



Defense. Tech Expo – Conference Agenda

Day 1 | 17 February 2026

10:30 | 1 Opening Ceremony

Speakers

- Greetings from a Government Representative (TBC)
- Avi Balashnikov – Chairman, Israel Export Institute
- Admiral di Paola - Former Minister of Defense of Italy
Former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee

10:50 | 2 Opening Assembly

The World's Future Security & Defense Challenges

Topics

- A World in Turmoil – Global Threats, Strategic Axes, and the "Threat Map"
- Western States and European Countries – The Global Armament Race

Speakers

- Gideon Sa'ar, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Boaz Levy, President & CEO of Israel Aerospace Industries
- Maj. Gen. (Res.) Amikam Norkin, Former Commander, Israeli Air Force (IAF)
- Alex Moore, General Partner for Defence, 8VC Fund; Board Member, Palantir

11:50 | 3 The Airspace – Lessons Learned from Global and Regional Conflicts

Session A Air Defense and Civilian Protection / Multi-Layered Air & Missile Defense





Session Chair

Brig. Gen. (Res.) Ran Kochav (RanKo)
Former IAF Head of Israel's Air & Missile Defense Forces,
IDF Spokesperson

Speakers

- Moshe Patel, Head of the "Homa" Missile Defense Directorate
- BG (Ret) Pini Yungman, President, TSG.
- Former Head of Missile Division, Rafael
- Col. (Res.) Talia Lankry, Former Head of Defense Department, Operations Directorate

Session B: 3.1

The Airspace – Drones and UAVs

Session Chair

Col. (Res.) Aviv Bar-Zohar, Matrix Defense
Israel National Drone Initiative

Speakers

- Brig. Gen. (Res.) Yoeli Or, CANDO DRONES
- Lior Segal, CEO, Third Eye Systems
- Hagai Balshai, CEO, Robotican

Session C:3.2

Robotics and Innovation on the Battlefield

Session Chair

Brig. Gen. (Res.) Guy Hazoot

Speakers

- Col. (Res.) Ofer Balin, CEO, Shifters Robotics AI
- Assaf Pichoto, CEO, SpectralX

13:30 Break

Break/ Lunch/ Visit to the Exhibition





14:30 | 4 Civilian Space – Innovation, Research & National Security

Session Chair

Merav Davidovits (Col. Res.), Head of Technical Partnerships, Moonshot

Speakers

- Dr. Deganit Paikowsky, Senior Researcher, Hebrew University; Former Vice President, International Astronautical Federation (IAF)
- Ran Livne, Former CEO, Ramon Foundation; Head of “Rakia” Mission
- Renana Ashkenazi, Partner, GROVE Ventures; Board Member, Ramon Space
- Tal Inbar, Space Analyst
- Aviv Kenelbaum, Head of Advanced Systems Directorate, IAI Space Division

15:20 | 5

The Battlefield of Tomorrow Artificial Intelligence in Defense & Homeland Security The Israeli Lab

Session Chair

Hadas Lorber, Head of the Institute for Applied Research in Responsible AI

Speakers

- Shuki Yehuda, EVP Strategy Innovation & CTO, Elbit Systems
- Eitan Eshel, EVP Technology and R&D – CTO, Israel Aerospace Industries
- Roni Alsheikh, AWZ Ventures

15:50 6

From Research to Operational Reality: Defense Tech and the Transformation of Military Doctrine Sponsored by INSS - Institute for National Security Studies





Session Chair	Hadas Lorber, Head of the Institute for Applied Research in Responsible AI
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear Admiral (Ret.) Yuval Eylon • Major General (Ret.) Dr. Yacov Bengo • Dr. Yehoshua Kalisky
16:30 7	Women at the Forefront of Security Innovation Between Vision, Power, and Global Influence
Session Moderator	Hadas Lorber, Head of the Institute for Applied Research in Responsible AI
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vered Haimovich, SVP Strategic BD & Innovation, Elbit Systems • Eliora Lubin, Policy Chief of Staff, 8VC Fund (USA) • Dr. Avital Schrift, VP Core Tech, Israel Aerospace Industries • Michal Mor, CEO at SMARTSHOOTER





DEFENSE.TECH Expo

FOSTERING GLOBAL COOPERATION FOR A SAFER & SECURE WORLD

FEBRUARY 17-18, 2026 | EXPO TEL AVIV | ISRAEL

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Day 2 | 18 February 2026 Innovation Seminar – “Defense. Tech – The Innovation Nexus”

Seminar Chair Col. (Res.) David Rokach, Managing Partner, SOSA HLS & Defense Innovation Hub

Seminar Moderator Noam Elsberg, Director Of INNOFENSE

10:30 | 8 **Opening Assembly** **The Current Global Innovation Paradigm in Defense. Tech**

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Topics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Innovation Models • Global Trends • Dual-Use Technologies |
| Speakers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Chaouki Kasmi, Chief Innovation Officer, UAE Technology Innovation Institute
President & CTO, EDGE Group, UAE • Maj. Gen. (Res.) Yoav Har-Even, Former President and CEO of Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. • Shlomo Kalish, Corundum Open Innovation Fund Ltd. • Israel Lupa, Executive Vice President Dual Use business, IAI - Israel Aerospace Industries |

11:20 - Session 1 | 9 **Counter-UAS (CUAS)** **Innovative Solutions to Drone Threats – Expert Panel**

The Innovation Stage – Pitches & Presentations
 Startup Elevator Pitch Presentations





12:10 10		Global Collaboration in Defense. Tech
Sponsored by Kinetica Foundation		
Moderator	Anna Ahronheim, Editor for Defense & Tech, Jerusalem Post	
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Moore, General Partner for Defence, 8VC Fund; Board Member, Palantir Rodrigo Torres, President & CFO, EDGE Group, UAE Dr. Chaouki Kasmi, CIO, UAE Technology Innovation Institute; President & CTO, EDGE Group John Isemann, Shield AI Frederic Landau, General Partner, Kinetica 	
13:00 Break		Break/ Lunch/ Visit to the Exhibition
14:00 11		Defense. Tech Innovation Growth Engines
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The New Generation of Investors Investment Strategies and Approaches Government's Role in Advancing Innovation 	
Moderator	BG (Res.) Eden (Abraham) Attias, General Partner, OpImpact	
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hamutal Meridor, Kela Technologies, Co-Founder & President Michael Gal, Group CEO of Al Liwan Group, Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi Emirate 	





15:00 |12

Autonomous Systems – Air, Sea & Land

Expert Panel

- Dror Ben-David, Head of Neural Networks R&D Lab (NRDL)Matrix
- Major General (Ret.) Saar Tzur Major Kinetica

The Innovation Stage – Pitches & Presentations

Startup Elevator Pitch Presentations

