

Essen, September 19, 2024

Parallel to the leading trade fair Security Essen

## Euro Defence Expo: The New Defence Trade Show in the Centre of Europe Launching in 2026

Heckler & Koch among the first exhibitors / Partnership with Defence Network

Global crises are intensifying, conflicts and tensions are increasing worldwide and critical infrastructures are more at risk than ever before. Many current challenges drastically demonstrate the extent to which the global security order is under pressure. These multidimensional challenges require new approaches and strong partnerships to safeguard free societies in Germany and Europe. This is where Euro Defence Expo comes in, celebrating its premiere at Messe Essen from September 22 to 25, 2026. It offers a comprehensive platform for decision-makers, experts and innovators to explore the latest advancements in security and defence technology. Dr. Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann MEP, Chair of the EU Defence Committee, emphasized the importance of this event at its launch: „In light of Russia's brutal aggression against Ukraine, Europe's ability to defend itself together in the future is of central importance. These challenges will be addressed at Euro Defence Expo. Industry, research and politics will come together in the heart of Europe to work together on solutions."

Euro Defence Expo will take place parallel to Security Essen, the leading trade fair for the security industry. Oliver P. Kuhrt, CEO of Messe Essen, explains: "In view of the current threat situation, we have to rethink protection and security. By combining Euro Defence Expo with Security Essen, we have developed a unique and dynamic event showcasing both military and civilian security innovations, alongside a high-profile conference. This enables our society to be well-prepared for future challenges."

Euro Defence Expo focuses on the Total Defence approach: This concept integrates all social actors in order to protect democracy, security and freedom against any threat - from hybrid activities to cyberattacks to open military



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Veröffentlichung kostenfrei –  
Beleg erbeten  
Publication free of charge –  
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confrontation. Various opportunities and forums for exchange between politics, industry and military users of security and defence technologies are therefore planned.

## **Unique format and strong exhibitors**

Germany's security and defence industry is a key pillar of national security and an innovative pioneer in equipping land forces. Euro Defence Expo will therefore focus on the latest trends and developments in the land dimension across all land-based military capabilities. Another emphasis will be on cyber security and the defence against threats from cyber and information space. The format of the new defence trade fair is convincing the industry. Heckler & Koch and Deutsche Risikoberatung are among the first exhibitors to confirm participation.

Andreas Schnautz, CFO of H&K AG and Managing Director of Heckler & Koch GmbH: "With Euro Defence Expo, Messe Essen is sending out the right signal for our times. The German defence industry is firmly anchored among the world leaders, it is efficient and highly innovative. The Russian war of aggression has once again made it clear that the German defence industry must be part of our country's security architecture. I am delighted that in Germany, we are now taking account of this outstanding strategic importance of our industry with our own armaments trade fair."

## **Targeting key industry decision-makers**

Euro Defence Expo is designed to attract decision-makers from the German armed forces and allied armed forces, decision-makers from national and international procurement organizations, representatives of defence ministries, government and ministerial representatives, politicians, representatives of the police and other relevant security and law enforcement agencies as well as institutes and technology companies. The event will specifically address decision-makers.

Oliver P. Kuhrt, CEO of Messe Essen: "We are currently working intensively to ensure that the JAPCC Joint Air and Space Power Conference takes place during the trade fair. This would allow participants to attend this high-level military conference while also exploring the latest defence technologies at the Euro

Defence Expo. In this way we create a unique platform for politics, military, science and industry."

## **Strong partnership with CPM**

The Euro Defence Expo also adds value through its accompanying conference. This event with renowned experts from the industry is organized by the trade fair's partner, CPM GmbH. It already successfully organizes RÜ.Net in Koblenz and operates the leading industry portal Defence Network. "This collaboration means that Euro Defence Expo is not just an exhibition, but a central location for knowledge exchange and networking. The combination of top-class experts, innovative solutions and intensive technical discussions offers exhibitors and visitors a real benefit that goes far beyond a visit to the trade fair," explains Kuhrt.

Tobias Ehke, owner & publisher of cpm GmbH - Defence Network: "Together with Security Essen, Euro Defence Expo focuses on national defence. This approach is unique in Europe. The planning and implementation of the associated congress is the core business of cpmTEAMS. As a specialist publisher for defence, security and military medicine, we also take a holistic view of the areas of security and defence. I am convinced that the Euro Defence Expo will be successful and establish itself in the community. We are a proud partner and look forward to a successful collaboration."

Further information at [www.eurodefenceexpo.de](http://www.eurodefenceexpo.de)