

PRESS RELEASE

GSIS Accelerator – powered by Speer Group launches with up to EUR 5 million Europe’s Answer to Strategic Security Innovation Gaps

Hamburg, 2 July 2025 – With the **GSIS Accelerator – powered by Speer Group**, the Global Security and Innovation Summit (GSIS) is launching a new innovation format designed to address Europe’s strategic security needs. The program is looking for start-ups with high-impact technologies in the fields of security, defence, and resilience. The ten most compelling applicants will be invited to present their ideas on 22 October 2025, at GSIS in Hamburg before an international audience of top-tier decision-makers.

Equity investments of up to EUR 5 million per start-up may be made available to the winners of the final presentation, subject to internal investment criteria, a successful due diligence process, and standard contractual negotiations. These investments will be provided by the GSIS exclusive Venture Partner, Speer Group.

The GSIS Accelerator connects founders with investors, policymakers, and institutions in the security policy space – with a clear objective: to close Europe’s security innovation gaps through targeted support. In addition to pitching their ventures, finalists will benefit from access to an international network and advisory support on core governance issues in the security domain.

“Technology and Innovation are crucial factors for European security. The Accelerator combines start-up intelligence with strategic relevance - exactly what Europe needs now.” – **Dr. Bastian Giegerich, Director-General, IISS.**

“With GSIS and the Accelerator, we are creating a unique meeting point for innovation, responsibility, and execution – right in the heart of Europe. Hamburg offers the ideal stage for it.” – **Heiko M. Stutzinger, CEO, Hamburg Messe und Congress.**

“We don’t invest in trends; we invest in solutions that strengthen Europe’s security and resilience. Alongside capital, we provide access to strategic networks and experts who help companies scale and secure Europe’s capacity to act.” – **Max Büchner, CEO, Speer Group.**

“Europe cannot afford to fall behind in the strategic race for technology. The GSIS Accelerator creates a platform where security-relevant innovations become visible, investable, and politically connected.” – **Dimitrios Argirakos, Executive Chair, GSIS.**

Finalists will be selected by Speer Group as the investment manager, in collaboration with experts in security policy, technology, and venture capital via the Investment Recommendation Committee. Selection criteria include the degree of innovation, strategic relevance, and scalability.

In addition to exposure and access to an international network, winners will have the opportunity to secure financial backing. The program seeks technology-driven start-ups aligned with NATO's five strategic dimensions: sea, air, land, cyber (intelligence), and space, along with complementary technologies.

Pitch decks are accepted via email until 10 October 2025. The live pitch of the finalists will take place on 22 October 2025, at GSIS at the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg. The aim: to spotlight and support Europe's most security-relevant start-ups.

Apply now: Europe's security begins with your idea!

More information and applications:
www.gsis-hamburg.com/accelerator
accelerator@gsis-hamburg.com

About GSIS – Global Security and Innovation Summit

GSIS is designed not only as an annual summit, but as a year-round platform for strategic dialogue. Alongside the main event in Hamburg, regional satellite events are planned at IISS locations around the world, and digital engagement formats will provide continuous opportunities for exchange between summits. GSIS is to take place at the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg on 22 and 23 October 2025.

About the International Institute for Strategic Studies

The Global Security and Innovation Summit builds on the strengths of its organising partners. The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) is a globally respected defence and security think tank with deep expertise in regional geopolitics and geo-economics. It is known for convening high-level forums such as the Shangri-La Dialogue (Asia), the Manama Dialogue (Middle East), and the Prague Defence Summit (Europe). Its team of international researchers provides policy-relevant analysis to governments and the private sector.

About Hamburg Messe und Congress

Hamburg Messe und Congress (HMC), based in Germany's second-largest city, is one of Europe's leading organisers of global events. Its congress and trade fair facilities host industry-defining exhibitions and summits across sectors. The topic of global security has been a permanent feature of its portfolio for more than sixty years – especially in connection with the world's leading maritime trade fair SMM and the International Conference on Maritime Security and Defence (MS&D).

Digital Press Kit

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