

## **The International Exhibition DEFEA is underway**

The International Exhibition for Defence and Security DEFEA 2023 will be inaugurated on May 9. Already participation of 350 industries from 30 countries has been confirmed, while the presence of numerous official governmental and military delegations highlights the international recognition that this institution has achieved, putting Greece back on the map of international defense and security exhibitions. (Detailed list of exhibitors on the DEFEA website <https://defea.gr/exhibitors-list>). Additionally, high level visitors from 76 countries have already registered to the exhibition.

DEFEA is organised under the auspices and with the close cooperation of the Ministry of National Defense and the General Directorate of Defense Equipment and Investments, as well as the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy. Additionally DEFEA has the strategic cooperation of the Hellenic Manufacturers of Defense Materiel Association (SEKPY) and the support of the Association of Hellenic Aerospace Security & Defense Companies (EELEAA).

DEFEA, which will take place from May 9 to 11, lays the foundations for Greece to rise again to the position it deserves in the field of defence and security industrial co-operation, by creating a forum for interstate contacts and international cooperation, together with the promotion of the achievements of the defense industry.

We have to point out that DEFEA's location in the Eastern Mediterranean allows favorable access, not only to Europe and the USA, but to Asia, Africa and the Middle East as well. Greece's pivotal position as one of the oldest members of the EU and NATO, in addition to the fact that the country continuously invests in national defence, facilitates an environment for strategic partnerships that go beyond the boundaries of the economy and industry. For this reason, Ministers, Chiefs of General Staffs and decision makers for the armament of their countries have been invited and are expected to visit the Exhibition. Conferences and other matchmaking events planned will provide opportunities for the distinguished guests to brief each other and exchange views and proposals on important defence issues.

Especially for Greece, which in recent years has taken significant steps to modernize its defence capabilities by acquiring new weapon systems, DEFEA is a lever for the further development of manufacturing capabilities and co-productions, which maximizes the undoubted national benefits deriving from the organization of the Exhibition.

Concluding, we underlined that DEFEA will be held at the Metropolitan Exhibition Center, at Athens Eleftherios Venizelos Airport, which provides capabilities for displaying heavy exhibits, weapon systems and important technological achievements of the industry.