

## Modelling and Simulation Centre of Excellence Kick Off Meeting in Rome - ACT

Written by Wayne Buck, HQ SACT Modelling and Simulation Section  
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The first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Conference for the NATO Modelling and Simulation Centre of Excellence (M&S COE) took place May 4-6, in Rome, Italy.

Participants from Allied Command Transformation (ACT), 15 Nations, and several members of industry and academia came together during the conference to discuss how the COE could be used to benefit NATO and the Nations.

The proposed M&S COE acts as a catalyst for transformation through the involvement NATO, government, academia, industry and operational and training entities. The centre is dedicated to the promotion of M&S in support of operational requirements.

Headquarters, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (HQ SACT) supports the initiation and development of the COE with subject matter experts from the Transformation Network Coordination Cell (TNCC) and the Capability Engineering (CE) Division.

The three-day event was led by Italian Army Colonel Francesco Mastrorosa, Director of the M&S COE.

“M&S will be leveraged to improve cooperation and interoperability of NATO and Partner Nations’ existing and future training, exercises and support to operations,” Mastrosa said. “The COE will be a great asset to NATO and Italy.”

During the event, participants discussed in detail the COE concept, initiating documents, core competencies, deliverables and program of work (POW). The COE plans to develop and provide a wide range of products and services for NATO and Nations based on an annual POW coordinated with HQ SACT and approved by the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee said it plans to give first priority of the centre’s activities to the requests of HQ SACT. Within the capabilities of the Centre and the time available, the participating Nations will also have the opportunity to use the facilities and the expertise of the M&S COE for activities to benefit their own Nations.

In order to enhance NATO and national capabilities in the field of M&S, the COE has identified the following examples of products and services they hope to provide: education through

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courses, conferences, seminars and workshops; education and certification for M&S subject matter experts; support the development and management of shared repositories and web-based scenarios, models, simulations, data, techniques, tools and best practices; and contributions to the development of concepts and conduct of experimentation, which require M&S expertise.

The M&S COE expects to host the second MOU conference in Rome in early October. At that time, Nations are expected to formally announce their intention to join the COE and share in staffing, resources and products.