



Marketing Communication

Press Release

Unbroken Demand: VanEck's defence ETF reaches volume of USD 4 billion

- **The VanEck Defense UCITS ETF invests in companies across the defence ecosystem**
- **Since its launch in March 2023, the ETF has gained 131 per cent. Past performance is no indication of future performance.**

London, UK, 26 March 2025– Less than two years after its launch, the [VanEck Defense UCITS ETF](#) from asset manager VanEck has reached a fund volume of USD 4 billion. After reaching the USD 1 billion mark in August 2024, the ETF has now quadrupled its fund volume in around seven months.

“Global tensions and increasing geopolitical uncertainty in recent years have led to countries placing a much higher priority on their own defence capabilities,” said Martijn Rozemuller, CEO of VanEck Europe. “For example, the discussion among member states about increasing defence spending beyond NATO’s 2 percent target has picked up speed amid current events.”

“In the last two years, European NATO members have increased their spending on modernising their military capabilities by USD 100 billion. Notably, Poland plans to spend 4.7 percent of its gross domestic product on defence in 2025 – one of the highest figures throughout NATO. In Germany, the Bundestag recently decided to reform the debt brake in order to be able to spend significantly more money on defence in the future,” added Roel Houwer, Senior Product Manager at VanEck Europe. Defence spending is also increasing in other regions: “In Asia, China’s military budget has increased by 6 per cent to USD 296 billion in 2023, which in turn has prompted Japan and Taiwan to follow suit. The Middle East recorded an increase of 9 per cent, led by Saudi Arabia and Israel,” said Houwer.

Performance of the ETF reflects the increased interest in defence shares

This change of direction has led to a significant rise in the price of defence equities, as the performance of the VanEck Defense UCITS ETF shows. Since its launch in March 2023, the ETF has gained 131 per cent and achieved an increase of more than 43 per cent in the past year alone. Past performance is no indication of future performance.



“Even though armaments remain a sensitive topic, many investors are increasingly recognising the potential of exposure to the growing security and defence sector,” said Rozemuller. At the same time, investors should bear in mind that an ETF focusing on a single sector is associated with an increased concentration risk.

Since its launch in spring 2023, [*the VanEck Defense UCITS ETF*](#) was the first pure-play ETF available in Europe to offer investors access to this sector. The fund aims to invest in companies that generate the majority of their sales with the following products or services in the defence sector: defence equipment, aerospace technology, communication systems and services, satellite technology, unmanned aerial vehicles, security software, IT hardware and services, cyber security software, training and simulation solutions, digital forensics, tracking devices and applications for e-authentication or biometric identification. Nevertheless, investors should always bear in mind the risks associated with such investments, such as sectoral concentration risks, geopolitical uncertainties and regulatory changes.

The fund follows the *MarketVector™ Global Defence Industry Index* and explicitly excludes companies that generate sales from controversial weapon systems or have demonstrably failed to comply with established standards or are suspected of doing so. The ETF falls under Article 6 SFDR (Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation) when it comes to disclosure obligations. Please consider all the features or objectives of the Fund as set out in the Prospectus before making an investment decision.

ETF	VanEck Defense UCITS ETF
ISIN	IE000YYE6WK5
Ticker LSE GBP / LSE USD:	DFNG / DFNS
Ticker Xetra	DFEN
Investment manager	VanEck Asset Management B.V.
Fund domicile	Ireland
Index provider	MarketVector Indexes
Base currency	US dollar
Rebalancing	Quarterly
Product structure	Physical (full replication)
Appropriation of earnings	Accumulation
Launch date	31. March 2023
Total expense ratio (TER)	0.55% p.a.
Product page	https://www.vaneck.com/uk/en/defence-etf

VanEck has no control over the use of the services/products offered by the companies included in the index. This means that the services/products could end up in the hands of parties who do not use them for defence purposes.

Industry or sector concentration risk: The assets of the Fund may be concentrated in one or more sectors or industries. The fund may be subject to the risk that political, economic or other conditions adversely affecting the relevant sectors or industries may adversely affect the performance of the fund to a greater extent than if the fund's assets were invested in a wider variety of sectors and industries. Companies in the defense industry may seek to generate revenue from working with different parties and governments. There can be no assurance that the products or services of companies in which the Fund invests will be consistent with an investor's environmental, social or governance views or that customers of such products or services will not be conflicted.



Equity market risk: The prices of securities in the fund are subject to the risks inherent in investing in the securities market, including general economic conditions and sudden and unpredictable price drops. An investment in the Fund may result in losses.

For more detailed information on the individual risks, please refer to the KID/KIID or the sales prospectus.

Press Contact:

John Carter
Blackwater
Phone: +34 675 209 369
Email: john@blackwateretf.com

About VanEck:

Since its foundation in 1955, VanEck has been driven by innovation and stands for intelligent, forward-looking investment strategies. The asset manager currently manages around 117 billion US dollars* worldwide, including ETFs, active funds and institutional accounts.

With more than 100 ETFs globally, the investment house offers a comprehensive portfolio covering numerous sectors, asset classes and smart beta strategies. VanEck was one of the first asset managers to offer investors access to global markets. The aim was always to identify new trends and asset classes - such as gold investments (1968), emerging markets (1993) and ETFs (2006). These have shaped the entire investment industry to this day.

VanEck is headquartered in New York City and has offices worldwide, including in Frankfurt (Germany), Zurich (Switzerland), Milan (Italy), London (UK), Madrid (Spain), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Shanghai (China), and Sydney (Australia).

*As of: 28 February 2025

You can find more information about VanEck and its funds at www.vaneck.com or the blog www.vaneck.com/etf-europe/blog.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is marketing communication. Please refer to the prospectus of the UCITS and to the KID/KIID before making any final investment decisions. These documents are available in English and the KIDs in local languages and can be obtained free of charge at www.vaneck.com, from VanEck Asset Management B.V. (the "Management Company") or, where applicable, from the relevant appointed facility agent for your country.

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Regulatory Services (Switzerland) AG, Neudtadtgasse 1a, 8400 Winterthur, Switzerland. Swiss paying agent: Helvetische Bank AG, Seefeldstrasse 215, CH-8008 Zürich.

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VanEck Defense UCITS ETF (the "ETF") is a sub-fund of VanEck UCITS ETFs plc, an open-ended variable capital umbrella investment company with limited liability between sub-funds. The ETF is registered with the Central Bank of Ireland, passively managed and tracks an equity index. Investing in the ETF should be interpreted as acquiring shares of the ETF and not the underlying assets.

Investing is subject to risk, including the possible loss of principal. Investors must buy and sell units of the UCITS on the secondary market via an intermediary (e.g. a broker) and cannot usually be sold directly back to the UCITS. Brokerage fees may incur. The buying price may exceed, or the selling price may be lower than the current net asset value. The indicative net asset value (iNAV) of the UCITS is available on Bloomberg. The Management Company may terminate the marketing of the UCITS in one or more jurisdictions. The summary of the investor rights is available in English at: [complaints-procedure.pdf \(vaneck.com\)](https://www.vaneck.com/complaints-procedure.pdf). For any unfamiliar technical terms, please refer to [ETF Glossary | VanEck](#).

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