

NATO exhibits new technologies at ITEC 2011 - ACT

Written by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Carla Burdt
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ACT joined up with other NATO entities to exhibit their projects and initiatives at ITEC 2011 in Cologne, Germany, May 10-12.

Allied Command Transformation (ACT), NATO Research and Technology Organisation (RTO), NATO Modelling and Simulation Group (NMSG) and NATO Command, Control, & Consultation Agency (NC3A) displayed new technology, held workshops and provided information about the Alliance's exploration of new technologies and modelling and simulation.

A key focus area for both ACT and RTO is commercial technologies and games for use in NATO.

Spanish Navy Commander Juan Ruiz, Head of the Modelling and Simulation Coordination Office for NATO's Research and Technology Agency (RTA), explains how ACT and RTO have been working jointly toward a common goal.

"In regards to providing capabilities to NATO, ACT is leading some of the RTO activities in the exploration of new innovations such as disruptive technologies, which is technology that is already on the market that we can use for a ways other than the original purpose. Seeing that the technology is here, we should use it to our advantage."

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In his keynote address at the opening of ITEC 2011, Deputy Chief of Staff, Joint Force Trainer, German Air Force Lieutenant General Karlheinz Viereck, explained the detriments of duplicating efforts.

“The reduction in military budgets and the responsibility of the nations to provide trained forces coupled with the requirements to avoid duplication of efforts, pool resources and engage nations and partners is a key focus area,” said Viereck.

According to Ruiz, there are two great benefits of Modelling and Simulation.

“We can use modelling and simulation to better, more efficiently and in less time prepare soldiers so that when they go to real operations, where there are real threats, they have more chances to accomplish their mission and less chance of being killed or injured. We save money, but more importantly we save lives.”