Request for Information Number: **RFI ACT SACT 21-08**

Reference: **Q&A #1**

Date of Issue: **26 Feb 2021**

The following questions were raised with respect to subject RFI. Responses are to provide clarification.

Question	Response
1. Capability Overview, clause 3: EMC – Please clarify the term EMC in the context of this RFI. Does it refer to EM Compatibility within a system or between systems in a certain proximity?	For this RFI, EMC refers to EM compatibility between systems in various degrees of proximity. For example, various allied platforms operating together using this EMS for communications, sensing, or defence or attack. Understanding EMC risks, impacts, and likelihoods will be very useful.
2. Capability Overview, clause 7b: Please elaborate on the following: " articulate how existing tools could be enhanced and integrated into an EW C2 design"	ACT anticipates it is unlikely that a single system may deliver on all the requirements. Therefore if there are multiple systems, systems from same or multiple vendors that complement each other, and if they have been integrated for other customers previously. This type of information would be helpful.
3. Are you interested in technical architecture or logical model of solution? What do you mean by "approach"?	ACT anticipates it is unlikely that a single system may deliver on all the requirements. Therefore, "approach" offers the widest possible potential solution space. ACT would prefer more mature technologies that have technical architecture models, but ACT does not want to exclude other potential innovative ideas.
4. Is it possible to provide description of existing interfaces to those systems or how those interfaces could be provided?	ACT cannot provide this information at this time due to classification issues and future architectural choices that are not yet decided. But solutions, which typically handle these data sets and information will indicate technological maturity.
5. Integration of NEDB or NEDB-NG is expected?	Information exchange with NEDB-NG is expected. This will likely be some form of loosely coupled system of systems. NEDB-NG itself may also require additional services defining for C2 of EW information exchange requirements.
6. What is meant by dependencies?	ACT would like to see dependencies broken down into various groupings as outlined in the subsections of this question. Such as, embedded technology (e.g., it only runs on Red Hat Linux), co-dependant systems/integration (e.g., it runs best with another system that can provide Web Map Tile Services (WMTS) or it can be configured to use Active Directory for user authentication), data/information standards available or expected (e.g., USMTF, OTH-G), hardware dependencies (e.g., it is best installed on Dell's VxRail system), maintenance (e.g., some proprietary system-level maintenance is required to be completed by vendor).

7. By commercial technologies is meant licensed and accounted (non opensource only) technologies?	ACT desires to know if there are major components of the solution that inherently require other technologies to function; licensed or otherwise (e.g., the solution uses Cassandra database or must run on Red Hat Linux, etc.) NATO also has existing enterprise agreements with various software providers so it possible that these may be leveraged to reduce the cost of the solution.
8. Our solution integrates national specific EW assets but it's not dependent on them. Do you expect integration of NATO and/or national EW Assets?	ACT anticipates creating sufficient interoperability to incorporate data and information from NATO and national EW units, platforms, systems, but expects this to be loosely coupled based upon agreed standards and formats rather than tightly integrated systems/interfaces.
9. FMN spiral specifications resolve Core Services and Functional Services. Are you focused on functional services only?	For this RFI, ACT focuses on developing EW functional services and assumes Core Services will be available for integration.
10. What is part of NATO Enterprise Information System environment? May you provide the specification of NATO Enterprise Information System environment?	ACT cannot provide all of this information at this time due to classification issues and future architectural choices that are not yet decided. However, some of this information can be obtained from the NATO Interoperability Standards and Profiles. The key document, ADatP-34(M), is developed by the Interoperability Profiles Capability Team (IP CaT) under the authority of the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Board (C3B). Volume 2 standards and profiles are mandatory for use in NATO common funded systems, and made available to the general public here: https://nhqc3s.hq.nato.int/Apps/Architecture/NISP/
11. Could you please specify what is required in this question? "What are your capability dependencies?"	Please see the answer to question 6 above.
12. Is there scope to negotiate NATO terms and conditions once a tender has been issued? Or does NATO expect industry to be fully compliant with the terms they offer as part of a competitive tender?	Discussion of negotiation of terms and conditions for a procurement action is premature at this stage of the analysis. ACT desires to obtain information related to the possible solution-space in order to conduct an Analysis of Alternatives and identify the best set of alternatives or portfolio of solutions for NATO's needs. This request for information 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 the EW C2 with a focus on the technologies and commercial products.