

## German Defence Tech Firm Brings Anti-Drone Innovation to the UK

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German defence technology company Alpine Eagle is set to expand into the United Kingdom, as part of its growth strategy following a €10.25 million seed funding round. The move reflects the UK's growing appeal as a hub for European defence innovation, particularly in counter-drone technologies that are gaining relevance across NATO member states.

Founded in 2023, Alpine Eagle has quickly gained attention for its airborne counter-drone system known as Sentinel. Unlike traditional ground-based systems, Sentinel operates from the air, using a combination of sensors, computer vision, and machine learning to detect and intercept hostile drones. Its air-to-air approach is designed to overcome the limitations of fixed systems, particularly in complex or remote environments where small, low-cost drones pose a growing threat.

The funding round was led by UK-based investor IQ Capital and supported by several European venture firms. Alpine Eagle plans to use the new investment to expand its engineering and commercial teams, with a particular focus on establishing a presence in the UK. The company's co-founder and CEO, Jan-Hendrik Boelens, who previously worked with Airbus and Volocopter, said the evolution of drone warfare is advancing rapidly, and that the industry must keep pace with emerging threats. He expects autonomous drone engagements to become more common over the next five years.

Alpine Eagle's technology has already been adopted by the German military and is reportedly undergoing operational testing in Ukraine. The firm has recorded strong revenue growth in its first year, supplying both defence and government clients. With increasing concerns over the use of uncrewed aerial systems (UAS) in conflict zones and domestic settings, the UK is seen as a logical next step for expansion.

The decision also reflects a broader trend in European defence policy, where smaller, agile firms are playing a more prominent role in technology development. Analysts suggest this shift is necessary to meet urgent operational needs while reducing dependence on legacy suppliers. In the

UK, where policymakers continue to stress the importance of industrial resilience and innovation, Alpine Eagle's entry could be well received.