RFI:	**RFI-ACT-SACT-24-12-Space Domain Capabilities**
Reference:	Q&A #1
Date of Issue:	26 March 2024

The following questions were raised with respect to subject **RFI-ACT-SACT-24-12-Space Domain Capabilities.** Responses are to provide clarification.

Questions	Responses
1. Dropdown menus in the Excel file are not working. How can we provide answers?	Please use the version that is on the act Contracting Website (https://www.act.nato.int/opportunities/contracting/), specifically located at RFI ACT SACT 24-12 - NATO's ACT or https://www.act.nato.int/opportunities/contracting/rfi-act-sact-24-12/ There are dropdown menus only on the second tab (2. Requirement Assessment), there is no dropdown menu on the third tab (3. Cost Assessment).
2. We have got server errors when we clicked on the link you provided in the RFI. How can we get access to that page?	Please use the version that is on the act Contracting Website (https://www.act.nato.int/opportunities/contracting/), specifically located at RFI ACT SACT 24-12 - NATO's ACT or https://www.act.nato.int/opportunities/contracting/rfi-act-sact-24-12/ There are dropdown menus only on the second tab (2. Requirement Assessment), there is no dropdown menu on the third tab (3. Cost Assessment).
3. Our company has several solutions that could be of interest, can we submit a separate survey for each solution?	We are expecting **one Excel file for each submission,** not separate files for each product or service.
4. Drop down menus in the Excel file do not allow multiple selection. How should we include multiple capabilities in one survey?	Please use the comment column if you want to provide information about multiple solutions.
5. I would to ask if our company has several products/applications that could meet NATO's Space Domain capability requirements, should we to fulfil one questionnaire per product/application or should we send only one questionnaire including all our products/applications?	We are expecting **one Excel file for each submission,** not separate files for each product or service.
6. Can you please clarify if the scope of the RFI also include solutions for space capabilities delivering specific applications or is limited to operating space infrastructure?	The scope of the RFI also includes potential solutions for Space Capabilities delivering specific applications, it is not limited to operating Space infrastructure.
7. The definition of the domain requirements within SDA, OSS & SDC seems very focused on operating space based infrastructure and not very focused on specific utilisations / use cases of the infrastructure - e.g. as sensors or means of battlefield communication. Please clarify if the scope of the RFI also include solutions for space capabilities delivering specific applications or is limited to operating space infrastructure? Reference: 3.3 from RFI-ACT-SACT-24-12 PDF document:	The scope of the RFI also includes potential solutions for Space Capabilities delivering specific applications, it is not limited to operating Space infrastructure.

8. Could you confirm the website address for the answers to questions as: https://act.nato.int/contracting. Initial attempts return a server error	Please use the version that is on the act Contracting Website (https://www.act.nato.int/opportunities/contracting/), specifically located at RFI ACT SACT 24-12 - NATO's ACT or https://www.act.nato.int/opportunities/contracting/rfi-act-sact-24-12/ There are dropdown menus only on the second tab (2. Requirement Assessment), there is no dropdown menu on the third tab (3. Cost Assessment).
9. A reference is made to a third party "company to conduct the Analysis of Alternatives investigation in support of this project". Will the name of this company be disclosed to RFI participants in due time? 4.16.1 , from RFI-ACT-SACT-24-12 PDF document	Analysis of Alternatives is directly conducted by NATO, not by a third party company.
10. Most of the organisations answering this RFI will do that in view of potential participations to future procurement programs by NATO, while reading the statements in section 4.18, It appears that participation to this RFI may represent a reason to be EXCLUDED from future procurements, Would you further clarify under which conditions answering this RFI would determine an exclusion from a future procurement process?	RFI ACT SACT 24-12 Para. 4.18.1. "*Companies responding to this RFI and companies conducting Analysis of Alternatives are hereby placed on notice responding to this RFI could conceivably be a factor in the creation of an Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCI) on a future procurement, if a future procurement were to occur within the capability development process.*" Participation to this RFI will NOT exclude any participant from potential future procurements unless they are also conducting analysis of alternatives (AOA). Responding to the RFI and conducting AOA by the same party is a potential OCI unless it was justified by the same party that all preventive and mitigation measures are already taken not to create any OCI.
11. The three tabs in the RFI core are addressing system(s), sub-system(s), service(s), or capability (ies) that industries may have. In most cases, there is several of those that could be listed, and apparently a company is expected to introduce all their capabilities into single cells, e.g. cell D5 in "1. Capability Overview". Is that what is expected? Reference; Question 1 and 2 in "1. Capability Overview", from XLS:	Please use Comment column to provide any additional information. You can also highlight the solutions fully fitting to the respective requirements.
12. What is intended with "What type of products and services can you deliver once a request is processed?" Reference: Question 22 in "1. Capability Overview", from XLS:	If NATO makes a decision to issues a Request for Proposal, please be prepared to identify the types of Products and Services you can deliver with your system (e.g. standard, format, type).
13. We interpret "latency" as the difference between the time a measurement is delivered and the time that measurement is taken. Is that correct? Reference: Question 13 in "2. Requirement Assessment", from XLS:	*Per the questionnaire, 13. For real-time data feeds, what is the latency of your solution?* Latency is the time difference with respect to Real-Time. There are couple of latencies. If you take any DPS as a service then internal latency means the time difference WRT to Real Time .
14. How should we indicate the cost in case we have multiple solutions? Reference: Question 1 in "3. Cost Assessment", from XLS:	Please use Comment column to provide any additional information. You can also highlight the solutions fully fitting to the respective requirements.
15. In case the organisation has multiple solutions, the answer would require a full table. Is that what is expected to be included in cell D5? Reference: Question 3 in "3. Cost Assessment", from XLS:	If you want to provide a table then you can insert a table in the Excel file by making a reference in cell D5 to make it clear which question that table refers to in the survey.
16. Can you please provide more clear descriptions of Space Domain Awareness (SDA), Operational Space Support (OSS) and Space Domain Coordination (SDC)?	For the scope of this RFI, more information about those Operational Functions (SDA, OSS and SDC) can be found in the RFI under **Paragraph 3.3 "Space Domain Capability Requirements"** and in the Appendix Excel file on **"Capability Overview"** tab and in **"Glossary"** tab. In case

	of further interest from NATO, additional Requests will be sent by NATO to your Organization, with additional information and descriptions provided.
17. Do you have a naming and display policy? – Please clarify what you mean with naming and display policy. Reference: In the Excel File RFI024012_Apdx 1, sheet 2. Requirements Assessment Question 36,	We are expecting you to explain the structure / organisation / taxonomy of the employment of your capability.
18. What will the primary data source be for SDA tools? Dedicated NATO sensors, data received from partner nations, commercial data, combination, or other?	We envisage the primary data source for SDA will be a Data Fusion of already available Space-related Data coming from NATO Programmes and systems, NATO Nations and commercial data providers.
19. What is the planned operational footprint for your SDA Mission? 1 Ops floor, 1 back up location, test centre, etc.?	The details of this question cannot be shared at this level of classification but it falls under a classic General Staff System in terms of distribution of information and exchange mechanisms. This means that dedicated functions need to process the information and adapt it to the users as needed.
20. Will users of your SDA system be geographically separated while operating?	Yes, users of NATO Space systems are and will continue to be geographically separated.
21. How many users do you anticipate working on the SDA system at a given time (single console vs tens vs hundreds)?	We cannot provide you an exact number of users. We anticipate it to be figured in tens for now.
22. Is there a preference between local hardware vs cloud solutions? If hardware is required, do you have spatial limitations for racks?	Our current preference is to have local hardware. However, we may think of transferring it onto cloud with NATO's other C2 systems in the future as IT systems evolve.
23. Would NATO allow remote support for SDA system troubleshooting or is on-site SME support required?	Remote support is plausible for the unclassified portion of the system. However, we will need on-site SME support for the classified area. Potentially, NCIA may take over the SME support in time.
24. What is the expected lifecycle of the desired system of choice? What is the expected period of performance of the system or contract?	In case of further interest from NATO, additional Requests will be sent by NATO to your Organization, with additional information provided about the expected lifecycle of the desired system of choice, expected period of performance of the system and contract.
25. In what classification level do you plan to operate?	We are planning to operate from unclassified NATO UNCLASSIFIED (NU) to NATO SECRET (NS) level. Possibilities to utilise MISSION SECRET (MS) and NATO RESTRICTED (NR) will be further evaluated for now.
26. Do you require cross-domain compatibility? If yes, please highlight, which levels data must be transferred between.	Yes, we need data to be transferred between networks as needed.
27. Please elaborate on your question "Is your solution NATO interoperable?" Is there a specific system, or interface control document that you expect the SDA solution to adhere to?	We are expecting potential solutions to be aligned with NATO Interoperability Standards as well as NATO Data Exchange STANAGS.
28. Please clarify your expectations associated with the following question: "Do you foresee any problems with your solution being owned and operated by NATO?". Can we assume this is related to export-controlled information, and data rights with the performing party as the product owner?	Yes, we anticipate the capability will be NATO owned. We may have a capability owned and operated by NATO or we may have a capability owned by NATO and operated by the contractor.
29. Would a NATO Space representative be available to receive a demonstration of our capabilities at the Space Symposium, the week of April 8th, 2024? If not, would you welcome the opportunity for other in-person or remote demonstrations?	Yes, we are planning to attend the Space Symposium between 8 and 11 April to learn more about industrial Space solutions within the Framework For Collaboration with Industry partners. However, it may not be possible to visit all industry partners.

30. Could you clarify if technologies from space that are used in downstream applications are also under your interest or you request for information only on products and technologies to be used in space?	Yes, we would like to know about any Space technologies, which can support decision-making processes. Of note, the scope of the RFI also includes potential solutions for Space Capabilities delivering specific applications, it is not limited to operating Space infrastructure.
31. Would it be possible to organize a videoconference to clarify some of the questions?	Unfortunately, we cannot discuss the RFI or the requirements with an industry partner one-on-one before the deadline of the submission. However, after the deadline, HQ SACT reserves the right to seek clarification via the identified points of contacts. Therefore, we strongly recommend you to answer the RFI to your best knowledge.
32. GPS military receivers and Galileo PRS receivers for navigation and time synchronization for battle platforms, vehicles and systems are interested for you within the above RFI?	Receivers specifications could be interesting to us, but we are more in the process of delivering to users modelling of information and threat and effects impacts to the users.
33. How we can insert these different products in the Excel file provided? Could we insert a sort of bullet point for each questions to list the different answers related to the different products?	Please use the comment column if you want to provide information about multiple solutions.
34. Will users of your SDA system be geographically separated while operating?	Yes, users of NATO Space systems are and will continue to be geographically separated.
35. Do current and future satellite communication systems fall within the scope of this RFI as described in paragraph 3.3 (Space Domain Capability Requirements) of the RFI document (amended)? If so, should they be presented using the supplied .XLS Appendix which seems to be more focused around space awareness solutions?	Yes they do but they will be informing SATCOM processes falling also under the CIS Branch within HQ SACT and also the Space Technology and Adoption Branch at NCIA who is managing NCIA efforts. We will use that information as well as all are involved in the same processes. However no need to go into technical details at this stage
36. Req 4: What is the difference between the NATO Enterprise Architecture and NATO Architecture Framework?	The NATO Architecture Framework (NAF) provides guidance on describing both enterprise architectures and systems architectures. NAF is for both business and military use, and provides a standardized way to develop architecture artefacts. NATO enterprise Architecture refers to NAF as well.
37. Req 13: Would NATO be open to the use of Optical Inter-Satellite Link (OISLs) to reduce latency, increase bandwidth, and the potential for more secure communications?	Provide OISLs inputs so the technology can be further assessed.
38. Req 22: Could NATO kindly provide a definition of "commercial analytics" in the scope of this procedure?	Commercial Analytics involves analytics tools and procedures to get insights through testing, scenario building, and reporting capabilities.