Spain Military Silicon Valley - a good idea for Defense and Research

Published on 23/02/2026

The idea of a more competitive Europe in terms of defense is taking shape through very concrete industrial choices: not just more spending, but infrastructures, supply chains, and technological capabilities to be consolidated on the territory. In this context, Spain is trying to carve out a leading role by focusing on a major innovation hub linked to defense and aerospace.

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The heart of the project: the Indra Technology Hub in Torrejón de Ardoz

The pivot of the operation is Indra, a Spanish group active in technology, defense, and security. The company has announced the construction of the **Indra Technology Hub (ITH)** in **Torrejón de Ardoz (Madrid area)**: a complex on **77 hectares**, with **200,000–300,000 m²** of built surfaces, designed for high-intensity technological and industrial activities.

On the financial front, the project is supported by a **385 million euro loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB)**, while Indra also plans a **direct investment share** (indicated at 200 million) to complete the operation. The start of the works is scheduled **between late 2025 and early 2026**, with the aim of reaching full operation during **2026**.

The purpose of the ITH is to transform Madrid into a hub capable of concentrating R&D and advanced production for dual-use technologies, with a strong push on applications for **defense and aerospace** and on **industrial digitalization** (the classic “industry 4.0” trajectory). The ambition is also employment-related: the construction and start-up of the hub are associated with about **3,000 jobs**.

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The context: the “Leading the Future” plan and the acceleration on defense

The hub is part of Indra's strategic repositioning, summarized in the **“Leading the Future”** plan (presented in 2024), which identifies defense as a growth axis and industrial centrality. In parallel, Indra continues to strengthen its portfolio of military programs and systems (for example, in the field of air defense systems), indicating a trajectory of consolidation of domestic skills.

A relevant element, in political-industrial terms, is the public role: the Spanish State is a **reference shareholder through SEPI (28%)**, and recent moves indicate an orientation to oversee assets considered strategic (also in the space and satellite front, where the dual dimension is evident).

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In the background, the Spanish move also suggests a message for Italy: the **research–defense** combination can become a great industrial opportunity if treated as a system policy and not as a sum of contracts. **Networking universities, technology transfer centers, innovative SMEs, and large players on concrete programs (drones, sensors, electronic warfare, cyber, secure communications, dual-use AI)** would mean shortening the time between laboratory and production, retaining talent, and creating qualified employment, with impacts beyond the military sector. In a European context that is reallocating resources on security, **Italy already has the skills and supply chains to play a high-level game**: what is needed is **critical mass**, coordination, and a vision that transforms defense into a national innovation accelerator, not an isolated spending chapter.

News link: https://cincodias.elpais.com/companias/2025-06-22/indra-financiara-con-385-millones-aportados-por-el-bei-un-hub-tecnologico-en-madrid.html