

**Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation
Norfolk Virginia**



**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
RFI-ACT-SACT-22-46**

This document contains a Request for Information (RFI) Call for Nations, Industry and Academia input to NATO's Deployable Communication and Information System Agile Multi Domain (DCIS AMD) Capabilities.

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

HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation RFI 22-46	
General Information	
Request For Information No.	22-46
Project Title	Request For Information to NATO's Deployable Communication and Information Systems Agile Multi Domain (DCIS AMD)
Due date for submission of requested information	16 May 2022
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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 <u>shall not</u> contain proprietary and/or classified information.	

1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 Summary

1.1.1 Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (HQ SACT) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) in order to engage with Nations, Industry and Academia. 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 NATO Deployable Communication and Information Systems Agile Multi Domain (DCIS AMD) capabilities in order to support NATO Governance decision-making on Common-Funded Capability Development (CFCD).

1.1.2 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, Industry and Academia through collaboration, in an examination of future capabilities related to the DCIS AMD with a focus on the technologies and 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. Further, 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.

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

2.1 Allied Command Transformation (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 The goal of the Deployable Communication and Information Systems Agile Multi Domain (DCIS AMD) capability development programme is to get an agile, scalable, modular and resilient DCIS capability to support NATO Command Structure (NCS) and NATO Force Structure (NFS) in alignment with the current NATO Levels of Ambition (LoA).

3.1.2 Four pillars of this vision can be defined as follows;

Agility: DCIS AMD will efficiently support rapid changes in scales of effort, operational tempo, posture, relocation and outages.

Scalability: DCIS AMD will be able to accommodate changes in required capacity and quality. DCIS AMD's scalability allows adopting to a continuum in the size of operations that can be supported by a number of core and augmentation DCIS AMDs.

Modularity: DCIS AMD will provide the maximum flexibility in support of Alliance Operations and Missions (AOM). For each C2 mission template and C2 entity function, a tailored DCIS AMD will be set up on a common standardized platform.

Resilience: DCIS AMD will withstand major disruptions in an austere and/or contested, congested, degraded and disconnected (C2D2) environment and to recover within acceptable timelines and minimum operational impact.

3.1.3 DCIS AMD is envisaged to be flexible enough to adapt to operational missions in terms of size and configuration. In order to meet those requirements DCIS AMD shall be built on a core standardized architecture that, through its modularity, may be scaled and configured to efficiently support different number of users in accordance with the operational requirements. Additionally, the DCIS AMD capability shall include a user-portable light platform to support a small team deployment.

3.1.4 The DCIS AMD programme is currently at the stage to develop a consolidated, comprehensive programme plan that will deliver a required capability. 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 (CFCDGM).

3.1.5 The capability programme plan (CPP) 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 possibility of "Adopting" a solution (from Nations), "Buying" (acquiring a solution from Industry), or "Creating" (developing a solution bespoke to NATO). The AoA assists decision makers by identifying alternatives that offer the Alliance value for money.

3.1.6 To achieve the aims of the CPP, a RFI is necessary to determine relevant technologies and products existing within Commercial market (as part of the consideration of "Buy"). This request intends to identify prospective (sub-) systems or products, for which the team may need to conduct additional in-depth discussions. This is not a formal request for submissions as part of a procurement; it is intended to conduct an additional in-depth survey to determine possible systems or products, which should be identified in the development of the CPP.

3.2 **Intent/Objectives.**

3.2.1 To support the transformational change of how DCIS AMD will be doing business in the future, a CPP needs a robust AoA across the Adopt, Buy, Create, and hybrid options. This RFI is intended to provide Nations, Industry and Academia an opportunity

to provide information that would allow NATO to determine potential benefits they might receive from a product or service.

3.2.2 The aim of the AoA is to analyse possible solution alternatives identified through this RFI. It is assumed that there might be several solution alternatives to meet the capability requirements that are listed below and in the attached survey file. It should be noted that the explanations in the survey file define possible approaches to the DCIS AMD, but it is recognized there may be other concepts which meet the capability requirements.

3.3 **Expected benefits to respondents**

Nations, Industry and Academia participants will have the chance to reveal state-of-the-art technologies and products to NATO.

3.4. **Expected Benefits to NATO**

Exposure to, and understanding of, state of the art technological and systemic drivers to develop new capabilities for future DCIS AMD within NATO.

3.5 **Expected input from Nations/Industry/Academia.**

The expected input to this RFI is that Nations, Industry and Academia provide perspective on relevant and current emerging technologies and products, and provide a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) of costs for investment and for operation and maintenance (O&M).

4 - REQUESTED INFORMATION

4.1 **Intent**

The information collected with the survey (please see enclosed excel spreadsheet) will be used in support of the AoA for DCIS AMD capability programme that will be conducted by HQ SACT's Analysis of Alternatives Branch.

Responses this RFI should be in the survey format as provided with the enclosed excel spreadsheet. Your solution may not cover all of the requirements, please answer the questions that are applicable to your solution/organization.

To enhance understanding of NATO needs, HQ SACT will conduct two GoToWebinar collaborative question and answer (Q&A) sessions. This Q&A sessions will enable participants to interact with the contributing NATO subject matter representatives through webinar application to better understand the requirements. Please register for the event by two days prior to the sessions using the following URLs:

- First Q&A session:
21 April at 0930-1100 EST | 1430-1600 GMT | 1530-1700 CET.
Registration URL:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3412010402265678349>.
- Second Q&A session:
05 May at 0930-1100 EST | 1430-1600 GMT | 1530-1700 CET.

Registration URL:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6730432152405590030>.

To ensure transparency and fairness, these sessions will be recorded and made available to all, on HQ SACT P&C website at: www.act.nato.int/contracting.

Participants required to send their questions to PoC email addresses (provided above) at least three days prior to the virtual Q&A sessions so their questions can be directed to NATO's relevant subject matter experts to be answered during the session.

4.2 **Answers to the RFI.**

Survey responses are due no later than 11.00 am EST on 16 May 2022. Responses should be submitted electronically (industry participants on company letterhead) to all aforementioned POCs (See two [contracting](#) and two [technical](#) POCs on the second page of this RFI).

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 DCIS AMD Capability Development Programme. Data collected will be used to provide an assessment to support a decision as to whether NATO should pursue an Adopt, Buy, Create, or hybrid approach to DCIS AMD capabilities.

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 CFCD.

4.4 **Handling of Proprietary information.** Proprietary information, if any, should be minimized 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 unauthorized disclosure. Please be advised, all submissions become HQ SACT property and will not be returned. By submitting the survey to NATO HQ SACT, the participant organization agrees that the information may be shared with a third party bound by an NDA.

4.5. **Non-disclosure principles and/or nondisclosure agreement (NDA) with third party company**

4.5.1 Please be informed that HQ SACT may contract a company to conduct the Analysis of Alternatives investigation in support of this project. HQ SACT will follow nondisclosure principles and possibly conclude an NDA with that company to protect submitted information from further disclosure. As the third party beneficiary of this nondisclosure, this RFI serves to inform you of how HQ SACT plans to proceed and of HQ SACT's intent to protect information from unauthorized disclosure, requiring the third party company to protect the disclosed information using the highest degree of care that the company utilizes to protect its own Proprietary Information of a similar nature, and no less than reasonable care. This includes the following responsibilities and obligations:

The third party company receiving the information shall not, without explicit, written consent of HQ SACT:

- Discuss, disclose, publish or disseminate any proprietary information received or accessed under nondisclosure principles and subject to an NDA, if an NDA is concluded;
- Use disclosed proprietary information in any way except for the purpose for which it was disclosed in furtherance of the goals of the instant project, collaboration, activity or contract; or
- Mention the other party or disclose the relationship including, without limitation, in marketing materials, presentations, press releases or interviews.

4.5.2 Exceptions to Obligations. The third party company receiving the information may disclose, publish, disseminate, and use proprietary information:

- To its employees, officers, directors, contractors, and affiliates of the recipient who have a need to know and who have an organizational code of conduct or written agreement with the recipient requiring them to treat the disclosed Proprietary Information in accordance with nondisclosure principles and the NDA (if executed);
- To the extent required by law; however, the company receiving the information will give HQ SACT prompt notice to allow HQ SACT a reasonable opportunity to obtain a protective order or otherwise protect the disclosed information through legal process; or
- That is demonstrated in written record to have been developed independently or already in the possession of the company receiving the information without obligation of confidentiality prior to the date of receipt from HQ SACT; that is disclosed or used with prior written approval from HQ SACT; obtained from a source other than HQ SACT without obligation of confidentiality; or publicly available when received.

4.5.3 Any response to this RFI is considered to establish consent to this process. A copy of the NDA, if or when concluded, can be provided on request.

4.6 **Organizational Conflicts of Interest**

4.6.1 Companies responding to this RFI and companies conducting Analysis of Alternatives are hereby placed on notice responding to this RFI could conceivably create an organizational conflict of interest (COI) on a future procurement, if a future procurement were to occur within the capability development process. Companies are cautioned to consider COI when responding to this RFI, and to consider internal mitigation measures that would prevent COI's from adversely affecting a company's future procurement prospects. COI's can often be mitigated or prevented with simple, early acquisition analysis and planning and the use of barriers, teaming arrangements, internal corporate nondisclosure policies and firewalls, and similar prophylactic measures. HQ SACT is not in a position to advise responding companies on the existence of COI or remedial measures, and encourages responding companies to consult internal or external procurement and legal consultants and in-house counsel.

4.7 **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.

4.8 **Response Date.** 16 May 2022

4.9 **Summary.** This is a RFI only. The purpose of this RFI is to involve Nations/Industry/Academia, through collaboration, in an examination of current and future capabilities related to the DCIS AMD 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 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.