CALL FOR ENTRIES
"ADMIRAL CASTEX PRIZE" – 2027 EDITION

As part of the **Paris Naval Conference (PNC) 2027**, the French Institute of International Relations (Ifri) and the Chief of the French Navy are pleased to announce the fourth edition of the **"Admiral Castex Prize".**

Named after Admiral Raoul Castex, a major figure in French naval strategic thought, the prize aims to recognize original thinking that makes a significant contribution to maritime and naval debate while meeting the highest international academic standards.

Theme 2027: Fighting tomorrow: finding the balance between crewed and uncrewed systems

Candidates are invited to explore, in particular, the conditions for integrating autonomous systems, their complementarity with crewed platforms, their operational contributions and limitations, as well as their implications for the preparation and conduct of naval warfare. No specific approach is preferred: case studies may focus on the French Navy or other navies, particular operational environments or specific types of platforms.

Three separate prizes will be awarded, one per category, each worth **€1,500**:

- **Young Expert**: French nationals under the age of 35 as of January 1, 2027;
- **Senior Expert**: French nationals aged 35 or over as of January 1, 2027;
- **International Expert**: foreign nationals, with no age restriction.

The prizes will be presented on February 9, 2027, at the closing reception of the Paris Naval Conference, by Admiral Christophe Cluzel, Chief of the French Navy, and Thomas Gomart, Director of Ifri. Subject to approval by the jury and with the authors' consent, the winning articles may be published by Ifri.

Submission guidelines:

Original, previously unpublished article in French or English, between 15,000 and 25,000 characters (including spaces and footnotes), in the style of an Ifri Briefing, with references in footnotes. Adapting part of a master's thesis, doctoral dissertation or work from a civilian or military academic program is accepted. Particular attention will be paid to methodology. Plagiarism and the use of artificial intelligence are prohibited; checks will be carried out.

No specific degree is required: applications from doctoral students, researchers and active-duty military officers are particularly encouraged. Winners of the 2026 edition are not eligible to enter again. Entries must be submitted in Word format, with a short biography and the chosen category; they will be anonymized before review by a jury of senior international military officials and renowned researchers.

Submission deadline: December 21, 2026

Questions and submissions: strategie@ifri.org (subject line: "Admiral Castex Prize")