

Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation Norfolk Virginia



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RFI-ACT-SACT-18-90

This document contains a Request for Information (RFI) Call for Industry and Academia collaboration regarding a request for abstracts and submissions for inclusion and publication in the NATO Legal Gazette Issue 41, Legal Aspects of NATO Innovation. Suppliers wishing to respond to this RFI should read this document carefully and follow the guidance for responding.

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General Information	
Request For Information No.	18-90
Project Title	NATO Legal Gazette
Due date for submission of requested information	31 January 2019
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	1. Ms Tonya Bonilla e-mail : tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int Tel : +1 757 747 3575 2. Ms Catherine Giglio e-mail : catherine.giglio@act.nato.int Tel :+1 757 747 3856
Technical Points of Contact	Primary: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Butch Bracknell HQ SACT Asst Legal Advisor (Asst Project Editor) Tel: +1 (757) 747-3260, E-mail: robert.bracknell@act.nato.int Alternate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sherrod Lewis Bumgardner, ACT SEE Legal Advisor (Editor-in-Chief) Tel: +32 (6)544-5499 Email: sherrod.bumgardner@shape.nato.int

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1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 Summary. HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (HQ SACT) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) announcement in order to request abstracts and submissions for inclusion and publication in the NATO Legal Gazette Issue 41, Legal Aspects of NATO Innovation.

1.2 Disclaimer. . The purpose of this RFI is to inform authors, both academic professionals and legal practitioners **in industry, international organizations, or government**, of the opportunity to publish articles related to the legal aspects of military and strategic innovation in Issue 41 of the **NATO Legal Gazette**. This request for information does not constitute a commitment to issue a future request for proposal (RFP) or engage in procurement activities. HQ SACT has not made a commitment to procure any items, 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. 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.

2 – GENERAL BACKGROUND:

The **NATO Legal Gazette** is an educational outreach publication produced by the HQ SACT Legal Office in Norfolk, Virginia. HQ SACT is the command element of Allied Command Transformation, which has the mission to contribute to preserving the peace, security and territorial integrity of Alliance member states by leading the transformation of military structures, forces, capabilities and doctrines.

The NATO Legal Gazette contains thematically organized articles usually written by authors who are military or civilian legal personnel working at NATO or in the governments NATO and partner nations, as well as academic commentators. Its purpose is to share articles of significance for the NATO and national legal communities and connect legal professionals of the Alliance, including Alliance nations. The **NATO Legal Gazette** is not a formal NATO document approved by all NATO nations. Its articles do not represent the official opinions or positions of NATO or individual governments. **NATO Legal Gazette** articles are typically between 1500-5000 words, but longer pieces will be considered.

3 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

3.1 Issue 41 will address the legal aspects of military and strategic innovation. Authors are invited to submit articles on legal aspects germane to the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation's mission Alliance Warfare Development, capability development, disruptive technologies, strategic futures, and joint force development, including education and training. "Capabilities" includes a focus on emerging and disruptive technologies, such as, but not limited to, autonomy, artificial intelligence, big data and hypervelocity, cyber capabilities, robotics, and quantum computing. Examples include electromagnetic propulsion, augmented human capacities, additive manufacturing, military and other security organizations and operating concepts and paradigms, data security and privacy, renewable energy and nanotechnology.

3.2 Authors should describe the legal and ethical aspects of designing, procuring, and employing innovative military capabilities, concepts, organizations, technologies and human systems. However, innovation should not be conflated with new technology. Rather, "the crux [of innovation] is agility in adjusting strategy and operations, which rests first in how an institution thinks, which is in turn a

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function of people and their development.”¹ Technology can be a symptom of innovation, but is not the only aspect of innovation. In NATO, innovation is a key component of NATO’s strategic goal of transformation.

3.3 Timeline

a. Expression of intent to submit abstract:	31 January 2019
b. Submission of abstracts to HQ SACT	15 March 2019
c. Notification of authors of selection to publish	27 March 2019
c. Submission of first draft to HQ SACT	31 May 2019
d. Return of edited drafts to authors	28 Jun 2019
d. Submission of final draft to HQ SACT	26 July 2019
e. Publication of NATO Legal Gazette Issue 41	16 August 2019

4 - REQUESTED INFORMATION

4.1 Intent. The intent of this RFI is to issue a call for submissions on the topic described herein.

4.2 Answers to the RFI. The answers (limited-scope abstracts, limited to 300 words) to this RFI should be submitted via email to all three of the POC’s listed at para 4.8 (email TO Messrs. Bracknell and Bumgardner, copy to Ms. Bonilla) by completion of the attached RFI template, and should be supplemented with a copy of the author’s CV including one academic or professional reference.

4.3 Follow-on. Post-submission and post-selection, RFI respondents may be contacted to provide detailed information on their proposals and may be offered the opportunity to publish in Issue 41 of NATO Legal Gazette. HQ SACT will select between 6-10 articles for editing and publication. If the quality of submissions is very high, HQ SACT reserves the right to publish up to 15 articles.

4.4 Selection Criteria. Selection of articles for publication will be based on prescreening of abstracts. Down selection will be based upon five specific criteria, weighted in descending order:

- a. Relevance of the topic to NATO innovation and transformation (hereafter “transformation”);
- b. Innovative approaches to the legal aspects of NATO transformation;
- c. Relevance of the topic to Alliance national military and security transformation;
- d. Innovative approaches to the legal aspects of NATO transformation;
- e. Quality of written submission (writing quality, ease of editing, etc.);
- f. Timeliness of submissions.

4.5 Copyright and licensing. RFI respondents must be willing to partake in an iterative editing process prior to publication. Authors may retain copyright to their written work but assign to HQ SACT a permanent, limitless and cost-free license to publish the articles and to use the articles in the future for authorized NATO purposes (example: reference materials for NATO courses, etc.). Additional details will be found in a detailed bilateral publication agreement.

4.6 Questions. Questions of a technical nature about this RFI announcement shall be submitted by e-mail solely to the above-mentioned POCs (found on page 2). Accordingly, questions in an e-mail shall not contain proprietary and/or classified information. HQ SACT does not guarantee that questions

¹ Matthew Fay, Misconceiving Military Innovation, Niskanen Center Foreign Policy and Defense, May 24, 2016, available at <https://niskanencenter.org/blog/misconceiving-military-innovation/>.

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received after 31 January 2019 will be answered. Questions (anonymized) and answers will be posted on the HQ SACT P&C website at: www.act.nato.int/contracting-procurements.

4.7 Response Date. See timeline.

4.8 Summary. This is a RFI only. The purpose of this RFI is to solicit written submissions for potential publication in the NATO Legal Gazette Issue 41. It does not create contractual rights or obligation nor does responding to the RFI confer any advantage on future solicitations or RFPS.

HQ SACT has not made a commitment to procure any item or work, 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.

- Tonya Bonilla ACT Contracting Officer - Allied Command Transformation (ACT) NATO/HQ SACT
Tel: (757) 747-3575, E-mail: tonya.bonilla@act.nato.int
- Butch Bracknell HQ SACT Asst Legal Advisor (Asst Project Editor) Tel: +1 (757) 747-3260, E-mail: robert.bracknell@act.nato.int
- Sherrod Lewis Bumgardner, ACT SEE Legal Advisor (Editor-in-Chief) Tel: +32 (6)544-5499 Email: sherrod.bumgardner@shape.nato.int