The **I**nternational **F**orum on **A**dvanced and digitalised **S**mart **T**extiles (IFAST) will take place online, **on 15 and 16 June 2021**, with the objective to evaluate the development of advanced smart textiles in the European defence sector, aiming at laying the foundation of a possible European future dual use programme for multifunctional smart textiles.

The event is organised within a European Defence Agency (EDA) project, “Smart textiles in defence: looking at the soldiers of the future (STILE)”, targeting the reach of a proof of concept of a multifunctional smart textile model in defence. Due to its peculiarities, the STILE model is embedded within the dual use ecosystem, which is expected to get the attention of the EU industrial/research policy in the upcoming years.

The event will gather relevant stakeholders coming from governmental defence bodies, industry (dual use), academia and R&T communities, as well as European institutions and organizations.

The IFAST forum is composed of an **Exhibition Centre**, where industries, academia and research organisations can have a **free** booth (virtual stand) to showcase their products, services and projects in the areas of smart/advanced/digitalised textiles, and a **Conference Area**, organised in the following panels:

* **Panel 1.** Foresight on advanced and digitalised smart textiles in the European defence sector.
* **Panel 2.** Visualising a European dual use programme for multifunctional smart textiles.

The conference will take place on 15 June 2021, while the exhibition centre will be accessible on 15 June and the morning of 16 June 2021.

Participants are offered a free opportunity to provide an abstract and a poster, using the ad hoc templates that can be downloaded in the IFAST website (<https://www.ifast-stile.eu/abstracts/>).

The participation to the IFAST Exhibition area (15 June and morning of 16 June) will be based on the submission of an abstract describing the company products, services or projects.

Participants are also welcomed to ask for a place in the pitching session (that will take place in the morning of 16 June). Since the time slots for pitches are limited, the IFAST Organising Committee will make a selection on the basis of the abstracts submitted by the pitch applicants, based on their originality, technical quality and scientific merit. Participants requesting a virtual booth will get priority in the selection. Those participants, whose abstract will not be selected for the pitching session, will be offered to show a poster in a specific booth within the IFAST Exhibition area. Therefore, the exhibitors are kindly asked to submit also a poster, in case their abstract will not be selected for the pitching session.

Participants can also submit only an abstract, but in this case it is not possible to request a virtual booth.

All the abstracts received with the proper content and format presentation will be included in a **book of abstracts** related to the Conference and Exhibition areas, which will be published after the IFAST event (with ISBN). **The deadline to submit the abstracts/posters is 1 June 2021.**

Only abstracts/posters coming from registered exhibitors will be considered for the booths, pitch session and book of abstracts.

In addition, the participants can become **partners**of the IFAST exhibition centre, under the commitment to submit an abstract and to contribute to the dissemination of the event through their network. Partners are offered a free opportunity to get their logo published on the IFAST website.

Further information about the International Forum IFAST (e.g. programme, speakers) can be found on the website [**https://www.ifast-stile.eu**](https://www.ifast-stile.eu).

The registration is already open and can be made through the IFAST website at the link <https://www.ifast-stile.eu/registration/>

The participants are kindly invited to use the contact form on the website in order to receive more information on the above mentioned opportunities (e.g. booth, abstract/poster, pitch, partnership, registration) or sending an email directly to the functional mailbox **info@ifast-stile.eu**.

Looking forward to seeing you at the IFAST event, on behalf of the European Defence Agency, we send you our kindest regards.

The IFAST Organising Committee