

# RFI-ACT-SACT-21-41

Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation  
Norfolk Virginia



## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RELATING TO RFI-ACT-SACT-21-41

This document contains a Request for Information (RFI) Call for Industry input to Versatile Innovation through Science and Technology Applications (VISTA) Framework Events.

Suppliers wishing to respond to this RFI should read this document carefully and follow the guidance for responding.

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HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation RFI 21-41 General Information	
Request For Information No.	21-41
Project Title	VISTA Framework Events
Due date for submission of requested information	30 – June - 2021
Contracting Office Address	NATO, HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) Purchasing & Contracting Suite 100 7857 Blandy Rd, Norfolk, VA, 23511-2490
Contracting Points of Contact	1. Ms Tonya Bonilla e-mail : <a href="mailto:tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int">tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int</a> Tel : +1 757 747 3575 2. Ms Catherine Giglio e-mail : <a href="mailto:catherine.giglio@act.nato.int">catherine.giglio@act.nato.int</a> Tel :+1 757 747 3856
Technical Points of Contact	

Science and Technology is a fundamental enabler for NATO’s superiority. The Secretary General of NATO in his recent remarks at the Munich conference<sup>1</sup> reconfirmed that NATO needs investments to maintain its technological edge. He also pointed out that knowledge development to “... *understand the full impact of artificial intelligence, quantum computing, autonomous weapon systems ...*” is essential for the Alliance security.

ACT, as the Warfare Development command, is increasing their Science and Technology efforts by growing its portfolio of projects directly contributing to ACT’s key functions; Strategic Plans and Policies, Capability Development and Joint Force Development, but also to enable knowledge and technology transfers between the NATO Enterprise and NATO Nations, Industry and Academia.

Currently ACT’s portfolio and NATO collaborative programme includes but is not limited to projects that address quantum, space, autonomy, cyber, hypersonic, artificial intelligence, IoT, interoperability, bio-tech, and new materials.

To further advance and reinforce the Science and Technology portfolio of projects for Warfare Development ACT has established the following vision:

***Versatile Innovation through Science and Technology Applications (VISTA)***  
*provides knowledge and inspiration to Warfare Development*  
*that allows the NATO Enterprise and Nations to maintain their technological and*  
*operational edge in a rapidly changing geo-political environment*

<sup>1</sup> NATO2030: future-proofing the Alliance – [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions\\_181696.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_181696.htm)

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The main component of the vision implementation is the VISTA Framework (**Error! Reference source not found.**) that provides for VISTA Stakeholders (NATO Enterprise, Nations, Academia and Industry) a mechanism that allows to:

- Foster synergies, optimize objectives through S&T product users' feedback and will also focus on accelerating S&T delivery to Warfare Development.
- Showcase S&T activities in support of Warfare Development across NATO.
- Identify S&T needs and ways to respond to them.

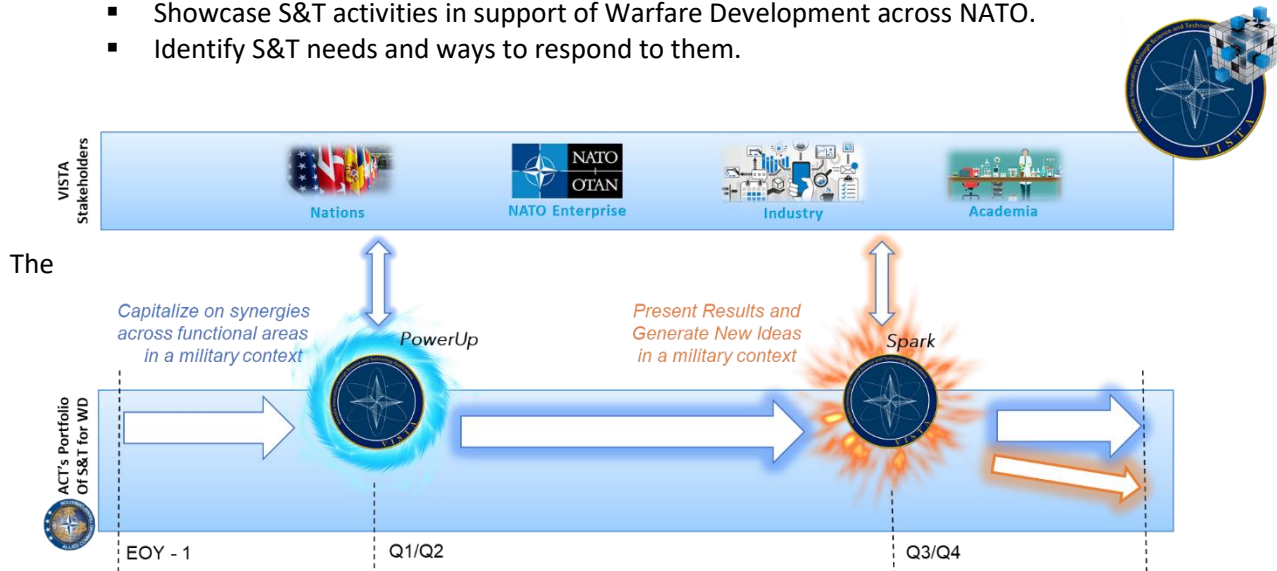


Figure 1. VISTA Framework

The VISTA Framework is offering all the stakeholders two annual events; VISTA PowerUp and VISTA Spark. At VISTA PowerUp ACT is presenting selected S&T for Warfare Development projects and is seeking input/advice from industry and academia players to reinforce and expedite their development via knowledge and technology transfers. At VISTA Spark ACT is presenting early project results, but also is seeking input to trigger new ideas, and identify new opportunities for projects to be commissioned in the following year(s).

With this RFI ACT is requesting Industry and Academia contribution to both 2021 VISTA PowerUp and 2021 VISTA Spark events, and specifically:

For **2021 VISTA PowerUp** industry and academia with expertise in autonomy, quantum, software interoperability, artificial intelligence or space are invited to participate in the event. The active participation will help partners to better understand ACT's science and technology needs and will help to positively influence ongoing projects within ACT's reshaped Portfolio of Science and Technology for Warfare Development.

For **2021 VISTA Spark** industry and academia are invited to submit for evaluation their catalogues of the most promising research and development efforts (including early technologies offerings) with potential for disruptive military applications. The institutions with the top proposals will be asked to present their proposals within the VISTA stakeholders' community. The submission of proposals is optional and required only when requesting/seeking opportunity to present during the event.

The participation in VISTA PowerUp is not prerequisite for participation in the VISTA Spark, although is recommended.

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ACT may offer to selected partners further, deeper collaboration opportunities as dedicated projects under the [Framework for Collaborative Interaction](#) (FFCI), also under non-disclosure clauses if/when requested.

VISTA PowerUp will be hosted on a virtual GoToMeeting platform during 27-29 April 2021. The event details including the agenda will be published on the Tidepedia platform at:

[https://tide.act.nato.int/mediawiki/tidepedia/index.php/VISTA\\_PowerUp](https://tide.act.nato.int/mediawiki/tidepedia/index.php/VISTA_PowerUp)

To register to the event:

1. If you have a Tidepedia account proceed to step 2, otherwise submit an account request via e-mail to [tide@act.nato.int](mailto:tide@act.nato.int) with the following data
  - i. First and last name
  - ii. Organization – including command/company/agency name and country (if applicable)
  - iii. Sponsor (if the organization is non-military). Sponsorship could be provided via national defense bodies, or/else NATO Enterprise bodies
  - iv. E-mail address – confirmation and instructions will be sent there
2. Send event registration request by email to [vista@act.nato.int](mailto:vista@act.nato.int) with your Tidepedia user name.

The VISTA Spark is expected to be conducted during September/October timeframe and exact dates and location will be determined later in the year due to COVID-19 unpredictability. The event details will be posted on a VISTA Portal at: [https://tide.act.nato.int/mediawiki/tidepedia/index.php/VISTA\\_Portal](https://tide.act.nato.int/mediawiki/tidepedia/index.php/VISTA_Portal)

The response to this RFI with regard to VISTA Spark proposals shall be submitted to ACT's Contracting Office and shall explicitly include the level or releasability.

ACT will offer two Q/A sessions where any questions related to presented within RFI request will be answered, and transcript for all parties. The dates of the Q/A sessions will be provided on VISTA Portal, the latest by the closure of VISTA PowerUp event.

Due to the expected high volume of applicants and the limited available time slots at VISTA Spark, there is a qualification procedure to be followed for identification of companies to present. To ensure transparency and fairness for companies, HQ SACT will use the following criteria when evaluating submissions:

- Did the institution in the past introduced any disruptive technologies to market?
- Did the institution introduced any disruptive ways of conducting a business to market?
- Does the institution present a finished and viable product/service for review and demonstration with significant military application?
- Is the list of proposals considered to be inventive, innovative, or disruptive?
- What is the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) level of a products/services presented?
- Are there existing use cases that prove the worth of the products/services?
- Does the institution have the requisite facility security clearance, and do proffered industry participants have the requisite personal security clearance and access?
- Is the institution headquartered in a NATO Nation? If the answer is no, the company will be considered administratively non-compliant.

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- Does the institution produce with success any technology/business predictions for the near/short term time horizons?

The response to this RFI with regard to VISTA Spark proposals shall be submitted to ACT's Contracting Office and shall explicitly include the level or releasability.

### **Answers to the RFI.**

The answer to this RFI should be submitted by e-mail to the Points of Contact listed above.

**Response Date.** 30 June 2021

**Response Format.** Responses must be submitted as a Microsoft Word or PowerPoint document. Responses are limited to ten (10) A4 / letter size pages (using at least a 10pt font).

**Summary.** This is a RFI only. The purpose of this RFI is to involve industry/academia, through collaboration, in an examination of future capabilities related to the Enablement Support Solution with a focus on technologies and commercial products. HQ SACT has not made a commitment to procure any of the items described herein, and release of this RFI shall not be construed as such a commitment, nor as authorization to incur cost for which reimbursement will be required or sought. It is emphasised that this is a RFI, and not a RFP of any kind.

Tonya Bonilla

ACT Contracting Officer - Allied Command Transformation (ACT) NATO/HQ SACT

Tel: (757) 747-3575, E-mail: [tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int](mailto:tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int)