

## Opening day of FEINDEF 25 covers technological innovation, strategic debate and international projection

- *FEINDEF Inauguration sees extensive institutional, business and military representation, reflecting the strategic nature of the exhibition with over 12,000 professionals in attendance.*
- *Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces guests at inauguration of edition focused on technology and international cooperation*

**Madrid, 12 May 2025.** The opening day of FEINDEF 25, inaugurated this morning at IFEMA Madrid, brought together the principal authorities, industry leaders, European institutions, startups and experts in defence and security. With a multi-domain approach and a clear commitment to innovation, the exhibition offered an intense programme highlighting Spain's role in the transformation of the sector. In total, 12,680 visitors attended the first day today, reflecting the great interest in this key event for the defence and security ecosystem.

The inauguration was presided by Ángel Olivares, Chairman of the FEINDEF Foundation, with the participation of Ricardo Martí Fluxá, Chairman of TEDAE, and Gerardo Sánchez Revenga, Chairman of AESMIDE. Among the authorities in attendance were Margarita Robles, Minister of Defence; Jordi Hereu, Minister of Industry and Tourism; and María Amparo Valcarce, Secretary of State for Defence; and Esperanza Casteleiro, Secretary of Defence and Director of the National Intelligence Centre (CNI).

### Strategic dialogue with the Armed Forces

One of the highlights of the day was the round table with the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Military, from Army, the Navy and the Air and Space Force. Under the title “Technological Challenges and Operational Transformation in the Armed Forces”, the session addressed the main strategic challenges, adaptation to the multi-domain environment and the need for modernisation of capabilities.

Participants included Army General Amador Enseñat y Berea, Chief of Staff of the Army (JEME); Admiral General Antonio Piñeiro Sánchez, Admiral Chief of Staff of the Navy (AJEMA); and Air General Francisco Braco Carbó, Chief of Staff of the Air and Space Force (JEMA).

On the opening day of FEINDEF 2025, the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the three branches of Spanish military - the Army, Navy and the Air and Space Force - highlighted the importance of technology as a tool at the service of strategy, doctrine and people. They stressed that innovation must be aligned with operational and human needs, and not be an end in itself. They also expressed their concern about the difficulty of retaining talent trained in the Armed Forces, due to the less competitive salary conditions compared to the civil sector. They also discussed the impact of artificial intelligence in military operations, emphasising the need to maintain human intervention in lethal decisions and update the international legal frameworks to adapt to new forms of digital combat.

The round table reflected the commitment of the Spanish Armed Forces to digital transformation, operational integration and modernization of capabilities, and consolidated FEINDEF as a key space for strategic debate and institutional cooperation.

## **Spanish and European industry takes centre stage**

In the business field, the day saw key interventions from the likes of Indra, whose CEO José Vicente de los Mozos shared the company's strategic vision to lead the future of the sector. The CEO emphasized the importance of strengthening inorganic growth through partnerships and selective acquisitions. He also commented on the Industrial and Technological Plan for Security and Defense, assuring those in attendance that the industry is ready to receive the planned investments, but highlighted the need for reorganization and closer collaboration at European level.

For its part, the European Commission, through representatives of DG DEFIS, presented the new funding opportunities of the European Defence Fund (EDF) for 2025.

AI applied to advanced logistics was the subject of another round table with representatives of the Army, the Navy, UROVESA, Accenture and Thales, analysing the future of intelligent military support. The employment and industrial focus was also highlighted at a round table organised by trade union UGT, focusing on employment and the challenges of the new investment cycle in defence, with the participation of Rheinmetall, EOI and ASIME.

## **INNOVA Space: innovation as a central axis**

The INNOVA Space was officially opened by the Lieutenant General Miguel Ivorra (DIGEID) and the CEO of ISDEFE, Manuel Cutrín, consolidating its roles as an innovation hub throughout the day. There was also a panel discussion on “Barriers and Challenges for Innovation in Defence”, with representatives from Indra, Telefónica, Navantia and FUNDITEC, and a round table discussion on “Defense: The Path to Innovation,” with speakers from CDTI, DIANA, UPM, INCIBE, TEDAE and ZELESTIUM.

A panel discussion was held to mark 40 years of ISDEFE while a number of conferences and debates focused on new technologies, knowledge transfer and public-private partnerships.

## **Defence, investment and international outlook**

Meanwhile, a number of debates were hosted including “The Growth of Defence Investment: Challenges, Priorities and Strategic Return,” with representatives from Lockheed Martin, ITP Aero and Eurofighter, and “Cyberspace as Operational Domain” with leaders from Thales, TRC, Accenture and the Joint Cyberspace Command.

The international profile of this first day was reinforced by the presence of high-ranking officials from the European Commission, international attachés and several ministers of defence from other countries, as well as by the intense activity in the halls, where more than 600 exhibitors and 91 international delegations gathered, reflecting the global scope of FEINDEF 25 from the opening day.

## **Key information**

Dates: 12, 13 and 14 May 2025

Venue: IFEMA Madrid (Halls 4, 6, 8 and 10)

Opening hours: From 9:30 to 18:00

Schedule of activities: <https://registro.feindefevent.com/feindef2025/es/Custom/Programa>

Press accreditations: <https://registro.feindefevent.com/feindef2025/es/register/RegisterPage/Press>

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