

RFI-ACT-SACT-21-50

**Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation
Norfolk Virginia**



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RFI-ACT-SACT-21-50

This document contains a Request for Information (RFI) Call for Nations and Industry inputs to the future NATO Integrated METOC Briefing and User Services (NIMBUS) Capability.

Nations and 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 21-50 General Information	
Request For Information No.	21-50
Project Title	Request for Nations and industry inputs to the future NATO Integrated METOC Briefing and User Services capability programme.
Due date for submission of requested information	21 May 2020
Contracting Office Address	NATO, HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) Purchasing & Contracting Suite 100 7857 Blandy Rd, Norfolk, VA, 23511-2490
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Technical Points of Contact	1. Arnau Pons, e-mail : arnau.pons@act.nato.int Tel : +1 757 747 3876 2. Nick Foster, e-mail: Nicholas.foster@act.nato.int Tel : +1 757 747 3332

1 – INTRODUCTION

1.1 Summary. Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (HQ SACT) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) in order to engage with Nations and Industry. The intention is to establish the art-of-the-possible and state-of-the-art with respect to technologies and products in the area of Integrated Meteorology and Oceanography (METOC) Briefing and User Services capabilities in order to support NATO Governance decision making with respect to a common-funded capability development programme for the future called the NATO Integrated METOC Briefing and User Services (NIMBUS).

1.2. This request for information does not constitute a commitment to issue a future request for proposal (RFP). The purpose of this request is to involve Nations and industry through collaboration, in an examination of future capabilities related to the receipt, display, analysis and data / product creation and dissemination of NATO METOC information and services with a focus on the 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 authorisation to incur cost for which reimbursement will be required or sought. Furthermore, respondents are advised that HQ SACT will not pay for any information or administrative costs incurred in responding to this RFI. The costs for responding to this RFI shall be borne solely by the responding party. Not responding to this RFI does not preclude participation in any subsequent RFP if issued in the future.

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2 – GENERAL BACKGROUND: ACT Framework for Collaborative Interaction (FFCI)

2.1 ACT has implemented a Framework for Collaborative Interaction (FFCI) to increase opportunities for industry and academia to contribute to ACT capability development efforts through collaborative work. Such collaboration enables HQ SACT, and NATO as a whole, to benefit from industry/academia models, advice, capabilities and experience in the course of this work. In addition to the benefits HQ SACT gains from such projects, this collaborative effort will provide industry / academia with an improved understanding of NATO's capability requirements and the associated issues and development challenges to be addressed by HQ SACT. Potential collaborative projects are on specific topics that are of mutual interest to both parties but shall be restricted to collaborations in non-procurement areas. Several mechanisms have been already developed to support the initiation of collaborative projects between industry/academia and ACT ranging from informal information exchanges, workshops, studies or more extensive collaboration on research and experimentation.

2.2 Depending on the level and type of interaction needed for a collaborative project, a specific agreement may be needed between parties. The FFCI agreement for any specific project, if required by either party for the project to proceed, will range from "Non-disclosure Agreements" (NDA) for projects involving exchange of specific information to the more extensive "Declaration of Mutual Collaboration" (DOMC) to address intellectual property and other issues.

2.3 More extensive information on the ACT FFCI initiative can be found on the ACT web site being developed to support FFCI projects at <http://www.act.nato.int/ffci>.

2.4 No FFCI agreement is required to respond to this RFI.

3 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

3.1 Programme Vision

3.1.1 NATO's Integrated METOC Briefing and User Services vision can be described as :

To provide NATO's Command Structure, Allied Joint Force and Component Commanders a flexible, interoperable and scalable capability that provides Meteorological and Oceanographic (METOC) support across the full range of NATO operations from baseline activities and current operations (BACO), through crisis to maximum level of effort (MLE). METOC support is required as a critical force enabler to optimise safe and effective decision making during the planning, delivery and post analysis of NATO led activities at the tactical, operational and strategic levels.

3.1.2 NATO's Integrated METOC Briefing and User Services capability will mainly support the NATO Command and Force Structures. The following identified effects and benefits are considered fundamental to the capability:

- Receipt, ingestion, visualisation of METOC data, products and services using data provided from national and NATO sources;

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- Direct, co-ordinate, monitor and assess the exchange and information management of NATO METOC data, products and services to achieve desired effects;
- Provision of visualisation, analysis and product generation tools for NATO forecasters and subject matter experts to generate value added forecast products and services for dissemination across NATO Command, Force and Mission networks and to dependent functional area systems;
- Compatibility with NATO's federated mission network concept (FMN);
- Contribution to NATO's Recognised Environmental Picture to support environmental situational awareness and decision making.

3.1.3 The NATO Integrated METOC Briefing and User Services (NIMBUS) programme is currently preparing a capability requirement brief and development of a consolidated, comprehensive programme plan that will deliver a required capability to be detailed in the capability Requirements Brief. This plan will direct the necessary actions across the NATO-recognised lines of development including doctrine, organisation, training, materiel (including software), leadership, personnel, facilities and interoperability. This is NATO's capability programme planning stage within the NATO Common-Funded Capability Delivery Governance Model. The NATO Common-Funded Capability Delivery Governance Model includes decision points on the:

- Requirement (via the Operational Requirements Statement) – the programme mandate;
- Viability of a capability-based programme to satisfy the requirement (via the Capability Requirements Brief) – the programme brief and vision; and
- Establishment of a programme to deliver capabilities and to drive the transformational change (via the Capability Programme Plan) – the programme creation.

3.1.4 Amongst other aims, the Capability Programme Plan will determine alternatives through an analytical comparison of the operational effectiveness and life cycle costs of different alternatives under consideration to satisfy the requirements. The Analysis of Alternatives (AoA) also includes consideration of the different capability development strategies available to NATO which include:

- “Adopting” a solution (from Nations);
- “Buying” (acquiring a solution from Industry);
- “Creating” (developing a solution bespoke to NATO);
- or a Hybrid of the above.

The AoA assists decision makers by identifying alternatives that offer the Alliance value for money.

3.1.5 To achieve the aims of the Capability Programme Plan, a Request for Information is necessary to determine relevant technologies and products existing within the Nations (as part of the “Adopt” strategy) and the Commercial market (as part of the “Buy” strategy). This request intends to identify prospective or relevant capabilities which may require additional in-depth discussion by the programme team. This is not a formal request for submissions as part of a procurement; it is intended to provide support to subsequent and additional in-depth survey to determine possible systems

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or products, which should be identified in the development of the Capability Programme Plan.

3.2 Intent/Objectives.

To support the transformational change of how NATO's Integrated METOC Briefing and User Services will be doing business in the future, a Capability Programme Plan needs a robust Analysis of Alternatives across the Adopt, Buy, Create, and hybrid capability development options. This Request for Information is intended to provide industry an opportunity to provide information that would allow NATO to determine potential benefits they might receive from a product or service.

3.3 Expected benefits to respondents

Nations and Industry participants will have the chance to discuss and expose NATO Meteorologists and Oceanographers to state of the art technologies and products.

3.4 Expected input from industry/academia.

Expected input to this RFI is Nations and Industry perspective on relevant current and future technologies and products.

4 - REQUESTED INFORMATION

4.1 Intent

The enclosed excel spreadsheet is intended to collect information for this survey to be used in support of subsequent Analysis of Alternatives for NATO's Integrated METOC Briefing and User Services (NIMBUS) capability programme. This Analysis process will be conducted by HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation's Analysis of Alternatives Branch.

To enhance understanding of the NIMBUS programme and NATO's future METOC service requirements, HQ SACT aims to deliver a workshop to include a briefing and collaborative question and answer (Q&A) sessions during the ACT sponsored Tidesprint event. This free event is open to all interested parties. More information and registration is available through the following links:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/dbe94055-d61e-4213-adc7-7f4204163353/summary>

<https://web.cvent.com/event/dbe94055-d61e-4213-adc7-7f4204163353/regProcessStep1>

It is intended that this workshop will raise awareness of the NIMBUS programme and provide an opportunity for interested parties to raise questions. In the interests of transparency and fairness, a copy of the briefing and all questions or responses will be provided on the HQ SACT P & C website at the following link:

www.act.nato.int/contracting

4.2 Answers to the RFI.

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

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4.3 Follow-on.

4.3.1 The data collected in response to this RFI will be used to develop a report to inform the NATO Integrated METOC Briefing and User Services Capability Programme. This report and associated data will be used to assess and support a decision as to whether NATO should pursue an Adopt, Buy, Create, or hybrid strategy towards its future METOC Service capability.

4.3.2 Provision of data, or lack of, will not prejudice any respondent in the event that there is a competitive bidding process later as part of NATO Common-Funded Capability Development.

4.4 **Handling of Proprietary information.** Proprietary information, if any, should be minimised and clearly marked as such. HQ SACT will treat proprietary information with the same due care as the command treats its own proprietary information, and will exercise due caution to prevent its unauthorised disclosure. Please be advised, all submissions become HQ SACT property and will not be returned.

4.5 **Questions.** Questions of a technical nature about this RFI announcement shall be submitted by e-mail solely to the above-mentioned POCs. Accordingly, questions in an e-mail shall not contain proprietary and/or classified information. Answers will be posted on the HQ SACT P&C website at: www.act.nato.int/contracting.

4.6 **Response Date.** 28 May 2021

4.7 **Summary. This is a RFI only. The purpose of this RFI is to involve industry/academia, through collaboration,** in an examination of current and future capabilities related to the EW C2 with a focus on the 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 authorisation 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.

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