

NATO's 2012 Industry Day begins in Latvia - ACT

Written by U.S Army Major Jeffrey Pray
Tuesday, 16 October 2012 06:08



Riga, LATVIA October 15, 2012 - In today's dynamic world of complex and evolving threats, NATO is faced with the critical task of addressing those threats with the right equipment and capabilities without draining defence budgets.

Today, nearly 350 senior military and industry leaders gathered in Riga, Latvia, for the first day of the 2012 [NATO Industry Day](#) conference to focus on exploring new, creative, and efficient solutions to address these challenges.

This year's Industry Day conference was the first ever to be co-hosted by NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), French Air Force General Jean-Paul Paloméros, and Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment (ASG DI), [Mr Patrick Auroy](#). In his opening remarks, General Paloméros stressed to the audience the importance of synergy and working together. "A key condition to success remains our collective willingness to act together to promote innovative and lasting solutions to adapt the Alliance to the many game changers of this 21st century," said General Paloméros.

Mr Auroy followed by saying, "we must find ways to make it easier for governments and Industry to work together, throughout the lifecycle of capabilities, including at the early stages of projects, which in time should save money and speed up delivery of equipment to the front line."

General Paloméros and Mr Auroy were joined by the Latvian Minister of Defence, [Dr. Artis](#)

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said that Latvia appreciates hosting Industry Day and that fostering NATO and Industry cooperation is necessary to counter the current and future threats facing all member nations. "In order to address the new security challenges, close cooperation between NATO and industry is essential," said Dr. Pabriks



The conference provided a venue for NATO Nations and key industry stakeholders to come together and develop creative solutions through the sharing of technology and knowledge. The Industry Day conference directly supports the "Smart Defence" initiative, a concept first introduced in 2011 by NATO Secretary General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen. Smart Defence was a key theme of the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago. The intent of this initiative is to find ways to combine Nations' military resources.

[Mr Rasmussen, joining the event through a video teleconference](#) , emphasised the importance of Smart Defence and cooperation with industry. He said, "Smart Defence is not just a slogan. It is the only way to ensure we have the necessary capabilities for our Alliance to do its job. And for us to do that job properly we need better cooperation with defence industry and we need better cooperation within defence industry."

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[For NATO Headquarters coverage of this event click here](#)