

**Headquarters Supreme Allied Command Transformation Norfolk,  
Virginia**



**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

**RFI-ACT-SACT-24-40**

This document contains a Request for Information (RFI) call to industry, academia and nations for their input to NATO's requirement for testing the implementation and performance of **Geospatial Enterprise Core Services (GECS)**.

Industry, academia and nations 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-ACT-SACT-24-40

<b>General Information</b>	
Request For Information No.	<b>24-40</b>
Project Title	<b>GECS programme (Geospatial Enterprise Core Services)</b>
Due date for questions concerning related information	<b>1300 EDT 09 April, 2024</b>
Due date for submission of requested information	<b>1300 EDT 23 April, 2024</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	Mr. Laurent Munter Email: <a href="mailto:laurent.munter@act.nato.int">laurent.munter@act.nato.int</a> Tel: +1-757-747-3861  Ms. Tonya Bonilla E-mail: <a href="mailto:tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int">tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int</a> Tel: +1 757 747 3575  Ms. Catherine Giglio E-mail: <a href="mailto:catherine.giglio@act.nato.int">catherine.giglio@act.nato.int</a> Tel:+1 757 747 3856
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References	<b>A.</b>  <b>B.</b>
<b>All request for clarifications, questions and responses to this RFI must be sent via email to all Points of Contact reported above. Individuals email will not be accepted and should not be sent. Contracting and Technical POCs must be included in any correspondence.</b>	

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (HQ SACT) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) in order to engage with industry on the **NATO programme for Geospatial Enterprise Core Services (GECS)** capability delivery.

At the 2021 Brussels Summit, NATO leaders agreed on the NATO 2030 agenda, which sets NATO's future level of ambition as "Making a strong Alliance even stronger." The agenda expresses, "*We will strengthen modern command and control tailored to support our 360-degree posture, dynamic force management, improved response system, and plans. In doing so, we will place increased emphasis on the interdependence of geography, domains, and readiness.*"

Geographic and geospatial support is the foundational layer to realizing the NATO future capability ambition. The GECS programme will provide the geospatial capabilities to realise the overarching goal for the Alliance to "operate off the same map" to ensure mission success. GECS will contribute to NATO's Cognitive Superiority efforts by providing clear and reliable geospatial support for situation awareness at strategic, operational and tactical levels. The GECS consists of five development areas (described below in section 3), which interact to form the complete GECS capability.

**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 the implementation of the GECS programme.

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. All information shared with ACT might be shared with contracted third parties in order to support the capability development process as needed. Provision of data, or lack of, will not prejudice any respondent in the event that there is a competitive bidding process later as part of NATO Common-Funded Capability Development.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### 2.1. Geospatial Information

Geospatial information (GI) provides facts about the Earth referenced by geographic position and arranged in a coherent structure. GI includes products, data, publications and materials based on topographic, aeronautical, hydrographic, planimetric, relief, thematic, geodetic and geophysical information, including geospatially-referenced imagery and may be available in either analogue or digital formats.

### 2.2. Geospatial support

The primary component of GI is foundation data; this is specific information on essential features that change rarely or slowly, such as topographic features, elevation data and geodetic information. GI is the foundation for any operational picture. The ability to combine GI with other

information is fundamental to modern systems, such as command and control (C2) and weapon systems through dedicated GI datasets. GI enables the common operating picture, allowing the battlespace to be visualised, analysed, and communicated.

Geospatial support comprises all activities that ensure geospatial information is available and exploited when and where it is needed. These activities include, but are not limited to: geospatial information management procedures; database management; map supply; acquisition and exchange of GI; topographic/geodetic survey; production (reproduction, provision, analysis, fusion and presentation); provision of web services; education and training; and geospatial advice.

In order to have GECS fulfilling these activities, the present RFI seeks to identify existing, under development and still to be developed products, services, or capabilities.

**This is not a formal request for submissions as part of a procurement; but rather a general request intended to determine whether any possible solutions exist that should be included in one or many alternatives during the development.**

### **3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### **3.1. Vision**

As stated by the NATO GIS Vision & Strategy endorsed by the North Atlantic Council (NAC) in 2020, *“In 2030, NATO will have a Spatial (or geospatial) Data Infrastructure (SDI) supported by a fully integrated GIS harmonizing geospatial datasets from various sources through a cloud approach, in order to seamlessly share and provide geospatial information (GI), products and services within the Alliance in the most effective and efficient way.”*

The GECS aims to make this vision a reality

#### **3.2. Objectives**

The GECS consists of five core development areas which interact to form the complete GECS capability. The following sections describe their respective objectives:

##### **3.2.1 CoreGIS**

Provides Geographic Information System (GIS) on a classified network for the consolidation and synthesis of Geospatial Information, production of topical cartographic visualizations, and designation of GI for use by all NATO nations in execution of NATO operations. Users shall have standardized and timely access to authoritative GI via common centralized Geospatial Services for official NATO use with the ability to: discover, process, manage, analyse, store, synchronize, and distribute GI.

##### **3.2.2 Geospatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)**

Provides a collaborative geospatial information platform accessible from a protected business network. SDI will harmonize geospatial datasets from various sources through a cloud approach. The aim is to seamlessly manage, share and provide Geospatial Information (GI), products and services efficiently across the Alliance (back and forth between the NATO Command Structure and NATO Nations). The SDI will provide a single collaborative environment for data/meta-data management and co-production. SDI will also

provide catalogue services allowing the search, discovery, retrieval and visualisation of GI across the whole NATO protected business network.

### **3.2.3 Geospatial Information Procurement (GIP)**

Provides access to a wide range of commercially available GI to enhance or expand NATO geospatial production quality and completeness. GI Procurement involves single and recurring acquisition of raw and curated GI to meet NATO Commands' evolving information demands across the NATO area of responsibility and area of interest.

### **3.2.4 Reusable GIS Software Components (RGSC)**

Provides common and reusable software applets that can be customized across the range of the NATO geospatial support & analytic processes. RGSC is intended to enhance NATO process for acquisition, production, and dissemination activities. RGSC seeks to maximize principles of code-reusability (“develop once, use multiple times”) and leverage emerging software development techniques (e.g., AI-enabled coding).

### **3.2.5 Geo-located Services to NATO Communities of Interest (GSCOI)**

Provides two way access of Geospatial Information between the NATO Geospatial Community and the Functional Area Services and other NATO Communities of Interest. GSCOI depends on creating efficient interoperability of geospatial data between current and future COI systems.

## **3.3. Expected Benefits to Respondents**

The Respondents to this RFI will have the chance to reveal state-of-the-art products, services systems (production environment/platform/software/tools) in the Geospatial area of interest.

## **3.4. Expected Benefits to NATO**

With the answers to this RFI, NATO expects to gain a more complete understanding of the geospatial capabilities and technologies that are available off-the-shelf, under development and to be developed.

## **4. REQUESTED INFORMATION**

### **4.1. The response(s) to this RFI shall be submitted by e-mail.**

Submissions must include both the Contracting and Technical POCs listed on page 2. The responses shall not contain proprietary and/or classified information. HQ SACT reserves the right to seek clarification on submissions.

### **4.2. Eligibility to Respond:**

Only NATO Nations, Industry and Academia that originate or are chartered/incorporated within NATO Nations are eligible to respond to this RFI. Companies from Partner Nations who want to participate should collaborate with a primary company headquartered within a NATO Nation.

### **4.3. Response Template**

**4.3.1.** Provide name, mailing address, overnight delivery address (if different from

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mailing address), designated point of contact (phone number, e-mail).

**4.3.2.** Respondents can collaborate with other providers, but all companies/organizations must be clearly identified and their role/services clearly stated.

**4.3.3.** Response should include at a minimum a technical description and technical architecture diagram of the proposed implementation. Responses are not required to follow any format, but the following is proposed:

- a) Introduction
- b) Assumptions
- c) Technical / System Requirements
- d) Description of Network Implementation & Architecture Views
- e) Recommendations

**4.3.4.** Identify current services your company offers, which most closely match the capabilities, specified in this RFI (or portions of).

**4.3.5.** Available product brochures, specification sheets, photographs, illustration and technical descriptions that describe your company's current services are welcome. Companies are encouraged not to include marketing informational materials that do not relate to the services described in this RFI as it will be discarded; however, responses may include URL links to technical documentation materials (i.e., technical data sheets for products) are welcome.

**4.3.6.** Response limited to a single main document and enclosures for a total not-to-exceed 10 pages (material provided as per paragraph above not included).

**4.3.7.** The document should be single-spaced, have one-inch margins, assume US letter-size (8 1/2 by 11 inches) page, use 12-point font, and be formatted for compatibility with Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat Reader (current versions).

**4.3.8.** Submissions should be named according to the following convention: <Respondent company name; maximum of 12 characters>\_GECS\_RFI\_<date in YYYYMMDD format>.<filename extension of 3 or 4 characters>. Provide list of your company's past and current customers to which you have provided or are providing similar services, including a customer/company name and point of contact, phone number, and address/e-mail where they can be contacted.

**4.3.9. Responses shall not be classified above NATO UNCLASSIFIED.**

**4.3.10.** The information may be considered in developing any future potential Statement of Work requirements. HQ SACT will consider selected information for developmental contracts and experimentation candidates.

#### **4.4. Price Estimates (Optional)**

HQ SACT seeks non-binding Rough Order Magnitude (ROM) price estimates for the sole purpose of estimating programmatic costs and planning funding for future programme proposals/bids. Provision of data, or lack of, will not prejudice any respondent in the event that there is a competitive bidding process later as part of NATO Common Funded Capability Development.

#### **4.5. Response Due Date**

Responses to this RFI must be received by **1300 EDT on 23 April 2024**. The responses shall not contain any classified information. HQ SACT reserves the right to seek clarification on submissions.

### **5. CLARIFICATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

Inquiries of a technical nature about this RFI shall be submitted by e-mail solely to the aforementioned POCs by **1300 EDT on 09 April 2024**. Accordingly, questions in an e-mail shall not contain proprietary and/or classified information. Answers will be posted as soon as possible on the HQ SACT P&C website at: <https://act.nato.int/contracting>.

All questions should be submitted by **1300 EDT on 09 April 2024** to allow for appropriate response time prior to the **1300 EDT on 23 April 2024**, response due date.

### **6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **6.1. Non-disclosure Principles and/or Non-disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Third Party Company.**

**6.1.1.** Please be informed that HQ SACT may contract a company to conduct the Analysis of Alternatives investigation in support of this project. HQ SACT will follow nondisclosure principles and possibly conclude an NDA with that company to protect submitted information from further disclosure. As the third party beneficiary of this nondisclosure, this RFI serves to inform you how HQ SACT plans to proceed and HQ SACT's intent to protect information from unauthorized disclosure. This requires the third party company to protect the disclosed information using the highest degree of care that the company utilizes to protect its own Proprietary Information of a similar nature, and no less than reasonable care.

**6.1.2.** The third party company receiving the information shall not, without explicit, written consent of HQ SACT:

- a) Discuss, disclose, publish or disseminate any Proprietary Information received or accessed under nondisclosure principles and subject to an NDA, if an NDA is concluded;
- b) Use disclosed Proprietary Information in any way except for the purpose for which it was disclosed in furtherance of the goals of the instant project, collaboration, activity or contract; or

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c) Mention the other Party or disclose the relationship including, without limitation, in marketing materials, presentations, press releases or interview.

## **6.2. Organizational Conflicts of Interest.**

As Procurement/Contracting involves the expenditure of funds allocated by the member nations, we must always strive to maintain trust in and preserve the integrity of the procurement procedures. It is essential that our procedures facilitate transparent and robust competition from industry.

Contractor and subcontractor personnel performing work under an HQ SACT contract may receive, have access to, or participate in the development of sensitive information relating to source selection methodology, cost or pricing information, budget information, and future specifications, requirements or Statements of Work or perform evaluation services that may create a current or subsequent Organizational Conflict of Interests (OCI). Similarly, companies responding to an HQ SACT RFI may create a subsequent OCI determination when pursuing future NATO contracts generated from that RFI.

Each individual contracting situation will of course be examined on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of any proposed contract. The exercise of common sense, good judgment, and sound discretion is required in both the decision on whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, the development of an appropriate means for resolving it.

In anticipation of a future OCI determination, any company either awarded an HQ SACT contract or responding to an HQ SACT RFI while also anticipating bidding on future NATO contracts relating to this work, should consider having a mitigation plan in place to address or mitigate any OCI concerns now or in the future.

## **6.3. 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. HQ SACT will exercise due care to prevent its unauthorized disclosure. Please be advised that all submissions become HQ SACT property and will not be returned.

**6.4. Exceptions to Obligations.** The third party company receiving the information may disclose, publish, disseminate, and use Proprietary Information:

a) To its employees, officers, directors, contractors, and affiliates of the recipient who have a need to know and who have an organizational code of conduct or written agreement with the recipient requiring them to treat the disclosed Proprietary Information in accordance with nondisclosure principles and the NDA (if executed);

b) To the extent required by law; however, the company receiving the information will give HQ SACT prompt notice to allow HQ SACT a reasonable opportunity to obtain a protective order or otherwise protect the disclosed information through legal process that is:

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- demonstrated in written record to have been developed independently, or
- already in the possession of the company receiving the information without obligation of confidentiality, prior to the date of receipt from HQ SACT, or
- disclosed or used with prior written approval from HQ SACT, or
- obtained from a source other than HQ SACT without obligation of confidentiality; or publicly available when received.

**6.5. Any response to this RFI is considered to establish consent to this process. A copy of the NDA, if or when concluded, can be provided on request.**

## **7. SUMMARY**

**This is a RFI only.** The purpose of this RFI is to involve industry, academia and nations through collaboration, for their input to NATO's requirement for the GECS programme. 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.**