JOINT NORDIC

Initiative for Digital Resilience

The Nordics have been facing a deteriorating security situation in immediate surroundings and the wider Baltic and European area. The political and military situation has changed rapidly. In response Nordic countries are upgrading their capabilities and contribution to security and defence in Nato and the EU – as well as in other organisations and forums.

For the first time in 500 years the Nordics are part of the same military defence alliance – Nato. This an important new development for improving security. The Nordic technology sector plays a critical role in strengthening resilience and robustness in an increasingly unpredictable geopolitical situation. Nordic companies are tech leaders in many areas. There is also cross-border ownership, infrastructure, and operation across the Nordic countries in many areas.

Across the Nordics, public authorities are increasingly turning to the tech sector on defence issues – as partners, customers, as well as regulators. The tech companies' public and private sector customers are asking for more security and resilience. The tech companies are already committed to providing secure and reliable products and services, yet ready to step up to meet the demands and needs of increased security and resilience in a turbulent world. The tech sector will not wait.

Today we launch a Joint Nordic Initiative for Digital Resilience to strengthen cooperation and deliver faster in key areas crucial for defence, digital resilience, and security. As digitalisation and AI is continuing to change and shape societies and economies the importance of the tech industry has increased, including in defence and security. Both the armed forces and the society in general is totally dependent on digital services. There are many lessons from the war in Ukraine that underline the situation and the urgency – fast developments in drones and tech support for troops, logistics, and the protection of civilians. Tech must be prioritized for society's security. Private-public cooperation must accelerate and adapt to a new landscape.

However, private–public cooperation will not be enough. The private sector will need to step up and contribute in its own right. The tech industry wants to contribute. There is a need for enhanced Nordic cooperation for tech in total defence. Therefore, the key Nordic tech-industry organizations are now launching enhanced cooperation in tech and total defence.

To contribute to a safer digital and technological landscape in the region, technology organizations in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland will collaborate on initiatives that strengthen total defence and digital security.

Key elements will be to:

- Build on the cross-border strength in the tech sector and improve conditions to deliver services by making cross-border operations easier. Examples could be working for harmonised rules and mutual recognition of security clearances of personnel in the tech sector in the Nordics and better conditions for investment in connectivity in the Nordics, including investment in back-up and resilience.

- Support and promote coordinated implementation of EU as well as other (local) security laws, regulations, harmonization of security procedures, and development of common infrastructure solutions.

- Further strengthen cooperation on cyber threat management and response to ensure rapid and effective response to cyber threats.

To ensure concrete follow-up of this initiative, we will:

- Establish a Nordic Technology Security Group with participants from each national technology organization.

- Establish an annual Nordic Technology Security Forum to evaluate progress and adjust the strategy as needed.

- Initiate platforms and forums for cooperation with authorities, the defence sector, and relevant international actors to strengthen security in the Nordics.

The Nordic tech sector is ready to take responsibility and accelerate cooperation in the Nordic region, so that we can increase our common digital defense capability and resilience.

At the same time, this joint initiative is an invitation and a call for the Nordic governments to collaborate more closely with the tech sector and to stand together against the increasing hybrid threats to our digital infrastructure in the Nordics.