

Fincantieri Launches its Innovation Antenna in San Francisco to Boost Dual-Use Technologies

Trieste/San Francisco, October 25, 2024 - [Fincantieri](#), a global leader in the construction of advanced technology ships, announced, in the presence of the Undersecretary of **State for Defense, Hon. Matteo Perego di Cremona**, the opening of its Innovation Antenna at the Mind the Bridge Innovation Center in San Francisco. This strategic move strengthens the company's positioning within the world's most advanced technology ecosystem, with the aim of exploring new trends and developing innovative solutions with a focus on Dual-Use technologies, i.e. solutions applicable in both civilian and military sector. The development areas mainly focus on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, automation, and robotics, sectors where the convergence between civilian and military applications is particularly prominent.

In collaboration with [Mind the Bridge](#) and supported by [Crunchbase](#), Fincantieri has presented the report [***"Dual-use technologies: going beyond the dual-use divide,"***](#) a groundbreaking study that offers a deep mapping of this rapidly expanding sector.

The report, which analyzed over 60,000 startups across NATO and allied countries, revealed that approximately 25% (15,260) of these startups are developing Dual-Use technologies. Of these, 170 are already active in the military sector, while another 715, initially focused on civilian solutions, have pivoted towards defense. Currently, only 5% of Dual-Use startups have implemented technologies for both sectors, highlighting significant untapped potential. The report also notes that in countries like Israel, the conversion rates from civilian to military applications exceed 60%, a trend that could be mirrored in other regions.

"The defense industry is deeply rooted in our DNA," said **Pierroberto Folgiero, CEO and General Manager of Fincantieri**. "Fincantieri is one of the few remaining innovation hubs in heavy industry in Italy. We have maintained our global leadership thanks to our ability to integrate complex technologies, from cruise ships to military units. For us, defense is not only a tradition but also a constant area of innovation. Through the development of Dual-Use technologies, we can create solutions that address both civilian and military challenges. This allows us to anticipate the needs of both sectors and evolve our offerings. In today's uncertain geopolitical landscape, the ability to navigate between these two worlds becomes a strategic asset for both industry and the country."

According to **Alberto Onetti, Chairman of Mind the Bridge**, "Since 2021, we have witnessed a radical shift in how venture capital approaches Defense Tech startups. While investments were limited in the past, today we are seeing a real boom, with billions of dollars being mobilized every year, driven by programs such as those from NATO and leading investors like Andreessen Horowitz, General Catalyst and Y Combinator."

The opening of the San Francisco Innovation Antenna marks a new chapter in Fincantieri's Open Innovation strategy, reinforcing its commitment to integrating civilian and military technologies. The goal is clear: to create an ecosystem where innovation and collaboration can thrive, accelerating the adoption of Dual-Use solutions and supporting both digital and energy transitions. In this context, Fincantieri positions itself as an enabler of change, ready to lead the way toward sustainable growth for the future of global industry.

###

Fincantieri

Fincantieri is one of the world's largest shipbuilding groups, the only one active in all high-tech marine industry sectors. Its leader in the construction and transformation of cruise, naval and oil & gas and wind offshore vessels, as well as in the production of systems and component equipment, after-sales services and marine interiors solutions. Thanks to the expertise developed in the management of complex projects, the Group boasts first-class references in infrastructures and is a reference player in digital technologies and cybersecurity, electronics and advanced systems. With over 230 years of history and more than 7,000 ships built, Fincantieri maintains its know-how, expertise and management centres in Italy, here employing 10,000 workers and creating around 90,000 jobs, which double worldwide thanks to a production network of 18 shipyards operating worldwide and with over 21,000 employees. www.fincantieri.it

Mind the Bridge

Mind the Bridge is a global open innovation platform, providing services and products to corporates and local startup ecosystems. Headquartered in Silicon Valley with offices in Barcelona, Seoul, Tel Aviv, New York and Milan. It has been working as an international bridge at the intersection between startups and corporates since 2007. Mind the Bridge scouts, filters, and works with 10,000+ startups a year supporting global corporations with open innovation initiatives that translate into curated deals with startups (POCs, procurement, investments, and/or acquisitions). It also provides corporates with advisory services and benchmarking on innovation strategies and structures. Mind the Bridge developed MTB Ecosystem, an AI-powered open innovation matching platform for innovation ecosystem hubs and corporates. Mind the Bridge, in collaboration with the International Chamber of Commerce, annually hosts the 'Corporate Startup Stars' awards, recognizing the most startup-friendly global corporates, and the 'Startup Ecosystem Stars,' which highlights public and private organizations—at municipal, regional, national, and transnational levels—that support innovation within their ecosystems. For more info: <http://mindthebridge.com> | @mindthebridge

Media contacts

FINCANTIERI

Press Office Investor Relations

Tel. +39 040 3192473 Tel. +39 040 3192111

press.office@fincantieri.it | investor.relations@fincantieri.it

Mind the Bridge

Serena Orizi, PR and Media Relations

+39 (320) 420-5558 | sorizi@mindthebridge.com