

# Nanotechnology – an enabling technology, a critical technology or simply a new technology with inflated ego?

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In this broad presentation I will attempt to review the background to nanotechnology, what the technology is (and what it is not) and how it may impact security and defence applications in the near-term and the more distant future. I will briefly mention the Swedish defence nanotechnology programme, which included seven projects ranging from materials for ballistic protection to self-decontaminating coatings and self-activating materials against high energy lasers. When this programme started (2003) nanotechnology was an immature field and the

TRL of most materials in the projects was very low. Since this programme was completed a few years ago it is useful to see how the TRL has increased, and in some cases products have been developed.

I will draw conclusions as to how nanotechnology may contribute to defence and security and how these applications will benefit from purely civilian applications. Finally I will mention some caveats which we should be aware of in applying nanotechnology.