
Defence Industries Brief

May 5th 2026

Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come! By Norman Leach Chair

DEFSEC West

This year's DEFSEC West Conference was an outstanding success for the Western Canada Defense Industries Association, and I want to extend my sincere thanks to the organizers, partners, and volunteers who made it possible.

Their professionalism, coordination, and commitment created an environment where meaningful conversations and real opportunities could take shape.

WCDIA showed up strong - and the results speak for themselves.

Conference Highlights.

We connected with 206 attendees who left their business cards and expressed interest in deeper engagement with WCDIA and our members. I held 41 private meetings during the event, each one reinforcing the growing influence and credibility of Western Canada's defence sector.

In the first week after returning, we welcomed six new members - a clear sign that industry sees value in what we're building together.

These numbers aren't just metrics; they reflect momentum, trust, and the increasing recognition of Western Canada as a vital contributor to Canada's defence and security ecosystem.

Looking Ahead

The energy from DEFSEC has carried directly into our work, and I'm excited about the partnerships, collaborations, and opportunities already emerging. If this year is any indication, next year's DEFSEC will be even bigger, and WCDIA will continue to play a central role in connecting industry, government, and innovators across the region.

Thank you again to everyone who supported our presence at DEFSEC and to all members who continue to strengthen this association through your engagement and leadership. I can't wait for next year!



In this newsletter you can expect:

New Members

Membership Highlights

Our Men in Europe

Alberta Sector Defense Mission

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Our Team

Did you know?

New Members

WCDIA is happy to welcome our new members



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COMMUNICATIONS



Space Engine Systems

Member Highlight

Space Engine Systems

Space Engine Systems is at the forefront of innovation, currently in the process of developing revolutionary technologies to redefine the landscape of space and high-speed flight.

Our primary focus is on crafting the lightest, reusable, multi-fuel propulsion system designed to optimize engine performance. Our commitment to pushing the boundaries of space and high-speed flight is embodied in the integration of innovative air-breathing technologies.

In tandem with propulsion breakthroughs, we're developing a fleet of reusable, horizontal take-off, and landing space planes. These cutting-edge vehicles, exemplified by HELLO-1 and HELLO-2, seamlessly combine air-breathing and rocket propulsion during ascent, gliding back to Earth with remarkable efficiency.

The versatility of our space planes are unparalleled, offering capabilities such as point-to-point transportation, suborbital, and payload delivery to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at an unprecedented low cost per kilogram. HELLO-2 takes this a step further, boasting the capability to deliver payloads to the lunar surface.

These technological advancements culminate in the creation of the most cost-effective and efficient transportation system for high-speed flight and payload delivery to orbit.

Do you know our passion lies in transforming aerospace and space transportation? We are driven by a mission to eliminate barriers to hypersonic flight and turn affordable space travel into a reality. Join us as we revolutionize the future of transportation solutions.



Space Engine Systems

Our Men in Europe

WCDIA believes that economic success in the defence ecosystem is going to come from working with partners around the world. We are proud to have agents in Stockholm and London looking for opportunities for our members in western Canada.

By Gustaf-Hellstedt Stockholm

Robert Sinclair - Canadian Ambassador to Sweden: Over the past weeks, I have had the privilege of meeting with several key Swedish partners as we continue to advance our collaboration under the Canada–Sweden Strategic Partnership.

My discussions with Minister for Defence Pål Jonson; Peter Hultqvist, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence; Mikael Granholm, Director-General FMV - Försvarets materielverk; and Jens Mattsson, Director-General FOI; focused on our shared priorities: Arctic security, technological resilience, and our unwavering commitment to supporting Ukraine. It was also a pleasure to discuss export controls and investment screening with Carl Johan Wieslander, Director-General ISP Inspektionen för strategiska produkter.

I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about Sweden’s approach to civil preparedness and resilience in meetings with Minister for Civil Defence Carl-Oskar Bohlin; Mikael Frisell, Director General of the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency; and Johan Berggren, State Secretary to the Minister for Civil Defence. Canada and Sweden share a deep interest in strengthening societal resilience in an increasingly complex security environment.

It was encouraging to see the recent increase in high-level Swedish visits to Canada, including by Mikael Frisell, Jens Mattson, and Johan Berggren—a clear sign of our growing partnership. It is also exciting to see the positive momentum in Canada–Sweden defence industrial and commercial cooperation, reflecting growing alignment between our industries and long-term capability needs.

I was also pleased to visit the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM) for Gender in Military Operations, where Canada has been a committed partner since 2017. The Women, Peace and Security agenda is more important than ever as we confront global threats such as technology-enabled violence, disinformation, and climate-related insecurity.

Canada and Sweden are natural partners in security and defence, and I look forward to building on this momentum as we continue strengthening our cooperation.

Alberta Defense Sector Trade Mission to Eurosatory 2026,

Paris, France June 15-19, 2026

The Government of Alberta (GoA) welcomes you to apply to our upcoming defense trade mission to Eurosatory 2026, held in Paris, France this June 15 - 19, 2026.

Description:

This event is expected to draw more than 2,000 exhibitors from around 61 countries, with 76,000+ professional visitors joining from about 155 nations. This scale makes it one of the largest B2B defense and security trade shows globally, offering extensive networking opportunities, live demonstrations, and visibility with senior decision-makers and official delegations.

Key themes:

- Multi-domain superiority (Cyber, Space, AI)
- Remote engagement, land manoeuvre, and air mobility
- Security, risk prevention, and crisis management
- Industrial resilience & the war economy

Benefits:

- Pre-departure Webinar
- Opportunities for B2Bs meetings
- Prairies Defense Hub and Canadian Pavilion as your home base
- Access to meeting tables and business zone
- Inclusion in the Alberta Brochure and Canada profile guide
- Canada Reception and networking events

Date: June 15, 2026 - June 19, 2026

Location: Paris Nord Villepinte exhibition centre, Paris, France

How to participate

To join the mission, please fill out the expression of interest form. (Deadline: April 04, 2026)

We encourage all Alberta organizations to explore the Alberta Export Expansion Program, which provides funding to help cover the costs of travel to formal international trade events.

Website:

<https://export.alberta.ca/event-items/approved-events/2026/eurosatory-2026/>

<https://www.eurosatory.com/en/>

Where to Find us Next

Podcasts You Won't Want to Miss

We've had the incredible opportunity to join some inspiring conversations as guests on a variety of podcasts, sharing insights, stories, and behind-the-scenes perspectives from our work.

Each episode dives into topics we're passionate about - from building meaningful experiences to navigating growth, creativity, and impact.

If you're looking for fresh ideas, honest conversations, and a little inspiration, we'd love for you to tune in and listen along.

JP – Side Hustle Hero
Hosted by Joan Posidy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osmFbAs4WGs>

Epic Events Podcast - Muhammad Younas

<https://www.vfairs.com/epicevents-podcast/norman-leach/>

Your Team

Norman Leach

Chair

Maritza Meneses

Director Operations

Myda Beylerian

Director Southern Alberta

Nicolas Cobb

Director Europe

Gustaf Hellstedt

Director Nordic

Chelsea Leach

Director Communications

Did you Know?

Connections in the Defence and Security Ecosystem

Did you know that the government provides complimentary immigration support to employers? Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada's Dedicated Service Channel provides tailored guidance to employers who are navigating the immigration system as they recruit/retain international talent when suitable local candidates are unavailable.

If you have talent needs and want to learn more about how you can utilize Canada's immigration programs to bring over international talent, reach out to Doris Wong, IRCC Outreach Officer - Alberta at promotion@ic.gc.ca.

For any Defence Industries Brief updates email Chelsea at info@wcdia.ca



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