RFI:	**RFI-ACT-SACT-23-36**

Reference:	Q & A #1

Date of Issue:	04 April 2023

The following questions were raised with respect to subject **RFI-ACT-SACT-23-36**

Responses are to provide clarification.

Questions	Responses
1.In section 4.8, I sense a preference for brevity.* I intend to submit a set of related capabilities that my organization can perform relating to researching NATO's responses to low yield nuclear weapons. Would you prefer one response with several (perhaps four) parts or several (again, perhaps four) separate responses?	1.One response with several parts will be acceptable.
2. In section 2.1 and 2.1.1, the discussion centers on "collaboration." I presume the term "collaboration" means NATO's collaboration with nations, academia, and industry. It does mean that the respondent should seek out partners in industry or academia to collaborate with for its work, does it? My intent in my response would be the identification of capabilities that my program can offer NATO. I have no intent at this time to build partnerships for my capabilities with other academic or industrial partners to assist me in delivering these capabilities—though I would not categorically reject this approach. Is my reading of the words consistent with your meaning of the term "collaborate"?	2.To clarify, the term 'collaboration' in this context relates to ACT's collaboration with industry. The paragraph does not require respondents to the RFI to seek out partners in academia or industry.
3. In section 3.1.1, I see the term "service." Then I see in section 8.1.1 these words: "idea/concept/product/capability." Am I right that any of the entries in 8.1.1 would qualify as a "service" within the meaning of 3.1.1? I would surely see research being within the meaning of 8.1.1, but I am less clear that research qualifies as a service w/i the meaning of 3.1.1. This is why I ask for clarification.	3. There is no NATO definition of a functional service, but it can be considered to be a service that provides a capacity to a specific staff function where the information content is closely related to the service. The words in 4.8.1 (8.1.1 appears to be a typo as this paragraph number does not exist in the RFI) are intended to determine the level of development for the solution being offered (ie, is it still in the very early pre-concept stages; has some work already been completed to create a concept; is a product or tool available; has the product or tool been developed into a full capability?)
4. Can you provide any information about what NATO will do with the RFI responses? For example: (a) Other than acknowledging receipt of RFIs (which I presume is the case), do you intend to respond to submitters? (b) Will the RFI responses be used for issuing solicitations? If so, do you have any time frames for proceeding with solicitation(s)? I do realize that RFI does not imply that NATO will move forward with any procurements or solicitations. (c) Could responses to the RFI be used as a basis for entering into any contractual actions or discussions, via, for example, sole source authorizations? (d) Do you have cost ranges in mind for awards of contracts in cost (Ten of thousands of $10? Hundreds of thousands? Millions?) or durations (months? A year or two?	4. NATO intends to use the responses to determine what tools and capabilities may already exist that meet its operational requirement. The responses will be analyzed and submitted for a governance-level decision on a way ahead, which would most likely be around the end of the second quarter of 2024. Should governance approval be granted, further analysis of the potential solutions is expected before a preferred solution and any projects to deliver it are submitted for further governance decisions. The aim is to submit the project proposals to governance by the middle of the second quarter 2025, with a decision expected in the third quarter of that year. Once a solution has been identified, then contract award would likely take another year. NATO is seeking to understand rough order of magnitude costs for the implementation and ongoing

	sustainment of proposed solutions. Responding to the RFI would not provide any advantage to an organization regarding potential procurement. This RFI does not constitute the promise for a contract.
5. Please can you clarify which industry exactly is the intended audience for this RFI? For example, we are a manufacturor of protective clothing, among which CBRN protective clothing. Are you seeking information from companies like ourselves or are you more interested in computerized or digital industry?	5. The CBRN functional service is expected to sit on NATO's automated information system in order to support decision making by NATO commanders. Accordingly, NATO is seeking information from companies that can offer such a tool, and anticipates that these companies will most likely be within the computerized or digital industry.
6. Please can you state who will receive the information contained in the submission? Will it be for use of the US DOD solely? Or will it be distributed among all NATO member states?	6. The submission will not be used by the US DOD, nor will it be shared with NATO member states. The information will be reviewed by NATO personnel in Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT) HQ and at the Strategic Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) to determine if the submission meets the operational requirements outlined in the request for information.