

Second International Defence Industry Exhibition SIDEc 2026 to Take Place in Celje

Ljubljana, 29 September 2026 – Following the exceptional interest and highly positive response to the inaugural event in 2025, the second edition of the international Defence Industry Exhibition and Conference SIDEc 2026 will take place from 10 to 12 November 2026 at Celje Fairground. Bringing together an exhibition of state-of-the-art technological solutions, a professional conference and an Open Forum programme, the event represents the Republic of Slovenia's direct response to the changing geopolitical landscape and increasingly complex global security challenges.

Contemporary security challenges and fundamental changes in military tactics and operational approaches require a new approach to ensuring global security. The equipment of the modern soldier is becoming increasingly technologically advanced, driving the need for significantly greater investment in research and development. The Ministry of Defence and the Slovenian defence industry, brought together under the Slovenian Defence Industry Cluster (GOIS), are responding to this new reality through SIDEc. Slovenian scientific and research institutions are also making an important contribution to the development and strengthening of Slovenia's defence and security ecosystem.

The event will provide a comprehensive overview of key technological solutions developed as a result of research and development activities led by the Ministry of Defence. More than **130 companies and organisations from 18 countries** have already confirmed their participation in the exhibition, underscoring the event's growing international significance.

Alongside the exhibition, the **In the Service of the Homeland** promotional event will offer visitors and young people an opportunity to learn more about careers, activities and the role of the Slovenian Armed Forces and other components of Slovenia's defence and security system.

Rich Three-Day Conference Programme

The professional conference will focus on key topics shaping the further development of the defence and security system, as well as the civil protection and disaster relief system.

The first day of the exhibition, **Tuesday, 10 November**, will also feature the **official opening of SIDEc 2026**.

The **individual panels** will address new paradigms and trends in the development of defence technologies:

- **Tuesday, 10 November:** The main panel will focus on **adapting the defence industry based on battlefield experience from Ukraine** and translating these lessons into the faster adaptation of NATO and EU defence capabilities.
- **Wednesday, 11 November:** The panels will address **practical experience with the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**, the **Soldier of the Future** concept, featuring advanced sensing, sensors and digital twins, as well as **energy resilience as a key defence capability**. The day will also include a **ceremony for the signing of memoranda of understanding**.
- **Thursday, 12 November:** The conference programme will conclude with a panel on **the use of dual-use space technologies and cooperation within the European Space Agency (ESA)** to strengthen national and European resilience.

Visitor Information and Registration

The exhibition and professional conference will be **closed to the general public on Tuesday and Wednesday and on Thursday morning**. Attendance during these periods will be by invitation only and subject to prior registration. **Registration for professional visitors:** Registration and the online visitor application form are available at <https://dogodki.vlada.si/sidec-2026-registration>.

For the general public, Celje Fairground will be open on **Thursday, 12 November, from 12:00 to 17:00**. No prior registration is required for visits during this time.

Media Notice

Before the exhibition opens, a **press conference will be held on Tuesday, 3 November**, where the key highlights and new features of this year's exhibition will be presented in greater detail. An official invitation including the exact location and time will be sent to the media at a later date.

More information about the event, the detailed programme and visitor opportunities is available on the official website www.sidec.si and on the **SIDEC** [LinkedIN profile](#).