

HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation

## **RFI-ACT-SACT-20-30**

**Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation  
Norfolk Virginia**



**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RFI-ACT-SACT-20-30**  
**Amendment #1**

This document contains a Request for Information (RFI) Call for Industry input to NATO's High Throughput Satellite Development Experiment 2020 (HTS DevEx 20).

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

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HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation RFI 20-30	
General Information	
Request For Information No.	20-30
Project Title	Request for industry input to NATO's High Throughput Satellite Development Experiment 2020 (HTS DevEx 20)
Due date for submission of requested information	<b>15 September 2020</b>
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. Ms Tonya Bonilla e-mail : <a href="mailto:tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int">tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int</a> Tel : +1 757 747 3575 2. Ms Catherine Giglio e-mail : <a href="mailto:catherine.giglio@act.nato.int">catherine.giglio@act.nato.int</a> Tel : +1 757 747 3856
Technical Points of Contact	1. SQN LDR Nick Bolan, e-mail : <a href="mailto:nick.bolan@act.nato.int">nick.bolan@act.nato.int</a> Tel : +1 757 747 3577 2. Luc Barbeau, e-mail : <a href="mailto:luc.barbeau@act.nato.int">luc.barbeau@act.nato.int</a> Tel : +1 757 747 3143
References	A. NIAG-D(2019)0004-AS1, High Throughput Satellite (HTS) Study - SG237, December 2019. B. NIAG SG 214, Dec 2017

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (HQ SACT) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) in order to engage with industry. The intention is to move from the theoretical study phase to the operational experimentation phase and expose HTS services to the NATO SATCOM operational user community with the goal of informing future requirements development efforts while identifying and assessing integration options with the current NATO SATCOM capability. This will be accomplished by formally experimenting with, testing and evaluating HTS services within a focused operational context with the NATO Deployed Communications & Information Systems (DCIS) community, which includes NATO's Signal Battalions (NSBs) and Deployable Communications Modules' (DCMs) across Europe.

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**1.2.** This Request for Information (RFI) does not constitute a commitment to issue a future request for proposal (RFP). The purpose of this request is to involve industry through collaboration, in an examination of future capabilities related to High Throughput Satellite Services with a focus how they could be incorporated into the Future NATO SATCOM Capability / Portfolio via its current or future capability programme.

**1.3** 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. Further, respondents are advised that 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 that are of mutual interest to both parties but shall be restricted to collaborations in non-procurement areas. Several mechanisms have been already 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 on 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 FFCI agreement is required to respond to this RFI.

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### **3 Experiment Outline**

#### **3.1 Background**

**3.1.1** Two studies on HTS services (Ref A & B) have been sponsored by NATO's Allied Command Transformation, supported by the NATO Communications & Information Agency and conducted by the NATO Industry Advisory Group (NIAG). The objective of the studies were to assess the future utility for HTS Networks in order to inform Capability Development for NATO's SATCOM Capability Programme. Ref A included a clear assessment of incorporating HTS Network services into NATO's SATCOM portfolio, and propose commercial contracting frameworks.

**3.1.2** The next step in NATO's assessment of HTS services is to move from the study phase to the operational experimentation phase and expose HTS services to the NATO SATCOM operational user community with the goal of informing the development efforts of future requirements while identifying and assessing integration options with the current NATO SATCOM capability.

**3.1.3** To achieve the aim of the of the HTS DevEx 20, an RFI is necessary to determine which HTS industry stakeholders are interested in collaborating to help NATO identify the HTS services and technologies that could potentially be integrated or form part of the future NATO SATCOM capability and portfolio of services required to fulfil its various mission types. This is not a formal request for submissions as part of a procurement effort; it is intended to conduct an additional in-depth experiment and assessment to determine the potential utility for HTS services which could be identified to inform the development of a NATO SATCOM Capability Plan.

#### **3.2 Aim**

**3.2.1** To assess the utility for High Throughput Satellite (HTS) services by conducting follow-on physical testing and evaluation of HTS capabilities as articulated in NATO INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP (NIAG) Study-SG237 (Ref A), in order to further validate the performance and resilience attributes that HTS may offer NATO in support of its SATCOM Capability Package (CP9A0130 - Projects OCM3104 Extended Core and OCM3107 (Augmentation) development.

#### **3.3 High-Level Plan.**

**3.3.1** The following is an initial outline of how NATO intends to proceed with the HTS Development Experiment 2020:

##### **a. Objectives.**

- 1) Evaluate the attributes of HTS (derived from NIAG SG 237) against a representation of NATO's future Level of Ambition and Mission Types; and

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- 2) Identify and evaluate HTS Ground Terminal Integration Options within the near and mid-term capabilities (Current deployable terminals vs Future versions).
- b. **Location.** In Europe at a NATO Signal Battalion based in Italy, Poland or Germany (to be confirmed).
  - c. **Timeline.** Q4 2020 window.
  - d. **Participation.** NATO is planning on participation from:
    - 1) Allied Command Transformation (Strategic Lead);
    - 2) Allied Command Operations (Strategic Co-Lead);
    - 3) NATO Communications and Information Agency (Technical Lead);
    - 4) NATO Communications & Information Services Group (NCISG) and its Signal Battalions and Deployable Communication Teams (Operational DCIS Community); and
    - 5) Industry Partners.

### 3.4 Expected benefits to respondents

Industry participants will have the opportunity to contribute and demonstrate their HTS services, capabilities and technologies to help inform the requirements capture that will shape NATO's future SATCOM capability and portfolio of services.

### 3.5 Expected input from Industry.

Expected input to this RFI is industry's intention to participate in the HTS DevEx 20 and what services or capability (ies) they may contribute to the experiment.

## 4 - REQUESTED INFORMATION

### 4.1 Intent

Those providing their intent to participate in the experiment will be invited to future meetings and workshops (date TBC) to begin coordinating the actual event and provide further details about time, location and the test plan.

### 4.2 Answers to the RFI.

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

### 4.3 Follow-on.

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**4.3.1** The results from the HTS DevEx 20 will be used to develop a report to inform the Future NATO SATCOM Capability Programme. Data and results collected will be used to provide an assessment to support a decision as to whether NATO should pursue HTS as an option to deliver future SATCOM services.

**4.3.2** Contributing to the experiment, or lack thereof, will not prejudice any respondent in the event that there is a competitive bidding process later as part of NATO Common-Funded Capability Development.

**4.4 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.

**4.5 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](http://www.act.nato.int/contracting).

**4.6 Response Date. 15 September 2020**

**4.7 Summary. This is a RFI only and the purpose of this RFI is to involve industry, through collaboration,** in an examination of HTS as a potential solution to deliver future SATCOM services. 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.

//Signed//

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