

Future Forces Exhibition & Forum 2026



Empowering Allied Security and Resilience

Europe's security landscape has not looked like this in a generation. The war in Ukraine has rewritten the operational playbook for land, air, and cyber warfare. NATO allies are racing to close capability gaps exposed under combat conditions. Autonomous systems, counter-UAS technology, and electronic warfare are no longer future concepts – they are present requirements. Against this backdrop, Prague will once again assume its role as the continent's foremost forum for defence and security dialogue when the 16th Future Forces Exhibition & Forum (FF26) opens at PVA EXPO PRAGUE from 21 to 23 October 2026.

For over 25 years, the Future Forces events have served as a uniquely positioned intersection between operational users, capability developers, policymakers, and industry. What began as a biennial exhibition has evolved into one of the most consequential weeks in the European security and defence calendar – a full programme of events running across the week of 19–23 October, encompassing official NATO working group sessions, high-level strategic as well as operation-focused panels, and three days of live exhibition. No comparable event on the continent integrates military decision-makers, Allied structures, national procurement authorities, and technology innovators in the same way.

Scale and Scope

The FF26 will showcase more than 20,000 square metres of exhibition space across six halls, hosting over 400 exhibitors from more than 35 countries, from global prime contractors to specialists from defence

companies, universities and R&D centres. As usual, delegations from over 70 countries are expected to participate. The event is held under the auspices of the President and the Government of the Czech Republic, and in close cooperation with NATO and EU structures, and national armed forces, law enforcement, and emergency services – a level of institutional endorsement that reflects its



status as a professional platform with significant institutional reach, rather than merely a trade fair.

New for 2026, and emblematic of the event's commitment to practical demonstration, will be a mobile container live-firing range – the first of its kind in the Czech Republic. The range will offer two firing positions and allow live testing of firearms, ammunition, ballistics, protection systems, optics, and sensors, providing exhibitors and delegates with direct, hands-on evaluation capability.

The NATO Dimension

Perhaps the most strategically significant aspect of FF26 is its formal integration with Allied governance structures. Official sessions of two major NATO working groups will convene in Prague that week: the NATO Army Armaments Group Land Capability Group Dismounted Soldier Systems and the NATO Support and Procurement Agency Dismounted Soldier Equipment User Group. These are not ceremonial sideline events – they are the



practical platforms through which interoperability standards are shaped, and procurement decisions are formed.

A dedicated NATO Pavilion within the exhibition hall will host NATO Divisions, Organisations, and Agencies, providing a structured engagement space between Allied institutional representatives and the professional community. For NATO member nations and partners seeking to align national capability development with Alliance priorities, the Pavilion represents a rare opportunity for direct, substantive interaction in a single location.

Confronting the Hard Questions

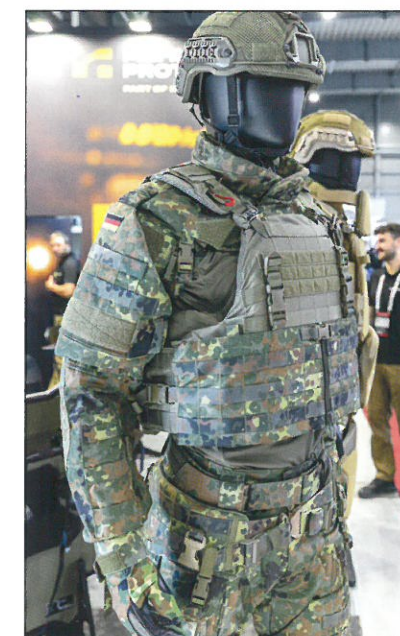
The expert panel programme – spanning more than 40 sessions – reflects the full complexity of the current security environment. The Future Forces Conference will open with a strategic-level discussion panel framed as Defence 2035+: Adapting to the New Security



Reality, setting the intellectual tone for three days of debate on where Allied capabilities must be in less than a decade.

From that strategic perspective, the programme descends into operational and technical specificity. The Future Air Force Conference will address air mobility, multi-role platforms, armed UAV operations and training, advanced sensing, electronic warfare, and air base protection. The Future Land Forces Panel will concentrate on counter-UAS solutions, a capability area that has arguably seen more fast operational iteration in the past two years than any other.

The Multi-Domain Autonomous and Robotic Systems Panel will address the accelerating integration of robotics and AI into battlefield operations – domains in which the lessons of Ukraine have been both urgent and instructive, while the Future C2 Conference will examine the electromagnetic environment – a domain in which dominance increasingly determines the outcome of conventional engagements. The CBRN Defence Technology and Innovation Forum will focus on accelerating adoption of innovative technologies within the CBRN community, and the Medical Conference will draw directly on lessons from the recent conflicts, addressing electromagnetic spectrum threats to medical teams alongside broader principles of modern battlefield medicine.



Critically, the programme does not treat cyberspace as an annex to conventional security. The Future of Cyber Conference will explore trends in critical information infrastructure protection, innovations in cyber defence, and crisis preparedness, complemented by a Live Hacking Zone and Cyber Escape Rooms that put concepts into immediate, experiential context. The Security and Defence Interests in Space Conference reflects the growing recognition of space as

a key operational domain requiring dedicated strategic attention.

Two sessions will be of particular importance to those watching the broader Euro-Atlantic response to Russian aggression: the Homeland Security and Resilience Conference, examining population and infrastructure protection in the light of recent conflicts and hybrid threats, and the Future of Civil Security Conference, developed in direct cooperation with Ukraine's defence and security industry association, drawing on hard-won operational experience from the conflict itself.

A Platform for Decision-Makers

FF26 is explicitly designed for those who must make consequential choices – not merely observe trends. Its participant profile encompasses defence ministers and senior officials, general officers and flag-rank commanders, capability development and procurement authorities, R&D institution directors, and diplomatic missions. The event's architecture – combining exhibition, expert dialogue, official NATO sessions, bilateral meeting facilities, and structured delegate support – is built around the recognition that the most valuable product of such a gathering is not a catalogue, but a decision informed by the right conversation with the right counterpart.

For those who shape Allied defence capability from Brussels to national capitals, from command headquarters to research institutes, October in Prague is not an option. It is an obligation.

The 16th Future Forces Exhibition & Forum takes place 21–23 October 2026 at PVA EXPO PRAGUE. Professional visitors may attend the exhibition and forum free of charge. Exhibitor & general enquiries: info@future-forces.org

www.future-forces-forum.org

Photos: Future Forces Forum

