

Subject: Expected Delays in Brave1 International Grant Competitions

Dear Partners,

We want to give you an honest update: we are expecting delays in launching new international grant competitions, and we'd like to walk you through why.

Background

Brave1's planned transfer under the Ministry of Defense — which would have allowed us to use MoD special authorizations for international programs — has been put on hold. Without that transfer, our international activity continues to fall under standard export control law, where nearly every transfer of defense technology information requires separate permits and licenses.

Why this causes delays

Each grant application requires an individual technology-transfer permit, issued at the moment joint expert panels and the Executive Selection Board review it. Together with the State Export Control Service, we've confirmed that the [Cabinet of Ministers' resolution on Brave International](#), which was the major regulatory change we've advocated for over half a year, is a real step forward. Its full effect, though, is closely tied to the broader Ministry of Defense authorization transfer we're also pursuing — until that piece is in place, we remain within the existing permit-by-permit framework. Each permit for each grant application takes roughly 60 calendar days — a volume that is genuinely difficult to process on current timelines and resources, for us and for the Export Control Service alike. Simplifying the paperwork alone would not be enough; the framework itself needs to evolve.

Possible solution

We are working on a regulatory change that would replace the case-by-case permit requirement with a reporting model to key stakeholders — preserving state oversight while removing blocking timelines. We already have the support of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Digital Transformation, and a joint working group is holding focused meetings with the leadership of the relevant institutions and state services. We're genuinely hopeful this will move forward.

What we're asking

We'd be grateful for your patience while we secure and pass these changes, and we'll keep you closely informed as things progress. We know this creates reputational strain for you as well as for us, and slows programs we've built together — we don't take that lightly. We remain confident this will be resolved, and we look forward to moving ahead together once it is.

Best regards,
Viktor Rudenko
Acting Director Innovation Development Fund

