

//UNMANNED_X



2025

UNMANNED_X
CONFERENCE AGENDA

WWW.UNMANNED-X.COM



2025 UNMANNED_X CONFERENCE AGENDA

U-X 2025: "DISRUPTION ACROSS DOMAINS"

AT A GLANCE

Opening Statement



Preliminary Agenda



Local Information



Organizer Contacts



OPENING STATEMENT



"SAFEGUARDING OUR FUTURE NATIONAL SECURITY WILL REQUIRE MORE THAN EQUIPPING OUR WARFIGHTERS WITH THE BEST SYSTEMS, TOOLS AND TRAINING.

OUR DEFENCE ECOSYSTEMS MUST BE CAPABLE OF RAPIDLY INNOVATING, ADAPTING, AND DISRUPTING THE TECHNOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE — SO WE CAN MAINTAIN OUR STRATEGIC EDGE AT THE SPEED OF CONFLICT."

RUI COSTA | U-X HOST

To maintain a decisive edge in an increasingly contested and technologically dynamic battlefield, our defence ecosystems must evolve beyond traditional defence innovation mechanisms. This will entail developing a culture of rapid innovation, disruption and adaptability - one that can adapt to emerging threats in real-time, and harness commercial, academic and end-user experience and networks.

Disruption must be embraced not only in the technologies we field but also in how we procure, develop, and deploy them. Partnerships across industry, academia, and end-users will be essential to sustaining the pace of innovation needed to out-think and outpace our near-peer adversaries - keeping our strategic advantage in sync with the tempo of modern conflict.

After decades of relative peace, NATO has become adept at developing defence technology within this relatively stable peacetime environment. Through structured mechanisms, procurement processes, and sound legislation, we have consistently delivered technological superiority to our armed forces. This model has served us well - but it was built for a different era.

Recent conflicts have revealed the limitations of these very systems. The speed at which capabilities must now be developed, technology fielded, and innovation deployed, far exceeds what our current defence ecosystems are designed to face. To thrive under the pressures of a future conflict with our near-peer adversaries, we must create a new kind of innovation development capability - one that is agile, resilient, and untethered by legacy assumptions or constraints. As in the unforgiving, hypercompetitive, and Darwinian environment of warfare, survival and success will belong to those who can out-innovate and out-pace. Agility and Velocity, not just capability, will define the Alliance's future strategic edge.

Rui Costa, UNMANNED_X Host

Preliminary Agenda

Location & Dates

This year's flagship UNMANNED_X event will take place in the historical city of The Hague, Netherlands. We are proud to host this third edition of our series at the headquarters of the Royal Netherlands Society of Engineers (KIVI) in the heart of this picturesque city - a hub of European diplomacy, defence policy, and innovation.

Dates: 25th & 26th of September, 2025

City: The Hague, Netherlands

Venue: Het Koninklijk Instituut Van Ingenieurs - KIVI

Address: Prinsessegracht 23, 2514 AP

Day 1: Surface & Subsurface Streams

Day 2: Air & Land Streams



Our venue is easily accessible by public transport, and is a short walk from The Hague Central Station.



DAY 1 | DISRUPTION ACROSS THE NAVAL BATTLESPACE

SURFACE & SUBSURFACE: "As the Maritime domain enters a new era of Distributed Lethality, Novel Threat Landscapes, and Contested Seabeds, Navies across the Alliance are rapidly rethinking the role of Unmanned Systems above and below the surface. This day focuses on the technologies, tactics, and strategic challenges shaping the Future of Naval power."

08:00 - **Registration & Welcome Coffee**

08:50 - **Main Sponsor's Welcome Address**

Paul Heiden, CEO, Optics11



NAVAL WARFARE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

From Strategy to Systems: Stories from Across the Alliance

09:00 - **Host's Opening Lecture**

Rui Costa, Host, UNMANNED_X



09:30 - **Organizational Transformation to Accelerate Unmanned Systems Capability**

W. Carmelo Fontán, (Former NSWC CTO), Owner & CEO, Presteza LLC



10:00 - **Innovation in the Portuguese Navy: Mindset & Capabilities**

Tiago Monteiro, Head of Emerging Technologies, Portuguese Navy



10:30 - **Networking Break**

11:00 - **Live Interview: "Forging the Naval Autonomous Edge"**

Sander Sääsk, Diretor, NATO & Ukraine, Kraken Technology Group



11:30 - **Modular Autonomy Capability for Accelerated Exploitation of Unmanned Platforms**

Tom Rooney, General Manager, MarineAI



12:00 - **Surface Stream Roundtable**

12:15 - **Lunch**



A TECHNOLOGICAL OCEAN

Naval Deep Tech: Enabling Strategic Superiority through Technology

13:45 - Host's Opening Lecture

Rui Costa, Host, [UNMANNED_X](#)



14:00 - A Future Vision for the Effective Use of Maritime Uncrewed Systems from an Operational Perspective

Bas Buchner, Programme Director Maritime Uncrewed Systems, [Royal Netherlands Navy](#)



14:30 - Advancing Autonomy - The Role of AI in Maritime Capability

Aranya Mitra, Head of Marine Operations, [MSubs](#)



15:00 - Anti-Submarine Warfare using Maritime Uncrewed Systems

Jeroen van de Sande, Senior Scientist, [TNO](#)



15:30 - Networking Break

16:00 - Kongsberg Discovery's unmanned subsea and surface sensor technology for critical infrastructure inspection

Mark Pronk, Sales Manager BeNeLux, [Kongsberg Discovery](#)



16:30 - 3D Printing: The Right Choice for USVs Production

Bob de Reus, 3D Printing Engineer, [Royal3D](#)



17:00 - From Sea Lanes to Subsea Cables: Securing Critical Assets Offshore

Paul Heiden, CEO, [Optics11](#)



17:30 - Roundtable

17:45 - Host's Closing Notes

18:00 - Networking

19:00 - Closure



DAY 2 | INNOVATION AT BATTLE-PACE

AIR & LAND: "From Autonomous Ground Vehicles to AI-enabled UAVs, unmanned systems are reshaping how Armed Forces operate, adapt, and respond across the Modern Battlespace. This Second Day of U-X explores the operational integration of unmanned platforms in contested environments, human-machine teaming, and the new era of Software-Defined Warfare – with a focus on deploying capability at Battle-Pace."

08:00 - **Registration Opens & Welcome Coffee**



INNOVATING AT SCALE

Innovation Lessons Learnt from Across the Ecosystem

09:00 - **Host's Opening Lecture**

Rui Costa, Host, **UNMANNED_X**



09:30 - **Destinus: Innovations for Defence**

Wouter van Beek, Chief Commercial Officer, **Destinus**



10:00 - **Applied Research on Unmanned and Autonomous aviation**

Joost Vreeken, Program Lead "Unmanned & Autonomous", **Royal NLR**



10:30 - **Break**

11:00 - **Next-Generation Command & Control for Unmanned Systems**

Miel van den Brekel, Business Development, **Intelic**



11:30 - **Strike Drones: Evolution or Revolution?**

Where and how strike drones fit into European force structures, and if and why you should care.

Marc C Lange, Strategic Advisor, **2 Ventures**



12:00 - **Stream Roundtable**

12:15 - **Lunch**



A BOLD FRONTIER

Software-Defined Warfare & EW: The 21st Century Battlefield

13:30 - **Host's Opening Lecture**

Rui Costa, Host, **UNMANNED_X**



14:00 - **From the ground up: Advancing UGV autonomy with a glimpse into UAV integration**

Nanda van der Stap, Product Manager, **Milrem Robotics**



14:30 - **Uncowed Drones: Strategic Roles for UAS in North-Western Europe**

Bram Alkema, VP External Affairs, **DeltaQuad**



15:00 - **Logistics at a crossroads: make resupply your highest priority**

Philipp Enzinger, Founder, **Scipio**



15:30 - **Break**

16:00 - **Awaiting Speaker Details [Presentation Title]**

Klementyna Melanich, CEO, **Awedyne**



16:30 - **Awaiting Speaker Details [Presentation Title]**

Nataliia Kushnerska, COO, **Roboneers**



17:00 - **Roundtable**

17:15 - **Host's Closing Notes**

17:25 - **Networking**

19:00 - **Closure**

LOCAL INFORMATION

The Hague & Our Event

As an International city of Diplomacy and Defence, **The Hague** is the ideal backdrop for UNMANNED_X. Home to NATO's C3 Agency, Europol, and dozens of embassies and innovation hubs, this Historical City is the natural venue for cross-domain collaboration in Defence Innovation.

Venue Address

KIVI Royal Institute of Engineers

Prinsessegracht 23
2514 AP The Hague
Netherlands

[Google Maps link](#)



The venue is located in the city centre, a **10-minute walk from The Hague Central Station**, and easily accessible by tram, train, or taxi.

Travel & Access

- **By Train:** Direct intercity trains run from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (~30–35 minutes) and major Dutch cities.
- **By Air:** Fly into **Amsterdam Schiphol (AMS)** or **Rotterdam The Hague Airport (RTM)**. Both have fast transit links to the city.
- **By Car:** Public parking is available nearby, though we recommend public transport due to city centre traffic.

Food & Amenities

- Coffee and lunch will be provided on both days at the venue.
- Nearby, you'll find cafes and restaurants along **Lange Voorhout** and **Plein**, popular with local professionals and diplomats.
- Free WiFi will be available at the venue.

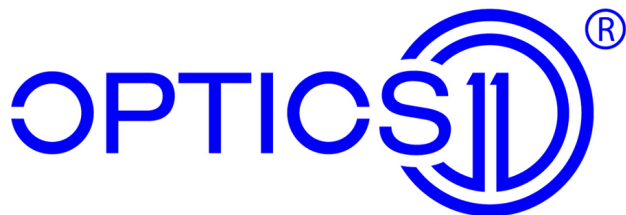
Emergency & Support

- Emergency number: **112** (police, ambulance, fire)
- On-site support contact: Provided in the welcome email
- Embassy assistance: The Hague hosts over 100 embassies, most within a 2km radius of the venue

For additional information about the city, visit: www.denhaag.com

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

MAIN SPONSOR



SUPPORTING
SPONSOR



STAFFING PARTNER



ORGANIZING
SOCIETY



ORGANIZING
SOCIETY



ORGANIZER CONTACT INFO

For further information, reach out to us through the contact below:

EMAIL: NEXUS@UNMANNED-X.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.UNMANNED-X.COM

CELL: +351 914 303 474

ADDRESS:

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

PRINSESSEGRACHT 23

2514 AP



OPTIBARRIER

Immediate,
Over-the-Horizon
Threat Detection,
24/7.



Partners:

MacArtney
UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGY

ELAC SONAR 
A COHORT PLC COMPANY

 **LSI**
Leonardo Sistemi Integrati S.r.l.

TERMA[®]
ALLES IN INNOVATION

 **satways**

Evo
Logics

 **Boskalis**



Access the
Download
Area.

