

Innovation at GICHD

For over almost three decades, the **GICHD** has helped partners worldwide make mine action **safer, faster, and more effective**. Innovation is central to this mission and it goes beyond technology. It includes new ways of working, partnerships, and tailored solutions for local contexts.

Why it Matters

- **Global context:** Over a third of countries worldwide remain contaminated by landmines, cluster munitions, and other explosive remnants — a problem larger than any point since World War II and still growing.
- **Innovation investment:** While billions are invested globally in tech and innovation annually, similar attention must be devoted to lifesaving work in mine action

From Technology Workshops to Innovation Conferences

- **2016–2022:** Mine Action Technology Workshops connecting good practices, tools & methods
- **2023:** First GICHD Innovation Conference in Geneva broadened focus to processes, collaborations, and cross-sector innovation
- **2025:** Second Innovation Conference in Luxembourg expanding participatory formats, high-level engagement, and global collaboration

Innovation in Action

- Innovation Hub (2024): platform for cross-sector engagement, agenda-setting, and fostering actionable solutions
- Innovation Session : AI in Mine Action
- The conference demonstrates how bringing together diverse actors accelerates research, sparks new ideas, and ensures solutions reach the field

GICHD Innovation Conference Voices

Ambassador Tobias Privitelli, Director, GICHD

"When a third of the world's countries remain contaminated by landmines and explosive remnants, accelerating progress in mine action isn't optional, it's urgent. At GICHD, we convene the sector to turn ideas into lifesaving solutions."

"From AI applications to startup-driven solutions and the first Innovation Award, this year's programme shows that innovation in mine action spans technology, partnerships, and practical methods — it's not just about gadgets, it's about impact on the ground."

"Innovation thrives when minds meet. This conference sparks new thinking, encourages collaboration across sectors, and generates actionable solutions that practitioners can put to work immediately."

Armen Harutyunyan, Head of Research and Innovation, GICHD

"Innovation isn't just tech — it's also new ways of working, collaborating, and applying research to real-world problems. Through the Innovation Hub and this conference, we've created concrete examples of how bringing diverse actors together shapes agendas and generates solutions that actually reach the field."

"Our programme combines TED-style talks, technology showcases, participatory workshops, and the first Innovation Award. It demonstrates how innovation in mine action includes tools, processes, and collaboration — all aimed at saving lives."

"When participants from different sectors interact, challenge assumptions, and co-create solutions, the results are both creative and practical. This conference is designed to spark that kind of actionable innovation."