RFI:

Reference: RFI-ACT-SACT-25-105-Automation of the Main Event List / Main Incident List (MEL/MIL) scripting using Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Q&A #1

Date of Issue:

18/11/2025

The following questions were raised with respect to subject RFI-ACT-SACT-25-105 -Automation of the Main Event List / Main Incident List (MEL/MIL) scripting using Artificial Intelligence (AI). Responses are to provide clarification.

Questions	Responses
1. You have stated that you will NOT answer questions about the OCI outlined in Para 3.j, however, I would request this is reconsidered as the current wording is unclear about what is, and what is not, considered an OCI in the context of answering this RFI. Further, the next para 3.k 'Follow On' appears to assure bidders that any data submitted will not prejudice any respondent. Any additional guidance would be greatly appreciated as this wording differs from previous RFIs issued by ACT.	Organizational Conflicts of Interest occur when a participant has privileged access to information creating an unfair competitive advantage and benefitting them in a future procurement or competition, if any, through this privileged information gained from another contract, sensitive, non-public or other internal information. Thus, please identify in your RFI package any actual or potential OCIs that may apply to this RFI.
2. Are you able to expand on the potential duration and user scale of any licensing requirements as asked at the Annex Sheet 1 (Capability Overview) #12 as it will impact the cost data requested?	The AI in Audacious Training Project is scheduled to conclude in December 2026. Planning for success, the intent is that the developed/adapted solution could evolve into an official NATO tool by 2027.
3. Can you refine the question posed at the Annex Sheet 3 (Cost Assessment) #3? Does 'one instance' refer to one operator, one exercise, one of events in the assumptions notes or something else? Concerned that comparisons between bidders will not be accurate if this is not refined.	The solution is expected to deliver three iterative releases: a proof of concept, a functional demonstrator, and a validation version. Licensing arrangements (e.g. per software instance, per user, or per system) will depend on the proposed solution architecture.
4. Can NATO provide sample data structures or XML schemas for the JEMM and TOMM databases to support validation of integration capabilities?	Full schema descriptions for JEMM and TOMM are available as OpenAPI JSON files.
5. What formats and metadata standards are expected for ingesting unstructured EXCON documentation?	Documentation is typically provided in Word, PDF, PowerPoint, and Excel formats, with inconsistent metadata. The solution should therefore adopt the NATO Metadata Specification (STANAG ADatP-5636) and be capable of extracting text from images and PDFs to handle both structured and unstructured data.
6. Are there existing APIs, middleware, or integration tools available for interfacing with JEMM and TOMM, or should respondents assume direct database access?	For demonstration purposes, data will be provided as nested XML or flat CSV files. For production, Microsoft SQL Server (MSSQL) APIs and OpenAPI-based interfaces are available for both JEMM and

	TOMM. Integration approaches can be refined during the design and prototyping phases.
7. Will NATO provide access to a sandbox or test environment for validating integration and automation of workflows during concept development?	SANDI is the preferred secure environment for data handling. NEC CCIS may serve as an alternative if integration with SANDI proves impractical.
8. Is there an anticipated classification level for the operational deployment of the solution, and what implications does this have for data handling and hosting?	Operational deployment is expected to operate at NATO SECRET or NATO SECRET Releasable to VeVa levels, as applicable to specific use cases.
9. Are cloud-based deployments acceptable, and are there restrictions regarding hosting location or provider (e.g., must be within NATO nations)?	Demonstrations are to be available for NATO Summit 2026, hosted either in a cloud-based or deployable environment at NATO Unclassified level. NATO will work with the selected vendor to establish the necessary accreditation pathway. For the final product, hosting must occur within NATO facilities or NATO-approved environments located in NATO member states.
10. Can NATO clarify the expected level of automation for MEL/MIL scripting should the solution support full end-to-end automation, or is partial automation acceptable?	The solution should enable comprehensive automation of inject scripting and data processing, while allowing subject-matter experts to review and adjust content before release. Automation should cover data extraction, knowledge retrieval (RAG) and model tuning, automated scoring and validation, and upload of validated outputs to the relevant database. Human oversight remains an integral quality-assurance step.
11. Should the solution support multilingual content generation or translation, given the multinational nature of NATO exercises?	Although NATO has two official languages (English and French), English will be the sole working language for this project.
12. We are tracking and following the NATO ETEEFS program to look at alternative capabilities similar to this. Is there any relationship between this RFI and NATO ETEEFS?	The project is being developed in close coordination with the ETEE FS team to ensure compatibility and complementarity. The solution must align with the objectives, constraints, and interoperability requirements of ETEE FS.
13. TOMM Data Format & Access: Could you please confirm the data format and access method for TOMM (e.g., XML, relational database, REST API, or flat-file export)?	For demonstration, representative XML or CSV datasets will be provided. For production, MSSQL APIs, REST interfaces, and JSON exports will be available to ensure integration with existing systems.
14. JEMM MEL/MIL Schema: For JEMM, would it be possible to obtain a sample MEL/MIL XML schema (XSD) or representative extract to validate integration and export structure?	A facsimile of the JEMM schema and representative data extracts can be provided to support prototype development and integration testing. These will include fictitious data for evaluation purposes.
15. JEMM Write Operations: Are write operations to JEMM (creation or update of injects) expected within this phase, or is the requirement limited to read/export functionality?	The project seeks to leverage generative AI to produce content consistent with JEMM data structures. While direct integration with JEMM may not be provided during initial demonstrations, the solution should be capable of generating outputs in compatible formats (e.g., JSON, SQL, or Excel). This will allow for subsequent import or synchronization once integration pathways are established. Data exchange should support both manual and automated extraction and upload.

16. MEL/MIL Dataset Scale: What is the typical scale of a MEL/MIL dataset (approximate number of events, injects, and dependencies) to inform system sizing and validation design?	For a typical Exercise STEADFAST DUEL -level exercise, the following scale applies: • Around five major events or groupings of storylines. • Each event may include 12–20 storylines, each containing 15–60 injects. • Approximately 7,500 injects and actions in total, including ~3,150 Opposing Force (OPFOR) actions. Storylines are interdependent, requiring deconfliction and alignment at both storyline and OPFOR planning levels.
17. Multilingual Content Generation: Will the scope require multilingual content generation for injects, or is English-only acceptable for the RFI demonstration stage?	Although NATO has two official languages (English and French), English will be the sole working language for this project.
18. Data Classification & Deployment: Could you confirm the data-classification level applicable to this RFI (assumed NATO UNCLASSIFIED) and whether follow-on prototypes should support air-gapped or disconnected deployment?	For this RFI, data will be provided at NATO Unclassified level for demonstration purposes. The final operational system must be capable of operating at NATO SECRET level, deployable on NATO networks or via air-gapped configurations. The system must function effectively without reliance on the open internet.
19. Security & Cloud Mandates: Are there any specific security or cloud-region mandates (e.g., NATO-approved Azure regions, STANAG compliance, Azure Stack Hub deployment) that respondents should assume?	Guidance exists for security controls and cloud deployments. Use of approved NATO environments, such as SANDI, is strongly preferred for hosting and data protection.
20. Could NATO clarify whether “validate the impact” refers to: a) automated technical validation of inject logic, dependencies, and timing, or b) evaluation of training objective effectiveness and scenario realism	The solution should include both automated system validation and expert (human) validation. Automated validation must assess accuracy and semantic coherence by comparing AI-generated content with source materials. Comprehensive logging and traceability should be built in to monitor performance, data flows, and model outputs.
21. Should the “Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM)” cost estimate assume a standalone on-premises deployment (e.g., within a NATO experimentation LAN or classified environment), or a cloud-hosted instance (e.g., Microsoft Azure or Palantir Foundry)? Cost structures, security controls, and operational support models differ significantly between these environments, and clarification would help ensure an accurate and comparable estimate	Where performance and security are equivalent, cost-efficiency will be a key decision factor. For data classified at NATO SECRET, on-premises or containerized solutions are expected due to security requirements. This aspect presents one of the key project risks, as achieving accreditation within the project timeline will be critical. Bidders are encouraged to initially demonstrate their solutions within the ACT Innovation Hub, after which NATO will support the transition into an accredited classified environment.