

# Finland to Lead European Quantum Technology Initiative for Defense Applications

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**Finland is set to spearhead a new, high-profile project aimed at integrating cutting-edge quantum technology into European defense systems. The initiative, named “Quantum Enablers for Strategic Advantage” (QUEST), has been selected as part of the European Union’s Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) framework and has garnered significant interest from across EU member states.**

The QUEST project will focus on the development and deployment of quantum technology for critical defense capabilities, including advanced positioning, territorial surveillance, and enhanced air and missile defense systems. This strategic undertaking reflects a growing imperative to bolster European strategic autonomy and update defense technologies, a need further underscored by the ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe.

Finnish Defense Minister Antti Häkkinen emphasized Finland’s pivotal role: “Finland possesses cutting-edge expertise in quantum technology and hosts one of the most advanced quantum technology ecosystems. We are committed to integrating quantum technologies into our defense capabilities.” He added that the QUEST project, conducted in collaboration with European partners, will establish a robust foundation for applying quantum technology in defense.

Participating member states in QUEST include Germany, Denmark, Latvia, and Italy, with Sweden, Greece, and the Netherlands joining as observers. This collaborative effort within PESCO aims to pool resources, improve interoperability, and strengthen the European Defense Technological and Industrial Base. A key focus of QUEST will be the research and development of advanced quantum sensors and measuring devices.

The approval of QUEST, as part of the sixth wave of PESCO projects, highlights the EU's commitment to investing in next-generation defense capabilities to address evolving security landscapes.