Defense Digital Ecosystem Alliance (DDEA)

Membership Guidelines

Working Draft | August 2026

---

1. Purpose

The Defense Digital Ecosystem Alliance (DDEA) is an industry-led, vendor-neutral collaborative organization focused on accelerating the adoption, integration, and interoperability of digital engineering capabilities across the Department of War and the Defense Industrial Base.

DDEA membership is intended for established organizations that can both benefit from and actively contribute to the Alliance. Membership is not intended to function simply as a marketing designation or directory listing.

2. Membership Principles

DDEA membership is based on four core principles:

- Relevant Capability - Members should provide technology, services, expertise, research, standards, or mission knowledge relevant to digital engineering and the defense digital ecosystem.
- Meaningful Organizational Scale - Members should have sufficient organizational capability and maturity to participate meaningfully in Alliance activities.
- Active Contribution - Members must agree to contribute time, expertise, technology, facilities, content, or other resources that advance DDEA objectives.
- Collaboration and Interoperability - Members must support the principle that no single company or technology can address the Department's digital transformation requirements alone.

3. Eligible Organizations

Membership may be available to:

- Technology companies
- Engineering and software companies
- Systems integrators
- Professional and technical services companies
- Aerospace and defense manufacturers
- Defense Industrial Base companies
- Research organizations
- Academic institutions
- Standards organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Government agencies and organizations

Individual memberships are not permitted. Membership is held by the organization.

4. Minimum Organizational Size

To maintain an Alliance composed of organizations capable of meaningful participation, commercial members should meet a minimum organizational threshold.

Recommended baseline:

- Employ at least 10 full-time employees;
- Have been operating for at least two years; and
- Demonstrate an established product, service, technology, or capability relevant to the DDEA mission.

The Executive Board may approve exceptions when an organization possesses a unique or strategically important capability that would significantly benefit the Alliance.

Government agencies, academic institutions, research organizations, and nonprofit organizations may be evaluated based on their mission, capabilities, and ability to contribute rather than employee count.

5. Mission Alignment

Prospective members should demonstrate relevance to one or more DDEA focus areas, including:

- Digital engineering
- Digital thread
- Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE)
- Product Lifecycle Management (PLM)
- Application Lifecycle Management (ALM)
- Manufacturing and production systems
- Digital twins
- Modeling, simulation, and training
- Engineering data interoperability
- Data standards and exchange
- Systems integration
- Digital acquisition
- Artificial intelligence applied to engineering
- Configuration and requirements management
- Sustainment and lifecycle engineering
- Cloud and digital engineering infrastructure
- Cybersecurity supporting digital engineering environments

Membership should complement and strengthen the broader DDEA ecosystem.

6. Member Contribution Requirement

DDEA membership is open and without membership fees, but membership is not without obligation.

Every member organization must agree to make a meaningful contribution to the Alliance.

Examples include:

- Participating in a DDEA working group
- Providing technical subject matter experts
- Contributing technology to demonstrations or interoperability exercises

- Supporting reference architectures or use cases
- Participating in technology evaluations
- Hosting workshops, meetings, or demonstrations
- Developing educational or technical content
- Providing speakers or instructors
- Supporting government engagement activities
- Contributing research or lessons learned
- Supporting standards-development activities
- Providing access to software, test environments, or engineering tools for Alliance activities
- Assisting with DDEA events or outreach
- Providing other in-kind resources approved by the Alliance

As a general guideline, each member should participate in at least one meaningful DDEA activity or contribution each year.

7. Designated Representative

Each organization should designate:

- One Primary DDEA Representative
- One alternate representative, when practical

The primary representative should have sufficient authority within the organization to coordinate participation, commitments, and technical resources.

8. Collaboration Expectations

DDEA members are expected to:

- Collaborate professionally with other members
- Support vendor-neutral and standards-based approaches
- Promote interoperability rather than proprietary lock-in
- Respect intellectual property and proprietary information
- Protect government and member-sensitive information
- Avoid using DDEA participation solely for competitive intelligence
- Represent DDEA activities accurately in external communications
- Support the Alliance's objective of advancing practical digital engineering outcomes for the Department of War

Participation in the DDEA does not require a member to disclose proprietary technology, intellectual property, pricing, customer information, or other competitively sensitive information.

9. Membership Is Organizational, Not Individual

Membership belongs to the approved organization.

Employees of member organizations may participate in DDEA activities when authorized by their organization and the appropriate DDEA working group or activity lead.

Membership does not automatically transfer when an individual leaves a member organization.

10. Membership Approval

Prospective members should submit a brief membership request identifying:

- Organization name
- Organization type
- Approximate company size
- Primary capabilities
- Relevance to the DDEA mission
- Proposed DDEA representative
- Proposed contribution to the Alliance
- Government or Defense Industrial Base experience, when applicable

Membership may be approved by the Executive Director or a designated Membership Committee under policies established by the Executive Board.

The DDEA reserves the right to decline membership when an organization does not align with the Alliance's mission, participation requirements, or collaborative principles.

11. Membership Status

Active Member - An organization participating in DDEA activities and meeting its contribution expectations.

Inactive Member - An organization that has not participated or contributed for an extended period.

An inactive member may be returned to active status by reengaging in Alliance activities.

12. Annual Membership Review

Membership should be reviewed periodically to ensure the organization remains aligned with DDEA objectives.

An organization may be removed from membership for:

- Extended nonparticipation
- Failure to meet agreed contribution expectations
- Misrepresentation of DDEA affiliation
- Conduct inconsistent with DDEA principles
- Improper use of DDEA information or relationships
- Activities that materially undermine the integrity or reputation of the Alliance

Removal decisions should be made by the Executive Director or Executive Board in accordance with established governance procedures.

13. Use of DDEA Membership

Approved organizations may publicly identify themselves as a:

Member of the Defense Digital Ecosystem Alliance (DDEA)

Membership does not represent:

- DDEA endorsement of a company's products or services
- Government endorsement
- Preferred vendor status
- Certification of a technology or solution
- Guarantee of access to government programs, contracts, or procurement opportunities

Any formal DDEA technology validation, assessment, certification, or similar designation should be governed by a separate process.

14. Recommended Membership Standard

The DDEA should remain open, free, and inclusive - but not passive.

Organizations should join because they want to participate in building a more interoperable defense digital ecosystem, not simply because they want their logo associated with the Alliance.

Are you relevant to the mission? Are you large and mature enough to contribute? And are you willing to actively help?

If the answer to all three is yes, the organization should be a strong candidate for DDEA membership.