RFI-ACT-SACT-20-07

Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander
Transformation Norfolk Virginia

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
RFI-ACT-SACT-20-07

This document contains a Request for Information (RFI) Call for Industry input to NATO Special Operations Forces Command and Control and Core Information Systems capabilities.

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

RFI-ACT-SACT-20-07

HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation RFI 20-07 General Information	
Request For Information No.	20-07
Project Title	Request for industry input to NATO's Special Operations Forces Command and Control and Core Information Systems Capabilities
Due date for submission of requested information	21 February 2020
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. Tonya Bonilla e-mail : tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int Tel : +1 757 747 3575 2. Catherine Giglio e-mail : catherine.giglio@act.nato.int Tel:+1 757 747 3856
Technical Points of Contact	1. Vaughn DeLong, e-mail : vaughn.delong@act.nato.int Tel : +1 757 747 3276 2. Dr. Bohdan Kaluzny Bohdan.kaluzny@act.nato.int Tel: +1 757 747 3117 3. Geir Jenssen, e-mail : geir.jenssen@act.nato.int Tel : +1 757 747 3569

1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 Summary. Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (HQ SACT) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) in order to engage with industry and other relevant stakeholders. 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 Special Operations Forces Command and Control and Core Information Systems in order to support NATO Governance decision-making on Common-Funded Capability Development.

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 industry and other stakeholders through collaboration, in an examination of future capabilities related to the Special Operations Forces Command and Control and Core Information Systems with a focus on the technologies and commercial products. HQ

RFI-ACT-SACT-20-07

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 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 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 of mutual interest to both parties, but shall be restricted to collaborations in non-procurement areas. Several mechanisms have been 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 more extensive "Declaration of Mutual Collaboration" (DOMC) to address intellectual property and other issues.

2.3 More extensive information concerning 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 existing FFCI agreement is required to respond to this RFI. HQ SACT will accept responses from all industry sources, as well as other stakeholders, such as consortiums, universities, think tanks, national laboratories, or other relevant contributors.

3 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

3.1 Programme Vision

3.1.1 The Future Special Operations Forces Command and Control and Core Information Systems 's vision can be described thus:

Supreme Allied Commander Europe requires Allied Joint Force and Land Commanders be provided with flexible, deployable, interoperable and scalable Special Operations Forces Command and Control and Core Information Systems capability in order to plan, execute, and assess full spectrum operations at Tactical, Operational and Strategic-levels.

3.1.2 NATO's Special Operations Forces Command and Control and Core Information Systems capability will mainly support the NATO Command and Force Structures. The effect and benefits are identified as:

- Supporting the Allied Joint Force and Land Commanders in the decision making process
- Enabling and improving effective command and control of NATO Special Operations Forces, including planning support, targeting and interoperability capabilities
- Improving information exchange with the Joint Force (Air, Maritime, Special Operations Forces, etc.)

- Providing the Recognized Ground Picture within the Joint Operations Area
- Supporting Battlespace Management for Land Forces within the Joint Operations Area to minimise the risk of collateral damage and fratricide.

3.1.3 Within the new NATO Common-Funded Capability Delivery Governance Model there are decision points on the:
- Requirement, via the Operational Requirements Statement
- Viability of a capability-based programme to satisfy the requirement via the Capability Requirements Brief (CRB)
- Establishment of a programme to deliver capabilities and to drive the transformational change – via the Capability Programme Plan (CPP)

3.1.4 Common Funded Capability Delivery is intended to consider a range of potential courses of action to address a requirement, including the possibility of "Adopt"-ing a solution (from Nations), "Buy"-ing (acquiring a solution from Industry), or "Create"-ing (developing a solution bespoke to NATO). The varied options proffered are matured across all of the NATO-recognised lines of development including doctrine, organisation, training, materiel, leadership, personnel, facilities and interoperability.

3.1.5 A Request for Information is necessary to determine relevant technologies and products that exist within the SOF C2 community of interest. This is not a formal request for submissions as part of a procurement. It is intended to determine whether any possible systems or products exist, which should be identified in the development of the Capability Programme Plan.

RFI-ACT-SACT-20-07

3.2 Intent/Objectives.
NATO Common Funded Capability Delivery Development needs a robust assessment of across the Adopt, Buy, and Create options. This request also provides industry an opportunity to provide information that would allow NATO to determine the potential benefits from a product or service.

3.3 Expected benefits to respondents
Industry participants will have the chance to share information on state of the art technologies and products.

3.4 Expected input from industry/academia.
Industry has a greater understanding of NATO's requirements.

4 - REQUESTED INFORMATION

4.1 What is the name of your product or capability?

4.2 Please give a brief overview of germane capabilities and technical maturity. If your capability is a software solution, provide an overview of the system's architecture.

4.3 Why do you think the capability you are proffering could be used by NATO to enhance its Special Operations Forces Command and Control and Core Information Systems capability?

4.4 How does this capability enable enhanced information exchanges between different levels of command?

4.5 How can this capability be employed on fully deployable classified networks? In what ways can the capability be configured to satisfy multiple connectivity options? (E.g. using Internet Protocol, Satellite Communications and 4/5G networks?)

4.6 If we have follow-on questions, to whom and where should we direct them?

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

4.8 Follow-on. Responses will be used by HQ SACT to develop a Capability Programme Plan, informing the Special Operations Forces Command and Control and Core Information Systems Capability Programme under NATO's Common Funded Capability Delivery approach. A response, or lack of, will not advantage or prejudice any respondent in the event there is a competitive bidding process later as part of NATO Common-Funded Capability Delivery.

RFI-ACT-SACT-20-07

4.9   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. HQ SACT will consider executing NDA's with respondents on a case by case basis, depending on the respondent's requirements for information protection.

4.10   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. Response Date. 21 February 2020

4.11   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 Special Operations Forces Command and Control and Core Information Systems 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.

Tonya Bonilla
ACT Contracting Officer - Allied Command Transformation (ACT) NATO/HQ SACT
Tel: (757) 747-3575, E-mail: tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int