



ITEC 2026 - Training Technology: Why It's Worth Attending (and What to Expect)

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In the European landscape of events dedicated to innovation in military training, **ITEC 2026** stands out as one of the most significant appointments for those operating in **defence training technology**: a place where operational needs, technological solutions, and institutional decision-makers meet. The 2026 edition will be held **in London (United Kingdom), at ExCeL London**, and aims to bring together the international community working on simulation, training, doctrine, and digital tools to support the armed forces.

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A “key” event for the defense training community

ITEC is a **multi-day European reference event** dedicated to advancing technological solutions for training, with the goal of **promoting collaboration and continuous learning** in a context of increasingly complex global threats.

The profile of participants is intentionally broad: the event attracts **NATO representatives, senior officers, European and international Ministries of Defense, technology providers, academia, and industry experts**. In practice, a complete ecosystem where those who define requirements, those who finance, and those who develop technologies can dialogue in the same space.

One of the main reasons to visit ITEC 2026 is the combination of **technical conference** and **exhibition**.

- **The conference** addresses the evolving needs of defense with contributions that include, among others, topics such as **AI, autonomous systems, and training technologies**, with perspectives intertwining **academia, armed forces, and industry**.
- **The exhibition area** showcases technologies and solutions from leading suppliers, creating concrete opportunities for interaction with stakeholders and potential partners. The site mentions examples of companies that have participated as exhibitors (including Anschutz, Babcock, BAE Systems, and SAAB).

This “dual-track” structure makes the event useful both for those seeking updates and strategic vision, and for those who need to evaluate real solutions, talk to vendors, see demos, and understand what is already mature for adoption.

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Access to decision-makers: NATO and Ministries of Defense

Another distinctive element is the emphasis on access to decision-makers. ITEC promotes the presence of **NATO representatives, senior officers, and ministries of defense** as part of the event's value, positioning it as a platform for conversations that impact **strategies and procurement**.

For companies and research centers, this means being able to gather demand signals (requirements, priorities, constraints), while for public and military entities it means comparing approaches, use cases, and technological trajectories with an international audience.

ITEC 2026 also focuses heavily on structured networking. Among the initiatives mentioned:

- **“Power Hours Networking”** for targeted meetings,
- the use of the **“MeetMe”** platform to schedule meetings in advance,
- social moments such as **exhibitor receptions** and an **off-site networking event**.

In other words: not just exchanging business cards, but opportunities to come prepared and maximize meetings, especially for those with commercial or technical collaboration goals.

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The 2026 focus: **“Training technologically empowered forces”**

The 2026 conference program revolves around a guiding theme: **“Training technologically empowered forces”**. The idea, as described, is to explore how the military and “defence enterprise” can **evolve training and education** to develop superior capabilities, not just “keeping pace” with innovation, but **leading it**.

In parallel, the main page of the event anticipates that the 2026 conference will address **emerging technologies that are “disrupting” training paradigms** through technical presentations, case studies, and best practices.

The “Why visit” section also reports some indicators of results and participant perception, including:

- **+51%** increase in the presence of active military personnel and VIPs,
- **85%**: appreciation of networking opportunities,
- **88%**: visitors who declare they have achieved their main objective,
- **75%**: visitors who consider the show a global leading event for the defense community.

These are partial data (presented by the organization), but they help to understand how the event wants to position itself: not just a technological showcase, but a platform with concrete impacts on professional objectives.

ITEC 2026 “lands” in **London**, at **ExCeL London (Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, London E16 1XL)**.

The event homepage indicates the dates **April 14-16, 2026** in London, United Kingdom.

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In summary: who benefits from ITEC 2026

ITEC 2026 is particularly relevant for:

- **armed forces and public administrations** involved in training, simulation, and digital transformation,
- **industries and providers** of training/simulation solutions (from SMEs to primes),
- **academia and research centers** interested in use cases, requirements, and partnerships,
- **NATO/MoD stakeholders** and those working on standards, interoperability, and readiness.

For those looking for an event where technology, doctrine, and decisions meet in the same place, London 2026 could be a high-value stop.

News link: <https://www.itec.co.uk>