



# SOFINS

SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES  
INNOVATION NETWORK SEMINAR

MARCH  
28|29|30

2023

## 10 YEARS

2013 • 2023

AN EVENT BY



UN ÉVÉNEMENT DU



AU PROFIT DU



## SOFINS

### AN EVENT DEDICATED TO SPECIAL FORCES AND THEIR INDUSTRY AND R&D PARTNERS

Held every two years, Sofins has established itself as **the premier meeting place in Europe for high-tech industry players and special forces personnel**. For the three days of its sixth edition in 2023, micro-enterprises, SMEs and large manufacturers will come together to present their **unique solutions** tailored to the needs of special operations.

Camp de Souge, the French military base that is home to the 13e RDP (France's 13th Parachute Dragoon Regiment), will once again be transformed for the duration of the event into **a forum for exchanges and a venue for technical demonstrations**. Dynamic tests of equipment under genuine operating conditions will allow innovative manufacturers to put their products through their paces, showing the added value offered by their equipment for operators today and in the future.

Testing areas will be set up near the military base's main facilities to allow manufacturers to have their innovative products tested under real conditions.

**BENOÎT DE SAINT SERNIN**  
**PRESIDENT, CERCLE DE L'ARBALÈTE**



*The success of the first five editions of Sofins makes clear just how much the evolution of threats calls for new technology solutions to meet the challenges encountered by special forces on the ground. We rely on you and your presence to demonstrate to the international special forces community the relevance of the solutions currently being developed by French industry.*

*Let us all follow the example set by our special forces!*

*Relations of power are pitting combatants against each other today who are all focused on constant innovation, and this will only intensify in the future. The multifaceted threats emerging from hybrid warfare and gray zone conflicts are major challenges, which must be addressed with agility and strength of will.*

*Innovation is crucial to stimulate the resourcefulness of the COS.*

*By working with SMEs and mid-caps in particular, we must carry on with our tireless efforts to dream up, flesh out and test solutions able to bring the needs of special forces personnel to life. This military-civilian partnership is key to ensuring the responsiveness, flexibility and pragmatism necessary for successful operations. The COS is counting on the Cercle de l'Arbalète to continue encouraging this essential dialogue between field operators and the business world, as we have together these past 10 years, to maintain our collaborative spirit of innovation free from the stranglehold of the status quo.*



**GENERAL MICHEL DELPIT**  
**COMMANDER OF THE COS**

**SOFINS**  
**NO. 1 SEMINAR**  
**FOR SPECIAL FORCES**

- Spearheaded by the COS and under the auspices of the French Ministry of the Armed Forces, Sofins has become—in its five editions to date—**the essential forum for French innovation in service of special forces.** From major manufacturers to innovative startups, every exhibitor is motivated by a promise of operational superiority made to military personnel in the field, who are able to test and assess the usefulness of these technologies for their future missions during the event.
- Business meetings, product talks and presentations, R&D workshops, dynamic tests under real conditions—once again Sofins will pull out all the stops to address the event’s three major challenges: **improving the effectiveness** of operators and their equipment, **expanding the range of possibilities**, and **minimizing the time for operations** in the field.
- The space within the event reserved for a group of emerging companies, selected by the Cercle de l’Arbalète, is returning in full force as well **to propose solutions for tomorrow’s technical challenges.** Each of these startups will thus be able to present its products to special forces personnel.



**KEY FIGURES FOR SOFINS 2021**

**EXCEPTIONAL PRESENCE OF SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL AT THE EVENT**



**AWARDS FOR INNOVATION**

**Best Collaboration**  
 between Special Forces  
 and Research Centers

**Prix du Guesclin**  
 Reserved for operators  
 from special forces,  
 special units, the GIGN  
 and the RAID

**Best Collaboration**  
 between Special Forces  
 and SMEs

Cercle de l’Arbalète **Prize**



## INDUSTRY SECTORS

### FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT



- C3ISTAR capabilities
- 3D infiltration and mobility
- Precision strike and fire support
- C4I
- Air drop
- Aerial delivery
- Augmented reality

### ACTION AT SEA



- Submersible systems
- Surface systems
- C4I
- ISR
- Individual equipment

### COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTERS (C4)



- Transmission systems
- HQ command and organization systems
- Electronic warfare
- Position tracking

### SPECIAL RECONNAISSANCE SURVEILLANCE AND EXPLOITATION (SRSE)



- Observation
- Detection, recognition and identification (DRI)
- Day/night imaging
- Geolocation, marking, area monitoring
- Biometrics
- Secure transmissions
- Operating systems

### ROTARY-WING AIRCRAFT



- Simulation and training
- On-board sensors
- Avionics
- Active defense equipment
- Passive defense equipment
- 3D infiltration and mobility
- Fire support

### SPECIAL FORCES COMBAT



- Ground mobility
- Weapons systems for individuals or teams
- Night vision
- Personal protection
- Medicalized weapons
- Target designation
- Demolition / breaching of walls
- Survival
- Individual equipment



## SCHEDULE SOFINS 2023

### MONDAY, MARCH 27

#### 6 PM

Mass honoring fallen operators led by Mgr. Antoine de Romanet, Bishop to the French Armed Forces, at Camp de Souge

#### 8 PM

Opening cocktail reception reserved for the staff of the COS and its various components, foreign delegations, and exhibitors who are Cercle de l'Arbalète members

#### 9 PM

Evening program celebrating the 10th anniversary of Sofins

### TUESDAY, MARCH 28

#### 8:15 AM

Venue opens to official delegations; breakfasts with exhibitors

#### 9 PM

Testing areas open  
Venue opens to visitors

#### 10 - 11 AM

Opening ceremony for Sofins 2023

#### 9 AM - 6 PM

Interior and exterior exhibits  
Demonstrations by SF personnel, parachute air drops\*  
Tests of exhibited items  
R&D workshops  
Product talks and presentations

#### 8 - 11:30 PM

Special evening program at Camp de Souge  
Buffet dinner

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

#### 8:15 AM

Venue opens to official delegations; breakfasts with exhibitors

#### 9 AM

Testing areas open  
Venue opens to visitors

#### 9 AM - 6 PM

Interior and exterior exhibits  
Demonstrations by SF personnel, parachute air drops\*  
Tests of exhibited items  
R&D workshops  
Product talks and presentations

#### 9 - 11:30 PM

Gala evening at Bassin des Lumières

### THURSDAY, MARCH 30

#### 8:15 AM

Venue opens to official delegations; breakfasts with exhibitors

#### 9 AM

Testing areas open  
Venue opens to visitors

#### 9 AM - 6 PM

Interior and exterior exhibits  
Demonstrations by SF personnel, parachute air drops\*  
Tests of exhibited items  
R&D workshops  
Product talks and presentations

#### 5:30 PM

Closing ceremony for Sofins 2023

\* Weather permitting and subject to operational validation by COS each day.



## NEW FEATURES AT SOFINS 2023

### More exhibition space

- **Larger exterior exhibition area ( up to 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>)** for heavy equipment near the French Ministry of the Armed Forces booth and the event's restaurants. Located opposite the demonstration area for **special forces personnel and manufacturers**

### Parachute air drop zone

- **Aimed at building professional connections** between COS parachute operators, special forces teams, foreign delegations and industry partners. Designed to encourage and facilitate contacts between operators and all Sofins participants.
- **Provides opportunities to test** equipment and meet industry partners.

### Three testing areas

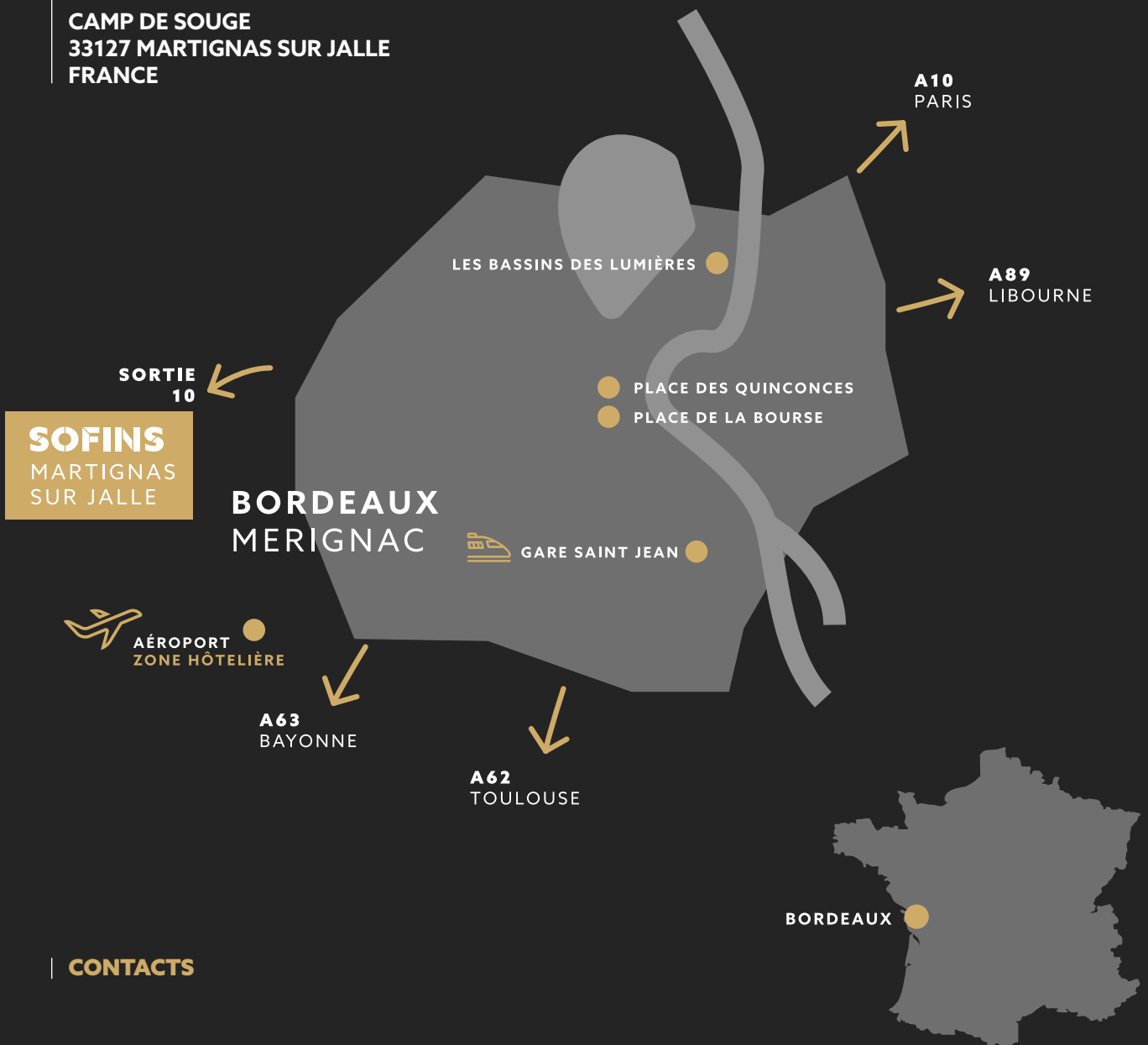
- **Testing areas set up** specifically for Sofins and its exhibitors. The morning sessions are for tests by operators, while the afternoon sessions are for French and foreign delegations.
- 100 m<sup>2</sup> reception area, cafe open all day, between eight and ten products or exhibitors in each testing area under tents.

### Airbus helicopter area

- Test flights and tests for delegations.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

CAMP DE SOUGE  
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## CONTACTS

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FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION AT [WWW.SOFINS.FR](http://WWW.SOFINS.FR)



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