dealroom.co Danske Growth

Nordic defence tech report 2025

18th November

Introduction

Heightened geopolitical tensions and rapid technological shifts continue to shape Europe's and the Nordics' defence priorities. The region's proximity to strategic flashpoints has reinforced the need for stronger cooperation, innovation, and self-reliance.

The EU and Nordic countries are sharpening their defence and dual-use technology strategies, aligning industrial policy, innovation funding, and security goals. While the focus here is firmly on Defence and dual-use technologies, broader Resilience and Infrastructure (DSR) aspects are not included unless stated otherwise.

This narrower scope means a smaller sample of companies, yet the insights remain valuable in tracking emerging trends, capabilities, and investment patterns shaping the future of Nordic defence innovation.

Special thanks to Niels Vejrup Carlsen and Christian Winther (Final Frontier), Magnus Bergman (Luminar Ventures), Thomas Falck (Polarion), Jesper Hart-Hansen (T|Y|R.vc), Jan-Erik Saarinen (Double Tap), Magnus Hambleton (byFounders/DataCrunch), and Claus Thorup Albjerg (EIFO) for their valuable input.

Key Figures

$1.7B
VC investment in Defence & Dual-use Tech since 2019

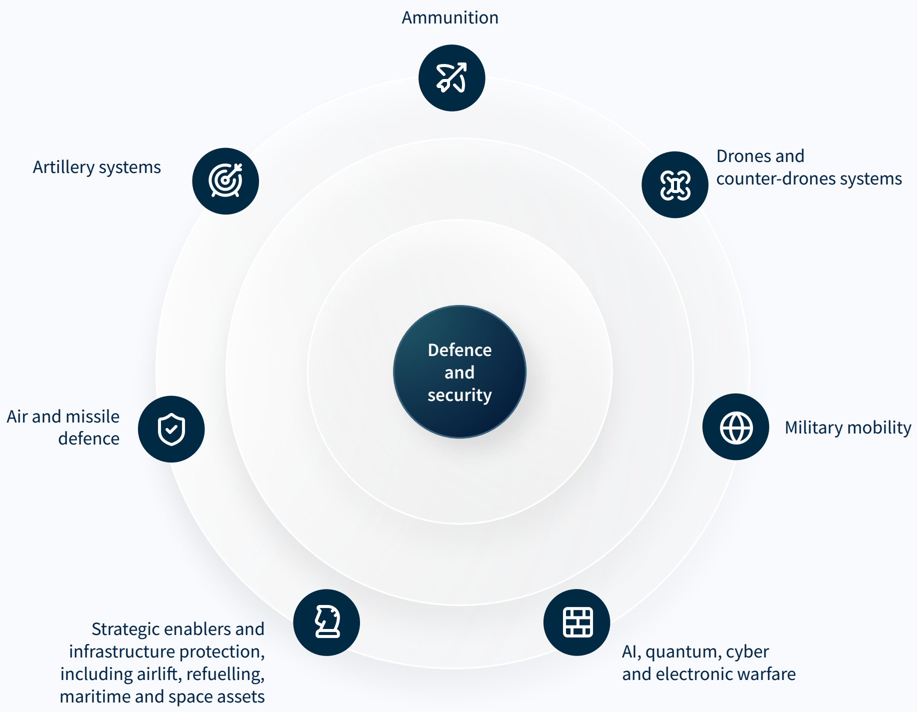
$5.4B
Enterprise Value of Defence & Dual-use startups

80%
Share of Defence & Dual Tech VC funding going to Space and Quantum since 2019

150+
Defence & Dual-use startups in the Nordics

Source: Dealroom.co

EU Defence & Security Priorities and the Nordic's Investment Targets



Nordic Defence Investment Targets

DKK 143B
DENMARK
→ 2024–2034: Strengthen defence, meet NATO targets, enhance societal security

SEK 300B
SWEDEN
→ Next decade: Raise defence spending to 3.5% GDP by 2030

NOK 600B
NORWAY
→ 2025-2036: Boost military capability and readiness

>3% GDP
FINLAND
→ By 2029: Exceed NATO's 2% guideline

Source: Multiple sources. Curated by Danske Growth

The Nordic Implementation Overview

AMMUNITION

🇪🇺EU
Build stockpiles and boost defence industry capacity

🇩🇰 DENMARK
Partnering with Nammo to revive domestic production.

🇸🇪 SWEDEN
Expanding rearmament via Nammo Sweden & Norma Precision.

🇳🇴 NORWAY
Expanding artillery ammo output (Nammo Norway).

🇫🇮 FINLAND
New TNT factory; investing in Patria, Mectalent.

DRONES AND ANTI-DRONES SYSTEM

🇪🇺EU
Develop multi-layered, integrated systems

🇩🇰 DENMARK Investing in Arctic-capable drones; supporting MyDefence, Weibel.

🇸🇪 SWEDEN
Developing swarm drones (Loke) and mobile air defence (SAAB).

🇳🇴 NORWAY
Upgrading NASAMS; enhancing national air defence (Kongsberg).

🇫🇮 FINLAND
Adding F-35s, David's Sling; strengthening GBAD & counter-drone layers..

MILITARY MOBILITY

🇪🇺EU
Build dual-use transport and logistics networks

🇩🇰 DENMARK
Upgrading Esbjerg port, boosting NATO interoperability.

🇸🇪 SWEDEN
Modernising transport for NATO integration.

🇫🇮 FINLAND
Expanding northern logistics and rail for dual-use access.

AI, QUANTUM, CYBER AND ELECTRONIC WARFARE

🇪🇺EU
Advance innovation in emerging defence tech

🇩🇰 DENMARK
DKK 1B in quantum tech; EU secure comms projects.

🇸🇪 SWEDEN
Creating Cybercampus Sweden; strengthening national cyber R&D.

🇫🇮 FINLAND
Enhancing cybersecurity, NATO-linked digital infrastructure, and RDI capacity.

STRATEGIC ENABLERS, INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

🇪🇺EU
Focus on airlift, refuelling, maritime, and space assets

🇩🇰 DENMARK
New naval vessels for mine-laying, surveillance, and rescue.

🇳🇴 NORWAY
New frigates, submarines, and secure undersea comms network.

ARTILLERY SYSTEM

🇪🇺EU
Expand precision, long-range capabilities

🇸🇪 SWEDEN
BAE Systems Bofors self-propelled howitzers.

🇳🇴 NORWAY
GPS-guided self-propelled artillery expansion.

Source: Multiple sources. Curated by Danske Growth

Defence
Tech overview

Defence tech
Defence adjacent

Source: Dealroom.co | Not exhaustive of all segments.

Defence terminology

Dual-use tech

Any startups developing technologies, products or services with disclosed or *clear potential* application in the defence sector.

Examples:
quantum technologies,
space tech, etc.

Examples of Nordic startups:

SPARROW QUANTUM

ReOrbit

IQM

Defence

Core company focus are technologies applied for military use

Examples of Nordic startups:

MYDEFENCE

N4D NORDIC AIR DEFENCE

unbound autonomy

BLINK TROLL

DROPLA

Defence applications

Companies working on different segments and one application is defence.

Examples of Nordic startups:

NORDIC UNMANNED

QUADSAT

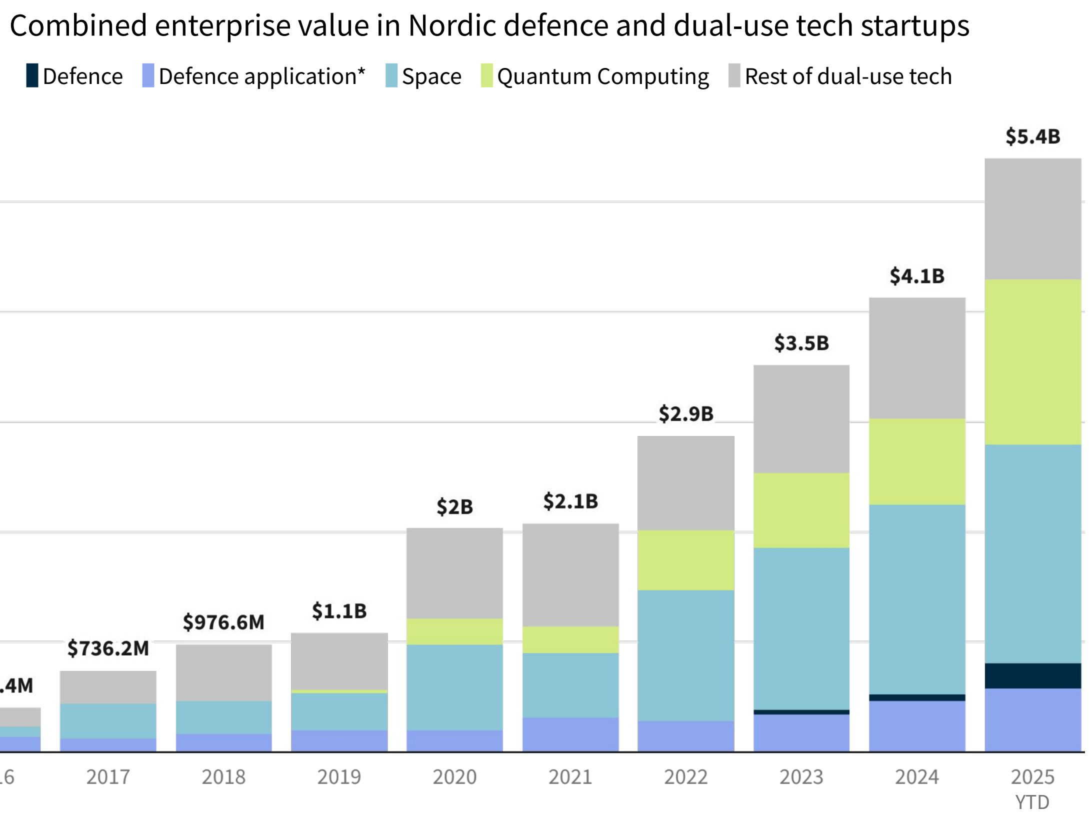
MARITIME ROBOTICS

GIM ROBOTICS

Aquila bioscience

Source: Dealroom.co

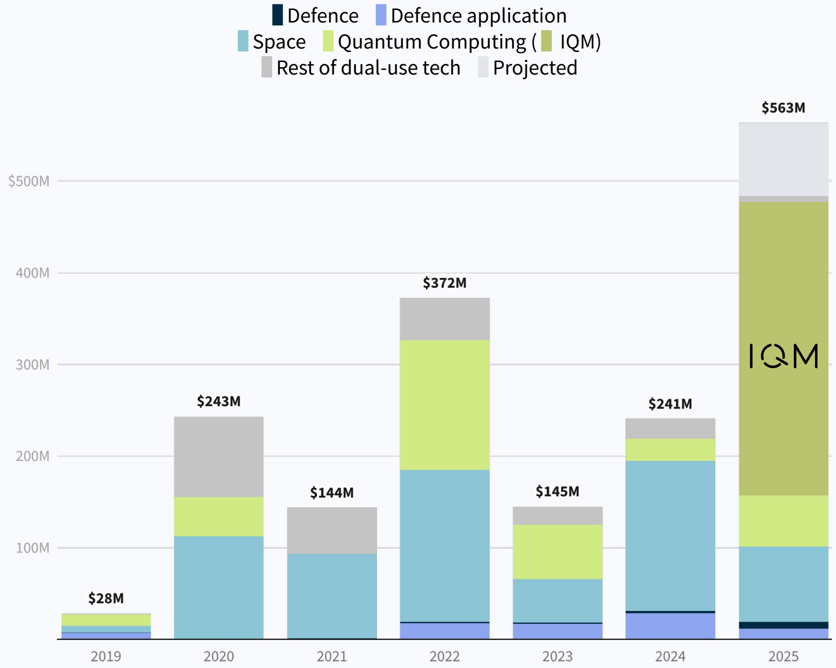
The defence and dual-use tech ecosystem in the Nordics is now worth $5.4B, up 4.9x since 2019



Source Dealroom.co | *excluding space and quantum

VC investment in the Nordic defence and dual-use tech ecosystem has increased 2.3x since 2024, driven by Finnish IQM

VC funding in Nordic defence and dual-use tech startups



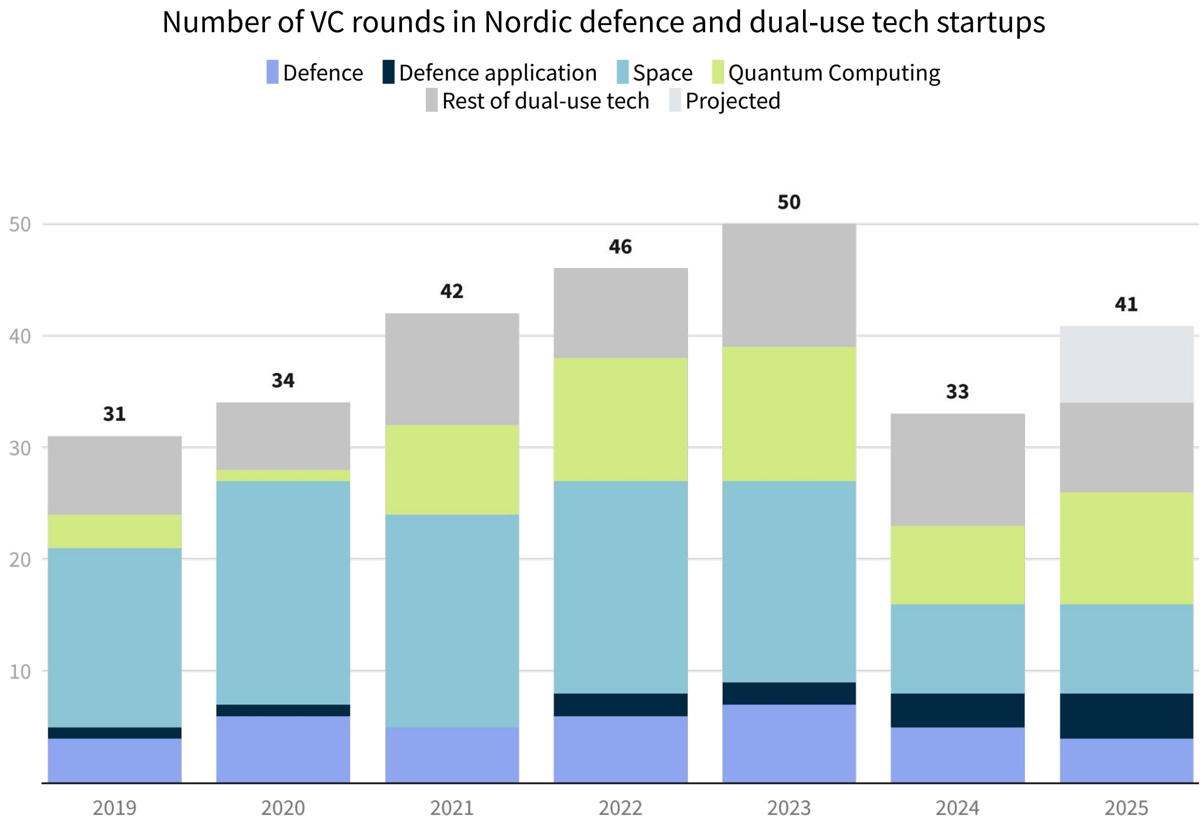
Selected Defence and Defence application rounds* » View online

Company	Amount	Round	Date	Category
embedl	$6.5m	Seed	Jun 2025	AI x Defence
QUADSAT	$5.5m	Series A	Jul 2025	C4ISR - Surveillance
scaleout	$3.8m	Early VC	Feb 2015	AI x Defence
N4D	$2.7m	Seed	Jul 2025	Counter UAV
DROPLA	$2.6m	Seed	Aug 2025	AI x Defence - Demining
BLINK TROLL	$1.6m	Seed	Jun 2025	Training, Simulation, Testing

Source: Dealroom.co | *Space and Quantum rounds highlighted in later slides. | C4ISR: Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance

The number of Defence and Dual-use tech rounds has been gradually rising since 2019

Despite consistent growth over time, performance in the last two years has reverted to pre-peak levels.



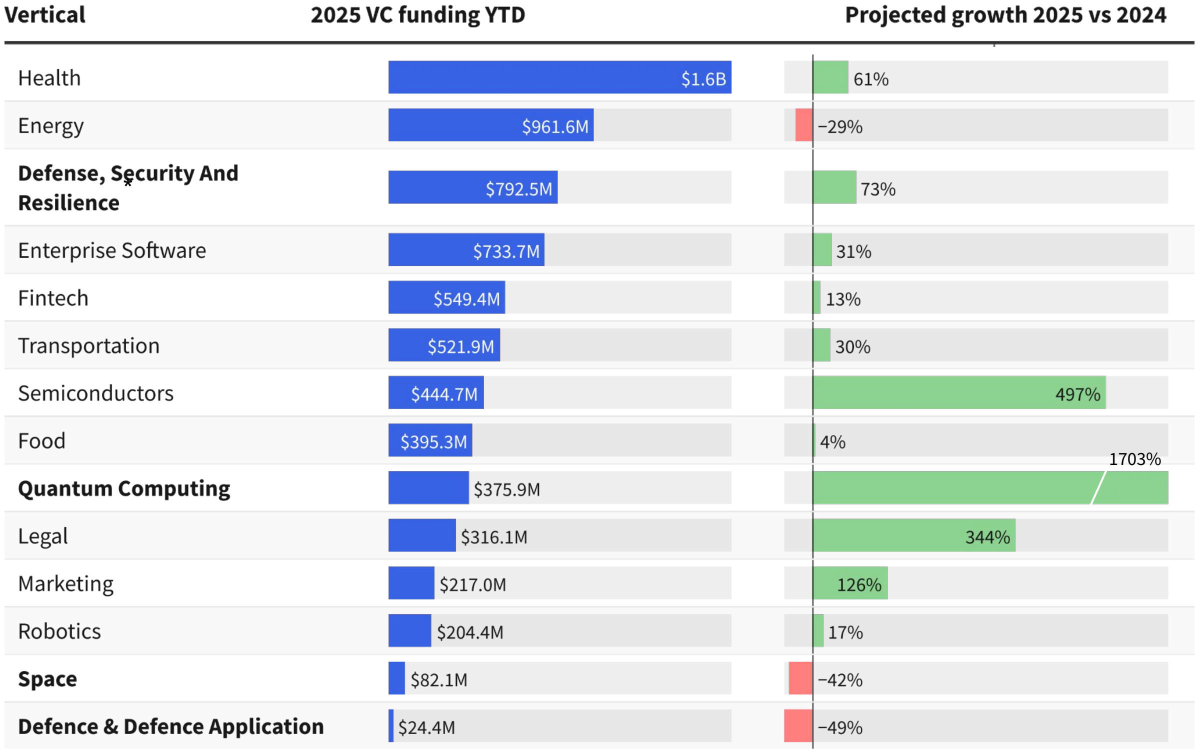
Source Dealroom.co

Danske Growth dealroom.co

Quantum computing is the fastest growing sector in the Nordics this year

Defence tech VC investment volume fell 49% YoY, despite the global rise in focus on defence technology.

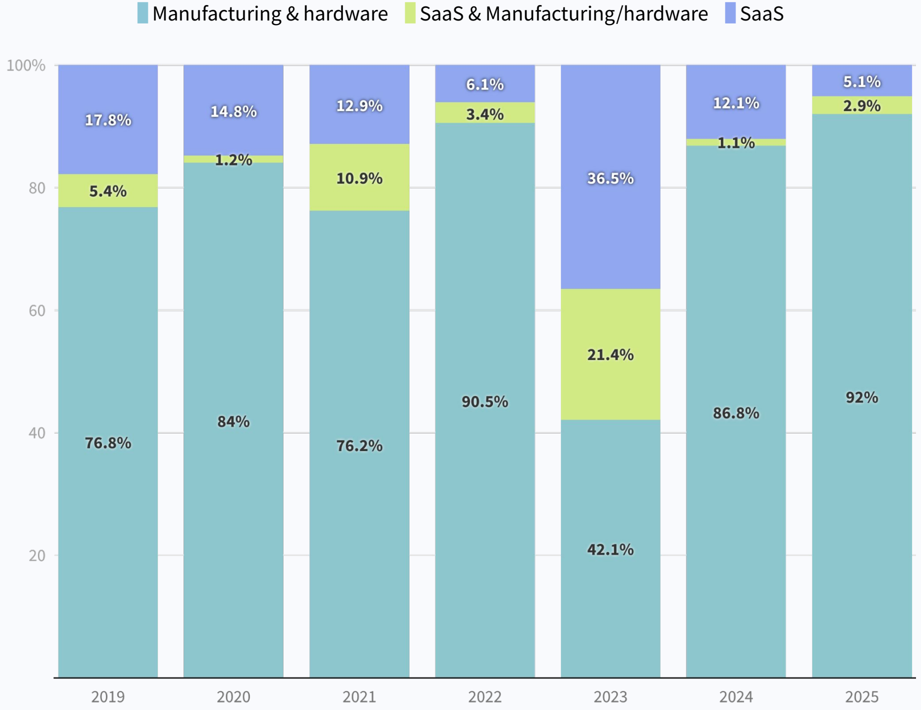
Comparison of VC funding by selected sectors in the Nordics



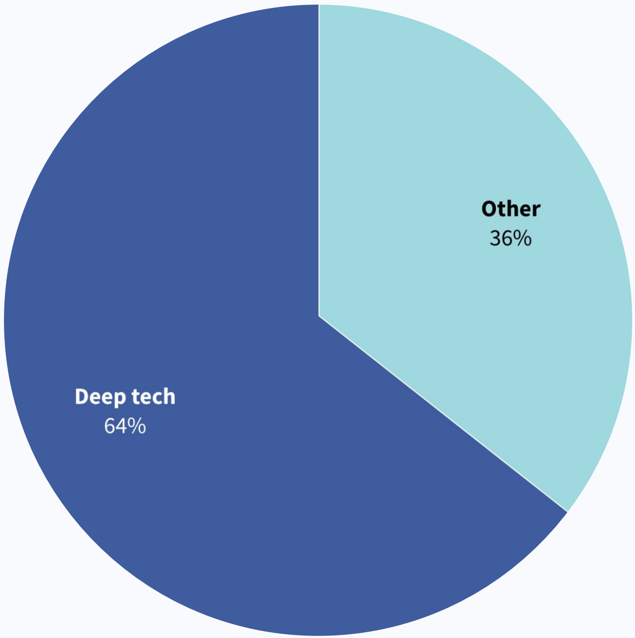
Source Dealroom.co
*Companies that enhance military capability, protect critical infrastructure, and strengthen societies to withstand and recover from crises. Developed together with NATO Innovation Fund (NIF).

VC investments have largely favoured manufacturing & hardware, with 64% of Nordic startups remaining in deep tech, indicating a focus on long-term innovation over short-term deployment

VC funding by business model



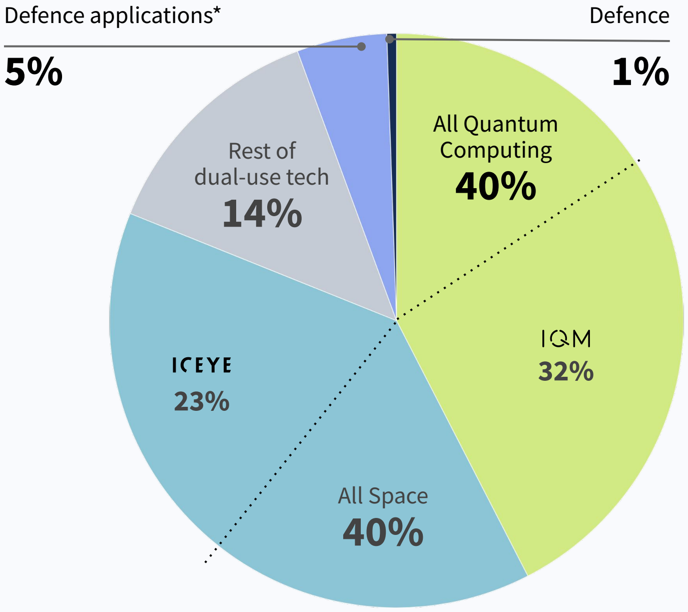
Share of Deep tech startups amongst Dual-use tech



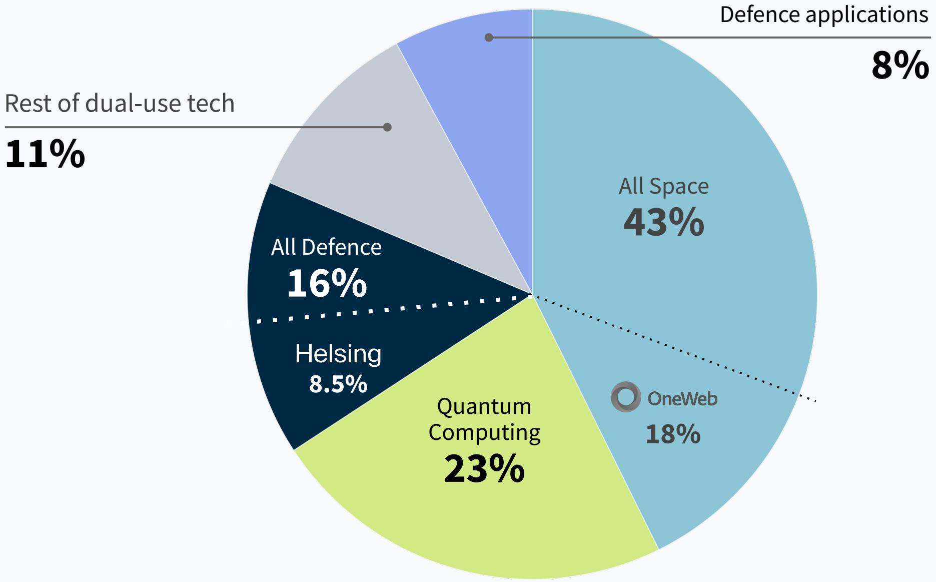
Source: Dealroom.co

Most VC investment in the Nordics has gone towards space and quantum, while the Nordics lag behind European average when it comes to core defence tech

Nordic VC investment by Dual-use segment (2019 - 2025 YTD)



Europe VC investment by Dual-use segment (2019 - 2025 YTD)



Source: Dealroom.co.
*Excludes Space and Quantum
YTD is up until 11/2025

Danske Growth dealroom.co

The Nordics are among the leading European ecosystems for dual-use VC funding, yet maintain a relatively modest % of total VC allocation

VC funding in Defence and Defence application, Space, and Quantum in Europe

	Defence, Space and Quantum VC funding (since 2019)	Defence, Space and Quantum VC funding (since 2024)	% of country total funding (since 2019)	% of country total funding (since 2024)
Germany	$3.7B	$2.3B	5.2%	15.3%
UK	$3.6B	$1.7B	2.3%	4.4%
France	$1.5B	$516.5M	2.2%	3.5%
Nordics	$1.4B	$695.8M	2.4%	6.0%
Southern Europe	$1.2B	$735.8M	4.0%	7.7%
Rest of Europe	$943M	$343.8M	1.2%	1.8%
CEE	$350.5M	$244.6M	2.5%	8.6%

Source Dealroom.co

Nordics lead Europe in per capita defence and dual-use VC investment. Finland leads the Nordics per capita

VC investment in Defence and Dual use per capita in Europe

Country / Region	VC per capita since 2019	VC per capita since 2024
Nordics	$53	$28
UK	$51	$23
Germany	$43	$27
France	$22	$8
Southern Europe	$8	$5
CEE	$2	$1

VC investment in Defence and Dual use per capita in the Nordics

Country / Region	VC per capita since 2019	VC per capita since 2024
Finland	ICEYE IQM $162 $203	ICEYE IQM $81 $98
Denmark	$18	$11
Norway	$15	$7
Sweden	$8	$3
Iceland	$6	$6

Source Dealroom.co

150+ Nordics Defence Tech & Dual-use startups

Explore the landscape »

Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance - C4ISR

Combined funding $ 44M

QuadSAT · KNL Networks · Distance Tec...
Bruhn NewT... · Watch Bird · Modirum
Aerial Tools · Monava · Radionor Co...
AnsuR

Weapons/Defence Systems

Combined funding $ 1.5M

MyDefence · Anybody Tec... · Ytsab Defence
EODynamics

UAVs

Combined funding $ 13M

Robot Aviation · Sky-Watch · Skya
Nordic Unm... · Flygildi (Silen · Kelluu
Skypuzzler · Monopulse · Bionic Syste...
Bird View

Ground UAVs & robotics

Combined funding $ 90.9K

GIM Robotics · Vimotek · 18 WHEELS

Naval and Maritime Technologies

Combined funding $ 18M

Skarv Techn... · Maritime Ro... · Blueye Robo...
Havguard · Dana Dynam... · Eelume
Hefring Marine · Water Linked · Svarmi
Tuco Yacht V... · STADT AS · UWIS
Light Structure

AI x defence

Combined funding $ 5M

Scaleout Sys... · Unbound Au... · Robotto
Confidential...

Training, Simulation and Testing

Combined funding $ 122M

4C Strategies · BlinkTroll Ro... · IMPETUS Afe...
ProVerse. · Anarky Labs · Modelon
Nordic Rada... · Varjo

Satellites (imaging and connectivity)

Combined funding $ 412M

ICEYE · Satcube · GomSpace
Pandionai · ReOrbit · Kuva Space

Rest of Space

Combined funding $ 91M

Ntention · Delta Cygni ...
APR Technol...

Supersonic/ hypersonic planes and propulsion systems

Pyhomspace

Quantum computing, cryptography and sensing

Combined funding $ 271M

IQM · SemiQon · Labber quan...
Bluefors · Sparrow Qu... · Nordic Quan...
Kvantify · QuantrolOx · VEXLUM
Algorithmiq · Molecular Q... · Quanscient
Hafnium Labs · Quantastica · Qdevil

Cybersecurity

Combined funding $ 115M

Advenica · 61N · Recorded Fu...
Arxlight · Synkzone · Hunna
LogPoint · Tosibox · UniqKey

Advanced sensing technology

Combined funding $ 18M

ElFys · Sensrad · Emberion
LYYN · Comcores · Ideas

Energy (e.g. energy storage)

Combined funding $ 9.2M

Nordic Batterie · TioTech · IceWind

Biodefence

Combined funding $ 2M

Ionlace · Aquila Biosci... · SoftOx Solut...

Advanced materials & manufacturing

Combined funding $ 119M

ATLANT 3D · Seram Coati... · Norsk Titani...
DECPT · Adamant Qu... · Ubiq aerosp...
Alva · Carbodeon · Polymer Fac...

Wearables for military

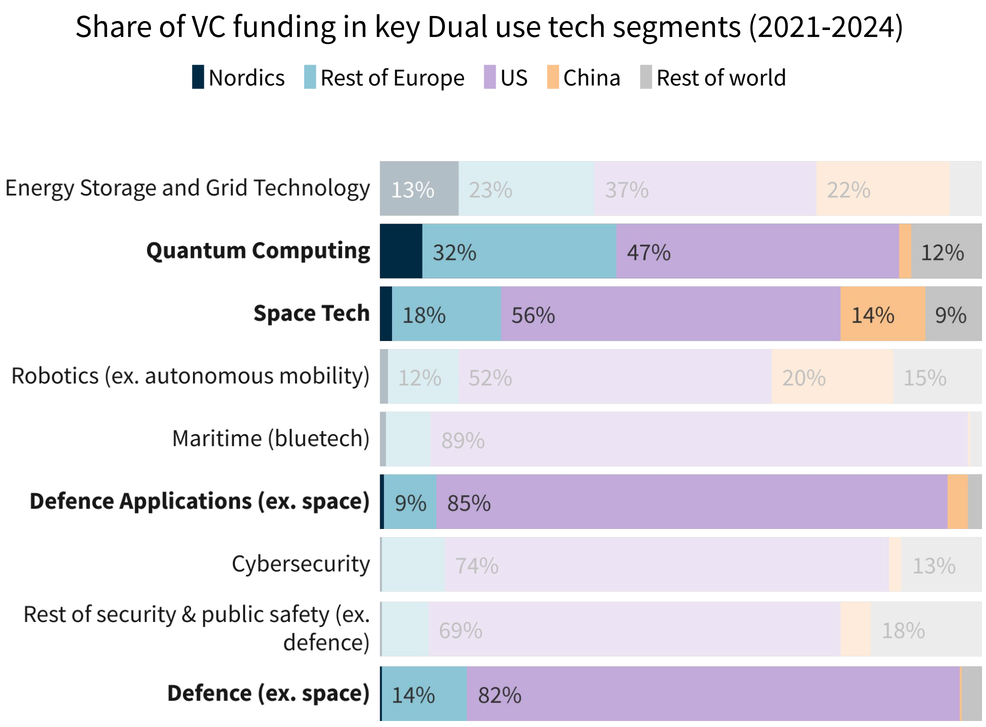
Combined funding $ 50M

Aristeia · Standard Fig... · NFM ARMOU...
Dispelix

1 The state of defence and dual use tech

2 Ecosystem update

Leading dual-use tech sectors in the Nordics include quantum computing and space tech



Source Dealroom.co | Shaded sectors are considered an important topic for resilience but not considered defence or dual-use tech by default.

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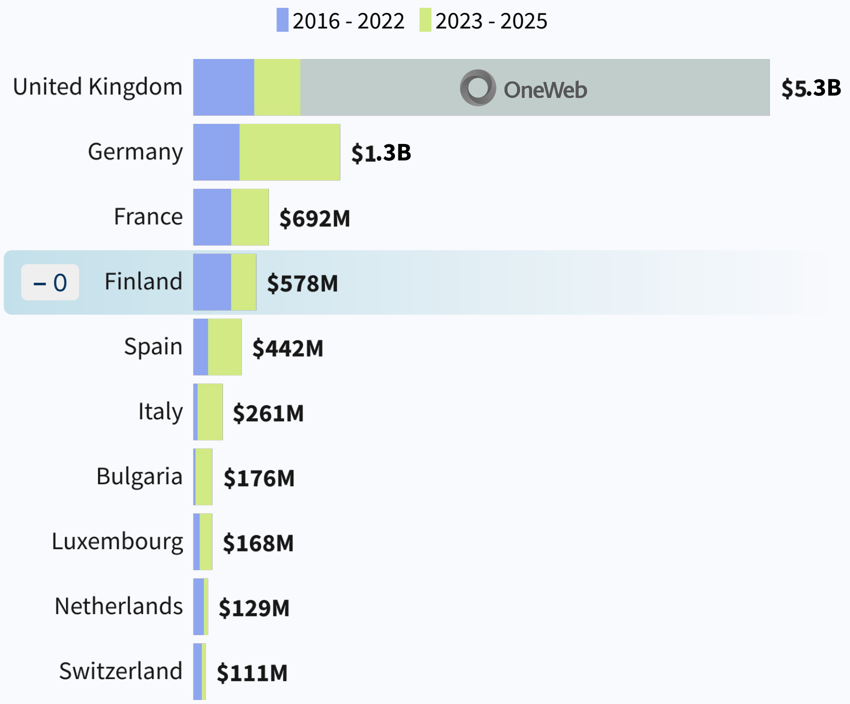
Finland has emerged as a Space Tech forerunner in the Nordics and Europe

Space tech VC Investment in Europe



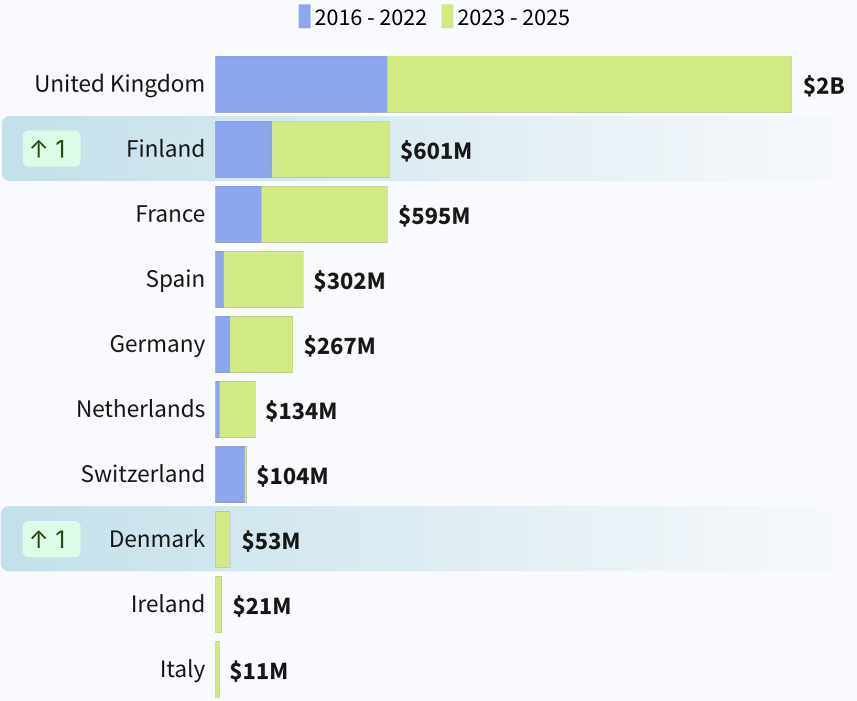
Select top rounds by Space Tech startups in the Nordics since 2024

NAME	LAST ROUND	DATE
ICEYE High-resolution radar imagery for re…	$93.0m SERIES E	Apr 2024
ReOrbit Bringing technology together to sha…	€45.0m SERIES A	Sep 2025
ICEYE High-resolution radar imagery for re…	$32.5m SERIES E	Dec 2024
Norsk Titanium Develops manufacturing technology…	$25.0m PRIVATE PLACEMENT VC	May 2024
ATLANT 3D Atomic-scale manufacturing platfor…	$15.0m SERIES A	Mar 2025

Source: Dealroom.co | Data as of 09/2025

Finland and Denmark are leaders for Quantum investment in Europe with a large increase in funding since 2024

Quantum VC investment in Europe



Select top rounds by Quantum startups in the Nordics since 2024

NAME	LAST ROUND	DATE
IQM European leader in superconducting…	$320m SERIES B	Sep 2025
Sparrow Quantum Sparrow Quantum: World Leaders in…	€21.5m SERIES A	Apr 2025
SemiQon Building silicon-based quantum pro…	€15.0m EARLY VC	Feb 2025
Kvantify Solving difficult computational chall…	€10.0m SEED	Jul 2024
QuantrolOx Pioneers Quantum EDGE software f…	€6.5m EARLY VC	Sep 2025

Source: Dealroom.co | Data as of 09/2025

Where are Nordic defence startups based?

Helsinki, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Aalborg, Trondheim and Oslo host most defence tech, space and quantum startups.

Finland shows a very strong centralization in Helsinki, while Denmark, Sweden and Norway have multiple hubs.

In **Denmark**, Aalborg and Copenhagen emerge as key hubs. Aalborg hosts notable activity thanks to the Aalborg University (AAU), and the presence of mature defence industry players and army outposts. Odense also shows up with its robotics hub.

In **Sweden**, Stockholm is the main hub, followed by Uppsala, Gothenburg, Luleå and Malmö & Lund.

In **Norway**, Trondheim follows Oslo to host notable activity in maritime technologies coming from offshore expertise.

Iceland is concentrated in Reykjavík.

Source: Dealroom.co

Nordic defence partnerships driving sector innovation

NORDIC AIR DEFENCE

Partnership: VOLVO

In 2025, Nordic Air Defence partnered with Volvo Defense to integrate advanced anti-drone systems into Volvo's VIPRO vehicle-protection platform. The collaboration combines Volvo's heavy-vehicle engineering with Nordic Air Defence's AI-guided Kreuger 100XR interceptor, creating a new generation of mobile counter-UAS solutions designed for mass production and European defense autonomy.

CLAVISTER

Partnership: SAAB

In 2025, Swedish cybersecurity firm Clavister partnered with Saab to enhance cyber resilience in Saab's defense platforms. The collaboration integrates Clavister's AI-driven security technology to strengthen secure communications and mission-critical systems, advancing Sweden's push for sovereign, cyber-secure defense capabilities.

SKY-WATCH

Partnership: Palantir

In 2025, Danish drone maker Sky-Watch partnered with Palantir Technologies to integrate real-time data from its RQ-35 Heidrun reconnaissance UAVs into Palantir's analytics platforms. The collaboration aims to fuse front-line sensor feeds with tactical data systems, streamlining ISR and mission-planning workflows for defence customers across Europe.

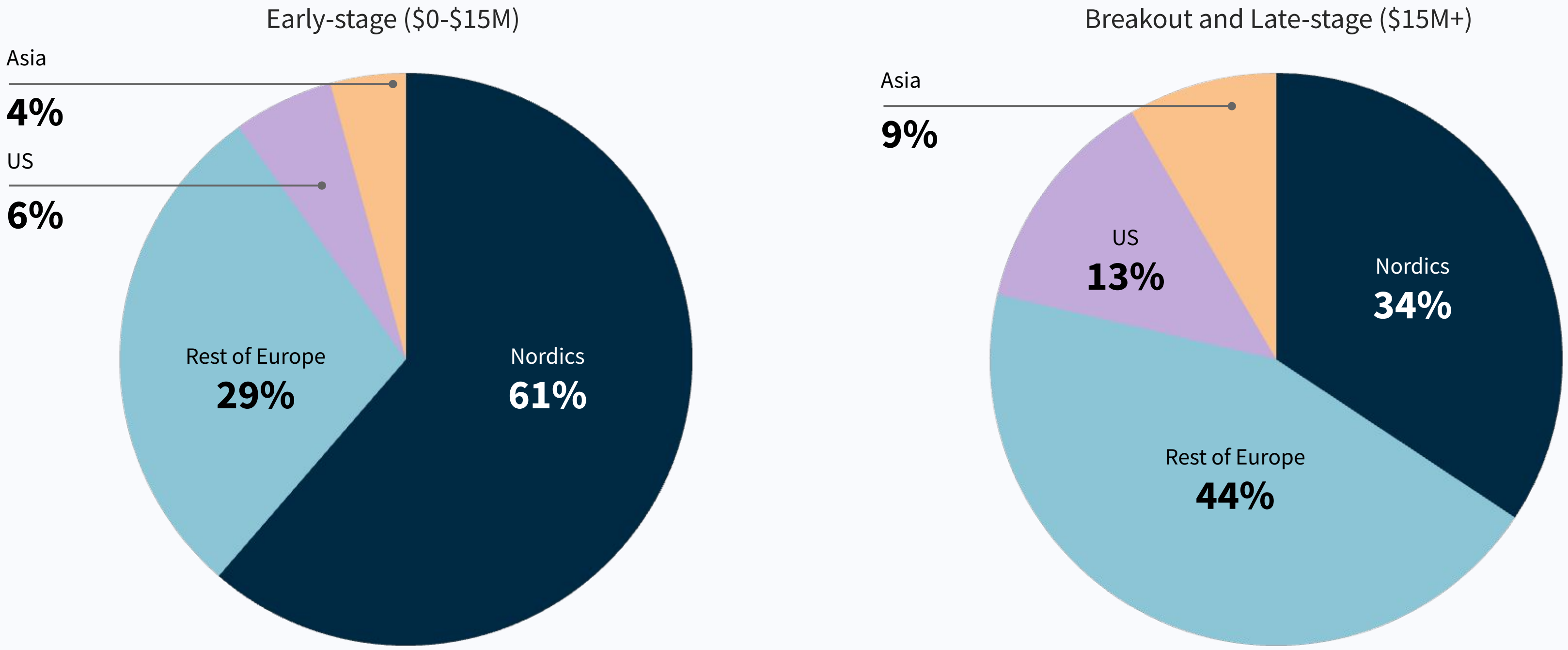
ICEYE

Partnership: LOCKHEED MARTIN

In 2024, Finnish radar-imaging startup ICEYE joined forces with Lockheed Martin as part of Finland's F-35 industrial-participation programme. The partnership leverages ICEYE's spaceborne synthetic-aperture radar constellation to enhance ISR and battle-space awareness, while anchoring new space-sector manufacturing and analytics capabilities within Finland's defence ecosystem.

Nordic investors provide over 60% of early-stage VC funding, but their share drops to a third at late stage as Europe and US investors expand

VC funding since 2019 by investor location in Nordic defence and dual-use tech startups



Source: Dealroom.co | Nearly no investor from China. Only notable case is Tencent investments in IQM Quantum computers

The Nordics defence and dual-use investor landscape.

	Significant defence or dual-use portfolio	Some defence or dual-use investments
Nordics-based VCs	Double Tap Investments, Final Frontier, Prima Materia, RYMD Kapital, 55North, HighTor Capital, Varangians, polarion	Voima Ventures, Life Line Ventures, Chalmers Ventures, SNÖ, STOAF, MAKI.VC
Rest of Europe VCs	MD ONE, Project A, Expansion, NewSpace Capital, Dark Star, 2xN, 201 Ventures, Seraphim, 7Percent Ventures, Molten, Lake Star, NIF	IQ Capital, MMC ventures, Notion, Air Street Capital, b2venture, HCVC, promusventures, plural, vsquared ventures
Rest of the world VCs	iqt, Acequia Capital	Founders Fund, NEA, Insight Partners

CVCs

Helen Ventures, equinor, KLP, SAAB, SCANIA, Patria

Institutional investors
National / Local mandate

Rymdstyrelsen – Swedish National Space Agency, Innovation Norway, VINNOVA, Tesi, EIFO, almi

Institutional investors
Cross-border mandate

eureka, European Innovation Council, European Investment Bank, esa

Institutional investors
Foreign investors

New York State, NYSERDA

Source: Dealroom.co | Investors shown are not exhaustive for graphical reasons. Selection based on total number of investments in Defence and Dual-use tech
*Prima Materia is Nordic based but has notable backed Helsing in Germany. | All investors have regional experience in the Nordics and Dual-use tech startups

Top investors in Defence and Dual-use tech in the Nordics are namely local investors, state and EU affiliated funds

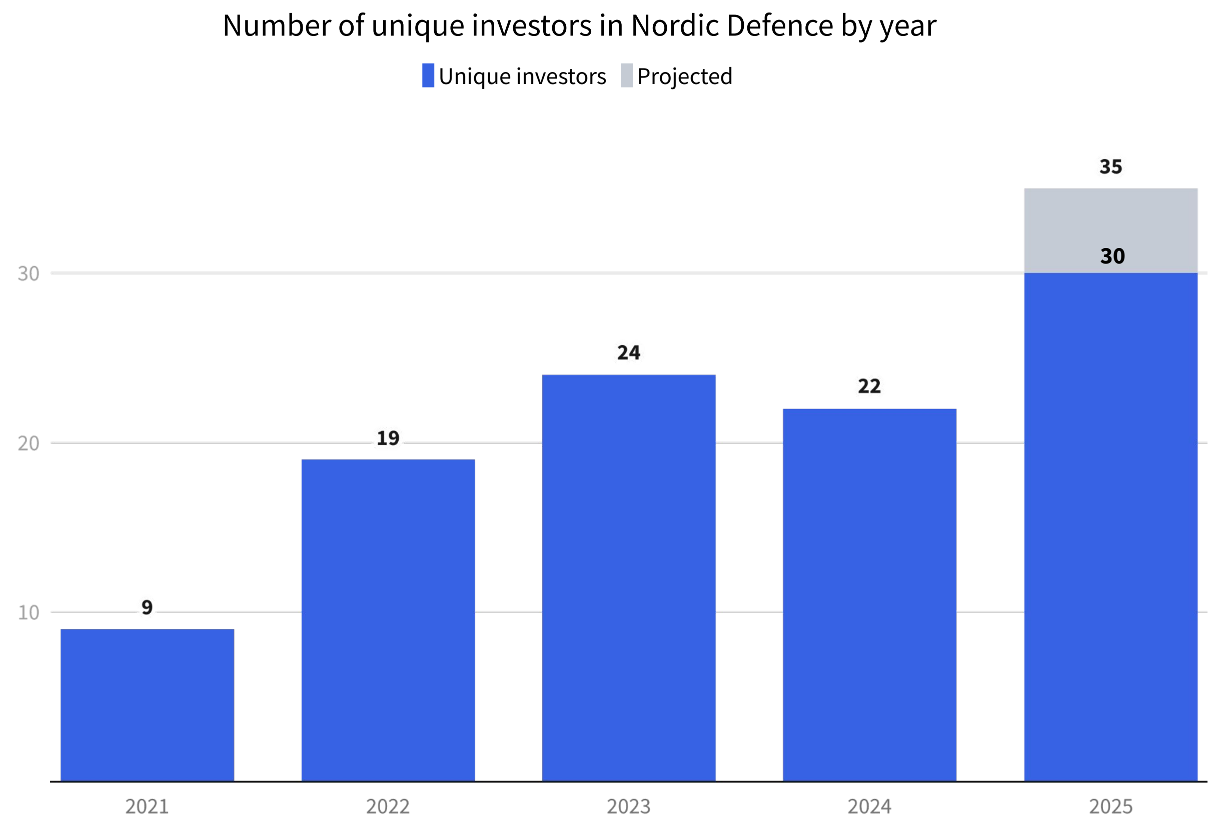
Top investors in Defence and Dual-use technologies in the Nordics since 2019

Investor	Investor type	Preferred round	Defence and Dual-use rounds since 2019
Seraphim Space	Venture capital	SEED	10
Almi Invest	Venture capital	SEED	7
EIC Fund	Venture capital	SEED	7
Export and Investment Fund of Denmark	Venture capital	SEED	6
Lifeline Ventures	Venture capital	SEED	6
Maki.vc	Venture capital	SEED	6
2xN	Venture capital	SEED	6
Tesi	Venture capital	SERIES A	5
Chalmers Ventures	venture_capital	SEED	4
Navigare Ventures	Venture capital	SEED	4
Fazer	corporate	ACQUISITION	4
STOAF	venture_capital	SEED	3
Icebreaker VC	Venture capital	SEED	3
Voima Ventures	Venture capital	SEED	3

Source: Dealroom.co 2025 data as of 1st Oct 2025

More and more investors are becoming involved in Nordic Defence

The number of unique investors in Nordic defence tech has steadily increased, projecting 3.9x growth since 2021, indicating growing interest and diversification of the investor base.



Source: Dealroom.co 2025 data as of 1st Oct 2025

Dedicated Nordic defence VCs are emerging

DENMARK

Final Frontier

Founded: 2024

Fund Size: Fund I: €4.5M; raising Fund II (target €100M)

Investment Thesis: Invests in Defence, Space & Cyber tech startups with working prototypes (TRL6+), focused on the Nordics and Baltics.

Sector Focus: Autonomous systems (air, sea, land), Counter-drone, Intelligence / Situational awareness, Satellite systems, Critical infrastructure cybersecurity,

Portfolio Highlight:
BlinkTroll, Dropla, P-Secure

FINLAND

DOUBLE TAP INVESTMENTS

Founded: 2023

Fund Size: Not disclosed

Investment Thesis: Focuses on pure defence tech, primarily Ukrainian startups solving frontline military challenges.

Sector Focus:
Unmanned systems (air, river), Cybersecurity, Open-source intelligence

DENMARK

T|Y|R.vc

Founded: 2025

Fund Size: Co-investing with UK family foundation; raising €30M (hard cap €80M)

Investment Thesis: Backs Northern European dual-use (defence) tech at TRL5+, with strong IP protection.

Sector Focus: NATO priority tech areas: autonomous systems, quantum, biotech/human enhancement, space, novel materials, energy & propulsion, next-gen communications

Portfolio Highlight:
Sonair AS

SWEDEN

GUNGNIR CAPITAL

Founded: 2025

Fund Size: Currently raising

Investment Thesis: Invests in early-stage defense tech startups. Leverages operational military insight and industry networks.

Sector Focus: Tactical autonomy, robotics, cyber/AI warfare, intelligence (ISR/OSINT), quantum, sensors, communications, space

NORWAY

Polarion

Founded: 2025

Fund Size: Raising €100M

Investment Thesis: Invests in Nordic defence tech with armed forces contracts. Uses scenario-based foresight to identify future conflict technologies, including hybrid warfare, and supports international scaling.

Sector Focus: Counter-drone, Sensors, Cybersecurity, Advanced materials, Arctic & maritime tech

Source: Insights gathered by Danske Growth

A few words on our methodology.

What is a startup?

Companies designed to grow fast. Generally, such companies are VC-investable businesses. Sometimes they can become very big (e.g. $1B+ valuation). When startups are successful, they develop into scaleups (>50 people), grownups (>500 people) and result in big companies. Only companies founded since 1990 are included in this report.

Blog post: **What is a Startup?**

Industries, Segments

Dealroom's Intelligence Unit has developed a proprietary technology taxonomy that acts as a foundation and helps navigate existing and emerging technologies. We welcome suggestions and feedback at support@dealroom.co.

Blog post: **Tech taxonomy**

Venture Capital, Investors

Investment are referred to by their round labels such as Seed, Series A, B, C, … late stage, and growth equity. VC investments excludes debt or other non-equity funding, lending capital, grants and ICOs.

Buyouts, M&A, secondary rounds, and IPOs are treated as exits: excluded from funding data, but included in exit data.

Underlying Data

Dealroom's proprietary database and software aggregate data from multiple sources: harvesting public information, user-submitted data verified by Dealroom, data engineering. Data is verified and curated with an extensive manual process.

The data on which this report builds is available via **app.dealroom.co**. For more info please visit dealroom.co or contact **support@dealroom.co**.

Dual-use tech definition

Dual-use technology startups include companies that develop products and services that can be used in both civilian and military sectors. These startups contribute with their core technologies toward enhancing national security and defence (defence applications) or advancing civilian industries like healthcare, infrastructure, and energy (civilian applications).

dealroom.co

Global startup & venture capital intelligence platform.

Dealroom.co is the foremost data provider on startup, early-stage and growth company ecosystems in Europe and around the globe.

Founded in Amsterdam in 2013, we now work with many of the world's most prominent investors, entrepreneurs and government organizations to provide transparency, analysis and insights on venture capital activity.

Danske Growth

About Danske Bank Growth

Danske Bank is a leading Nordic bank with a global presence. Danske Bank Growth is part of Danske Bank and the one-stop bank for growth companies.

Understanding the unique challenges of scaling a company, Danske Bank Growth provides tailored advisory services, financial solutions, and strategic insights to help businesses on a venture journey realize their ambitions. Catering to fast-growing companies across various sectors, it offers essential setup services initially, followed by specialized guidance and scalable solutions as businesses progress through their growth phases.

Learn more at danskebankgrowth.com

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