflage and/or illusion. **It can make fighter jets lighter, cheaper to build and less vulnerable to radar detection.** This tech could in future **enter also civilian markets** beyond the stealth function, e.g. for increasing Signal-to-Noise-Ratio (SNR) in future 5G terrestrial communications and in satellite communication links for vehicles on the move.

**SPINAR – changes artificial neural networks** by performing artificial intelligence on radiofrequency (RF) signals on a small, low-power chip. By merging nanotechnology and AI, it can equip soldiers and unmanned vehicles with smart RF sensors.

Civil applications: c**omputer vision, natural language processing, machine translation, speech recognition, genomics, quantitative trading and self-driving cars.**

**Get involved and join the debate !**

Link to the public consultation

**More information:**
*[research security webpage]*