

## ACT hosts Industry Day 2011 in London, U.K. - ACT

Written by By U.S. Navy Petty Officer Petty Officer 1st Class Carla Burdt  
Tuesday, 13 September 2011 10:31

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In a global environment where technology evolves by the second, Allied Command Transformation's (ACT) relationship with industry partners is more important now than ever.

The Industry Day annual strategic-level conference hosted by Allied Command Transformation was held in London September 12-13. The conference hosted 366 members of government, military, industry and academia.

The theme of this year's Industry Day is "Together, bringing affordable capabilities to our forces."

In his opening address, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, French Air Force General Stephane Abrial explained how vital capability development is in these challenging economic times, taking into account the foreseeable future requirements as well as NATO's ideas for alleviating the burden on individual nations.

"Pressure under which most of our governments themselves feel, impacted our ability to acquire needed capabilities. NATO must help its members face this situation, and the good news is that NATO can help. Indeed, reconciling a conundrum posed by these two relatives – strategic and budgetary – is the foundation for the overarching NATO concept Smart Defence. At the heart of Smart Defence is an increased collaboration between a variety of players," said Abrial.

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Among other official attendees were NATO's Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and Chairman of the Military Committee, Italian Navy Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola.

"NATO's Allied Command Transformation already has a dedicated team looking at potential multinational projects. It will identify the best candidates. It will work with Allies to refine common requirements. And it will then work with industry to help deliver them", said Rasmussen.

The first day of the conference consisted of plenary sessions on topics including Innovative Business Models in an Austere Economic Environment, NATO-Industry: Smart Defence Collaboration, and Innovative Solutions through Collaboration.

During keynote speeches on the first day, ACT's Deputy Chief of Staff Capability Development, U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Carol Pottenger announced that a report on the NATO Task Force on building capabilities through multinational and innovative approaches was complete. The NATO Task Force is a part of the Smart Defence approach that NATO's Secretary General described in his strategic message to the audience.

"Working with industry is increasingly important for the continuation of the effort of Smart Defense and our conference is a great opportunity to work together in that direction", said Pottenger.

The second day, attendees met in breakout sessions to further explored critical areas of cooperation to include Contractor Support to Military Healthcare, Modelling and Simulation, Exploring Cloud Computing as an Enabling Technology for the Future, and How Industry can be Involved in ACT's Role on Missile Defence Development and Implementation.

Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Transformation Polish Army General Mieczyslaw Bieniek closed the conference by stating "An important, underlying idea of these two days is that smart actors do make smart decisions that lead to better, faster and cheaper capabilities and I'm fully convinced that our common effort following this event will be an ultimate proof of this idea."

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### **ACT Industry Day 2011, September 12-13 2011**

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