

NCIA Request for Information (RFI)

To: Industry Partners

Subject: GLOBAL SEAMLESS 10M RESOLUTION IMAGE
MOSAIC
MS-424301-GSS2IM

1. The NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) is conducting market research to identify qualified vendors and gather input on potential solutions to support the upcoming acquisition for globally seamless image mosaic dataset at 10m resolution. To that end, we are issuing the attached Request for Information (RFI) MS-424301-GSS2IM to solicit feedback from capable and interested industry partners.
2. This RFI is issued for planning purposes only and is not a request for bids. It is part of NCIA's effort to ensure it has a clear understanding of the marketplace, available capabilities, and potential acquisition strategies.
3. We value your insight and invite you to:
 - a. Share relevant corporate capabilities and experience;
 - b. Review and comment on our draft requirements (Annexes A and B) with a view in providing recommendations for improving performance outcomes, competition, and efficiency; and identifying any risks or concerns that should be considered during planning.
4. Submission instructions and additional details can be found in the enclosure to this RFI.
5. Only companies from a NATO member country can participate in or respond to this RFI (https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/nato_countries.htm).
6. Should you have any questions or need clarification, please contact Emira Kapetanovic at MS-424301-GSS2IM@ncia.nato.int
7. We thank you in advance for your time and input, and we look forward to engaging with you as we shape this potential acquisition.

For the Chief of Acquisition:

Emira Kapetanovic
Principal Contracting Assistant

Enclosure:

- Request for Information with Annexes A and B
- Distribution List

Table of Contents

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION	3
A. Introduction	3
B. Purpose	3
C. Background	3
D. Submission Instructions	3
E. Industry Engagement (Optional)	4
F. Disclaimer	4
G. Use of Information Provided through Responses	4
H. RFI Point of Contact	5
Annex A – Requested Information	6
Annex B – Draft Requirements	8

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

A. Introduction

1. The NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) is conducting market research to identify potential sources and gather information regarding industry capabilities to identify the availability and technical capability of all qualified NATO nation businesses that can provide the services described in this announcement. This Request for Information (RFI) is issued solely for informational purposes and does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP), Request for Quotation (RFQ), or invitation for bid.

B. Purpose

1. The purpose of this RFI is to obtain input from industry to help inform the NCIA's acquisition planning. Responses to this RFI will assist in refining requirements, identifying capabilities, and shaping the strategy for any future solicitation.

C. Background

1. The Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR) Centre within NCIA provides full life cycle support of all assigned JISR services within NATO. In this context, the Geospatial, Meteorology and Oceanography (GeoMetOc) Branch within JISR is responsible for the Core Geographic Information System (CoreGIS) Application Service that provides both ACO customers as well as NATO Nations with a suite of geospatial data, services and products that ensure all phases of military operations are conducted on the same geospatial reference. The CoreGIS Application Service is Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS) based and uses the Esri ArcGIS software product suite in a NATO-specific configuration.
2. Geospatial data typically consists of any raster (e.g. maps or imagery) and vector (e.g. transportation, infrastructure, land cover, etc.) data that is relevant for NATO to fulfil its mission.
3. This project is specifically looking at an off-the-shelf geospatial imagery dataset from imagery at 10m resolution.

D. Submission Instructions

1. Interested parties are invited to respond in accordance with the instructions below:
 - a. Submit responses via the email address in section H no later than **12:00 hours Central European Time (CET) on 23 October 2023.**
 - b. Responses should be submitted in PDF or Word format and must not exceed **15 pages**, including:
 - i. Responses to [Annex A](#) and comments on [Annex B](#) excluding:
 - i. Cover page
 - ii. Company brochures or product literature (if included)
 - iii. Attachments such as past performance references

- c. Use the following subject line for submission
 - i. “Response to RFI [RFI Number] – [Company Name]”
- d. All responses should address the items listed in [Annex A](#) – Requested Information.
- e. Respondents are also encouraged to review and comment on the draft requirements in [Annex B](#).

E. Industry Engagement (Optional)

1. The Agency may request a demonstration of the described solution. Respondents will be contacted if such a demonstration is desirable to make further arrangements. Respondents are requested to await further instructions after their submissions and are requested not to contact directly any NCI Agency staff other than the POC identified above in Paragraph H.
2. Interactive demonstration, capabilities, functionalities will be considered as indicative and informational only and will not be considered as binding on the participant or on NATO within the context of any future acquisition.
3. If requested, companies should be willing to provide this demo free of charge to NCI Agency.

F. Disclaimer

1. This RFI is for planning and informational purposes only and shall not be construed as a solicitation or obligation on the part of the NCIA. The NCIA does not intend to award a contract based on responses to this RFI. Respondents are solely responsible for all costs incurred in responding to this RFI. The NCIA will consider and analyse all information received from this RFI and may use these findings to develop a future solicitation. The NCIA will consider all responses as confidential commercial information and will protect it as such.
2. NCIA reserves the right, at any time, to cancel this informal market survey, partially or in its entirety. No legal liability on the part of NCIA for payment of any sort shall arise and in no event will a cause of action lie with any prospective participant for the recovery of any costs incurred in connection with the preparation of documentation or participation in response hereto. All effort initiated or undertaken by prospective informal market survey participants shall be done considering and accepting this fact.

G. Use of Information Provided through Responses

1. Confidentiality of Responses

The NCIA may incorporate industry comments and responses, in part or in whole, into a future release of a solicitation. Should respondents include proprietary data in their responses that they do not wish to be disclosed to the public for any purpose, or used by NCIA (except for internal evaluation purposes), they must:

- a. **Mark the title page with the following legend:**

This document includes data that shall not be disclosed outside NATO and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than for NCIA internal evaluation purposes, unless otherwise expressly authorised by [insert company name]. This restriction does not limit the NCIA’s right to use information contained in this data without restriction if it is obtained from another source. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets [insert numbers or other identification of sheets]

b. Mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend:

Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this document.

H. RFI Point of Contact

1. Emira Kapetanovic
2. MS-424301-GSS2IM@ncia.nato.int

Annex A – Requested Information

1. Respondents are encouraged to provide the following information in their response:

a. Company Information

- i. Legal Business Name
- ii. Address
- iii. Website
- iv. Primary Point of Contact
- v. Email address

b. Technical Capability

- i. Summary of relevant capabilities and past performance

c. Feedback and Recommendations

i. Responses to the following RFI Questions:

Question 1:

Do you hold a globally seamless 10m resolution image mosaic dataset to the stated requirements?

Question 2:

Please state, where your dataset deviates from the required specifications:

- Coverage

- Imagery product parameters requirements

- Metadata requirements

- Licensing

ii. Innovations or alternatives

iii. Rough Order Magnitude (ROM), including any assumptions upon which they are based

Question 3:

Please provide a non-binding product pricing information for the dataset following the stated licensing:

- ✓ For use within the NATO Enterprise and additionally for NATO Nations and Non NATO Entities (NNEs) in support of any North Atlantic Council (NAC) approved activity.

Question 4:

Please provide a non-binding product pricing information for the dataset following the stated licensing:

- ✓ For use within the NATO Enterprise

d. Questions or Concerns

- i. Risks, concerns, or barriers
- ii. Suggestions for risk mitigation or enhancing competition

Annex B – Draft Requirements

Note: This is a DRAFT and subject to change. The NCIA is seeking industry feedback.

1. Background

The Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR) Centre within NCIA provides full life cycle support of all assigned JISR services within NATO. In this context, the Geospatial, Meteorology and Oceanography (GeoMetOc) Branch within JISR is responsible for the Core Geographic Information System (CoreGIS) Application Service that provides both ACO customers as well as NATO Nations with a suite of geospatial data, services and products that ensure all phases of military operations are conducted on the same geospatial reference. The CoreGIS Application Service is Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS) based and uses the Esri ArcGIS software product suite in a NATO-specific configuration.

Geospatial data typically consists of any raster (e.g. maps or imagery) and vector (e.g. transportation, infrastructure, land cover, etc.) data that is relevant for NATO to fulfil its mission.

This project is specifically looking at an off-the-shelf geospatial imagery dataset from imagery at 10m resolution.

2. Scope

In order to support operating off the same geospatial data, NATO uses a centralized web-based enterprise Geospatial Information System (GIS) and distributes geospatial data to all stakeholders via a designated geospatial information (DesGI) process. This DesGI data contains all mission-relevant datasets to defined specifications, considering quality, density of information, resolution, scale and others.

A vast amount of geospatial data from various sources is accessible by NATO ranging from National data over to commercial and open sources.

A 10m resolution imagery mosaic has been assessed as a highly valuable dataset for providing geospatial context to NATO operations and exercises and general situational awareness.

The aim of this project is to provide within 2025 an available globally seamless image mosaic dataset at 10m resolution to NATO and NATO Nations for use in disconnected environments.

3. Requirements

The dataset needs to fulfil the following criteria:

Coverage:

- Global image mosaic consisting of image scenes at 10m resolution covering the continental landmasses including inland waters and the coastal regions as well as main islands between 56° South and 84° North. Missing landmasses need to be compensated and filled using alternative data.

Imagery product parameters requirements:

- Colour imagery
- 10m resolution
- Tiled GeoTiff format, adequately compressed for limited quality loss. Individual Tiles sized to support data distribution following a defined grid
- 3 bands RGB at 8-bit. Additional bands may be necessary to contain meta-information.
- Coordinate Reference System EPSG 4326, LatLon WGS84
- Cloudless imagery, where a low percentage of isolated clouds, especially in areas with persistent cloud cover is acceptable
- Individual scenes seamlessly colour, brightness and tone-balanced to minimize visual edges for an aesthetically pleasing natural colour image mosaic
- Individual scenes selected to minimize seasonal effects preferring leafed vegetation and reduced snow and ice while considering currency
- Source data not older than 2 years
- Positional accuracy at less than 12m at 95.5% confidence

Metadata requirements:

- Metadata coverage for all imagery containing information on
 - o Acquisition date of source imagery
 - o Source imagery identifier
 - o Additional Source imagery acquisition parameters, if applicable
- Metadata compatible with esri's ArcGIS suite, preferably File Geodatabase

Licensing:

For use within the NATO Enterprise and additionally for NATO Nations and Non NATO Entities (NNEs) in support of any North Atlantic Council (NAC) approved activity.

Distribution List

1. NATO Delegation (Attn: Infrastructure Adviser)

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Albania | 12. Greece | 23. Poland |
| 2. Belgium | 13. Hungary | 24. Portugal |
| 3. Bulgaria | 14. Iceland | 25. Romania |
| 4. Canada | 15. Italy | 26. Slovakia |
| 5. Croatia | 16. Latvia | 27. Slovenia |
| 6. Czechia | 17. Lithuania | 28. Spain |
| 7. Denmark | 18. Luxembourg | 29. Sweden |
| 8. Estonia | 19. Montenegro | 30. Türkiye |
| 9. Finland | 20. Netherlands | 31. United Kingdom |
| 10. France | 21. North Macedonia | 32. United States |
| 11. Germany | 22. Norway | |

2. All NATEXs