

Third Performance Evaluation of Systems for Hidden Threat Detection

The detection of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and landmines is a critical capability that enhances force protection and increases the survivability of military personnel. In addition to ongoing efforts to advance detection technologies within four EU-funded projects (DeterMine, AIDEDex, CONVOY, and TICHE), a fifth initiative, the HiTDOC project, focuses on the development of standardized test procedures and methodologies for the objective evaluation of these system solutions. HiTDOC conducts an annual Hidden Threat Detection Challenge, providing a platform to rigorously assess threat detection systems against realistic targets and scenarios relevant to military operations.

The third trial of the EDF Hidden Threat Detection Challenge took place from 21–25 September 2026 at the same FOI facility in Grindsjön, Sweden as the previous 2 trials. Once again benefiting from beautiful weather and excellent organisation, teams were evaluated in the two established tracks: buried threat targets and a route clearance scenario. Several teams showed good performance progress, although further steps are still needed in the coming year, particularly in preparation for next year's urban environment. Alongside the evaluation tracks, HiTDOC therefore offered a training field with urban scenario elements, allowing teams to gain initial experience with the conditions they will face next year.



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