Headquarters Supreme Allied CommandTransformation
Norfolk, Virginia, USA

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Task Force X – Arctic

RFI-ACT-SACT-06-2026

Information for National Engagement for Task Force X - Arctic activities, issued by NATO Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation on behalf of the Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE).

This document contains a Request for Information (RFI) call
to Nations (for inclusion of national industries)

Nations wishing to respond to this RFI should read this document carefully and follow the guidance for responding.

General Information	
Request For Information No.	RFI-ACT-SACT-06-2026
Project Title	Task Force X - Arctic
Due date for questions concerning related information	15 May 2026
Due date for submission of requested information	28 May 2026
Points of Contact	tfx-arctic_general@cmre.nato.int AND snt@act.nato.int
All requests for clarifications, questions and responses to this RFI must be sent via email to all Points of Contact reported above. Individual emails will not be accepted and should not be sent. Technical Points Of Contact (POCs) must be included in any correspondence.	

1. INTRODUCTION

Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (HQ SACT) is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) on behalf of the NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE) in order to engage with Nations to join Task Force X-Arctic activities. Task Force X-Arctic (TFX-Arctic) is an Allied Command Transformation (ACT) strategic initiative, led by the CMRE and embedded in NATO's broad effort to reinforce collective deterrence and defence in the North Atlantic and Arctic regions.

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 Nations and national industries through collaboration, in an experimentation of future multi-national and multi-domain surveillance capabilities operating in the Arctic environment.

Further, Nations are advised that neither HQ SACT nor CMRE will 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 HQ SACT / CMRE might be shared with 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

The North Atlantic and Arctic regions have become central arenas of strategic competition. These maritime spaces are critical to Allied freedom of action, while also constituting key operating areas for adversaries' strategic capabilities, including submarines, long-range bombers and missile systems. In a context of constrained naval resources, NATO must adapt its operational approaches to maintain credible and persistent awareness, while simultaneously shaping the Alliance's future capability development. As surveillance missions are currently resource-intensive, HQ SACT and CMRE aim to enhance the multinational Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) architecture, and deterrence by presence through the implementation of the TFX-Arctic initiative, conducted in coordination with relevant national capabilities, and industrial partners.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

3.1 Vision

3.1.1. The purpose of TFX-Arctic is to showcase, for the first time, in the summer of 2027, a fully digitalized, data-centric Multi-Domain Awareness capability within the North Atlantic and Arctic regions. This capability will leverage networked autonomous systems designed to facilitate real-time sensing and connecting, data-centric optimization and dynamic re-tasking of platforms.

3.1.2. The execution of TFX-Arctic foresees the establishment of an integrated hybrid fleet encompassing both manned and polar-ready unmanned systems, provided by participating nations or national industries. The operational enablement and connectivity for these systems will be supported by NATO STO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE), using a digital backbone infrastructure and looking at long-term alignment with NATO's future cloud-enabled digital infrastructure. The enabling infrastructure also includes key components such as a data governance/sharing/exploitation system, interoperable C4, and mission engineering tools to optimize assets deployment and missions in real-time.

3.1.3. The path to deliver the vision laid out in point 3.1.1 includes a series of preparatory events in 2026 and 2027 (listed in the next points) intended to test, validate and build-up the required technical building blocks.

3.2. Task Force X-Arctic 2026 Objectives

3.2.1. HQ SACT is developing a scalable, persistent, and sustainable integrated unmanned surveillance system tailored for the Arctic region.

3.2.2. This initiative, under the leadership of NATO STO CMRE, aims to enhance coordination among NATO entities, member Nations, and national industries through a series of planned milestones spanning from March 2026 to summer 2027. The 2026 roadmap and objectives are focused on enhancing connectivity and interoperability, as well as de-risking engaged capabilities, in preparation for the 2027 activities. It includes:

3.2.2.a. A remote interoperability event at the end of March 2026 organized by CMRE;

3.2.2.b. The Coalition Warrior Interoperability eXploration, eXperimentation, eXamination and eXercise (CWIX) in June 2026;

3.2.2.c. Two weeks of Arctic-region trials and exercises starting in late June 2026;

3.2.2.d. Robotic Experimentation and Prototyping with Maritime Unmanned Systems (REPMUS) 2026.

3.2.2.e. An additional Arctic-region, shore-based trial in the November time frame to further validate polar-ready technology.

3.3. Information requested for the 2026 activities

3.3.1. HQ SACT and CMRE are encouraging NATO Nations to actively participate in TFX-Arctic activities. We ask in which of the following capacities (one or more) is your Nation willing to contribute in 2026:

3.3.1.a. Participate in the activities laid out in point **3.2.2.c**. with existing national manned / unmanned capabilities and / or enablers capable of being integrated into a multinational framework in June/July 2026;
3.3.1.b Participate in the activities laid out in point **3.2.2.e.** with existing national manned / unmanned capabilities and / or enablers capable of being integrated into a multinational framework in November 2026;

3.3.1.c. Support National Industry to engage relevant manned / unmanned capabilities and / or enablers and join TFX-Arctic activities laid out in point **3.2.2.c** in Jun/July 2026;
3.3.1.d. Support National Industry to engage relevant manned / unmanned capabilities and / or enablers and join TFX-Arctic activities laid out in point **3.2.2.e** in November 2026;

3.3.1.e. Provide Host Nation support to the experimentation and validation activities laid out in point **3.2.2.e.** in November 2026.

For point 3.3.1.e. we ask which facilities could be available in which time period and the level of logistical support that could be offered on land.

3.4. Task Force X-Arctic 2027 Objectives

3.4.1. In line with the 2026 line of effort, the 2027 roadmap is structured around a series of small-scale experimentation and testing events, culminating in a final validation event in June/July. The objective of this phased approach is to deliver a final, operationally viable product, as specified in point 3.1.1. The 2027 planning is outlined as follows:

3.4.2.a. Small scale experimentation event in February/March 2027;

3.4.2.b. Small scale experimentation event in April/May 2027;

3.4.2.c. Final demonstration and validation event in June/July 2027 (date to be aligned with the NATO SUMMIT).

3.5. Information requested for the 2027 activities

3.5.1. HQ SACT and CMRE are encouraging NATO Nations to actively participate in TFX-Arctic activities. We ask in which of the following capacities (one or more) is your Nation willing to contribute in 2027:

3.5.1.a. Participate in the activities laid out in point **3.4.2.a**. with existing national manned / unmanned capabilities and / or enablers capable of being integrated into a multinational framework in February/March 2027;
3.5.1.b. Participate in the activities laid out in point **3.4.2.b.** with existing national manned / unmanned capabilities and / or enablers capable of being integrated into a multinational framework in April/May 2027;
3.5.1.c. Participate in the activities laid out in point **3.4.2.c.** with existing national manned / unmanned capabilities and / or enablers capable of being integrated into a multinational framework in June/July 2027;

3.5.1.d. Support National Industry to engage relevant manned / unmanned capabilities and / or enablers and join TFX-Arctic activities laid out in point **3.4.2.a.** in February/March 2027;
3.5.1.e. Support National Industry to engage relevant manned / unmanned capabilities and / or enablers and join TFX-Arctic activities laid out in point **3.4.2.b.** in April/May 2027;
3.5.1.f. Support National Industry to engage relevant manned / unmanned capabilities and / or enablers and join TFX-Arctic activities laid out in point **3.4.2.c.** in June/July 2027;

3.5.1.g. Provide Host Nation support to the experimentation and validation activities laid out in point **3.4.2.a.** in February/March 2027;
3.5.1.h. Provide Host Nation support to the experimentation and validation activities laid out in point **3.4.2.b.** in April/May 2027;
3.5.1.i. Provide Host Nation support to the experimentation and validation activities laid out in point **3.4.2.c.** in June/July. 2027

For points 3.5.1.g., 3.5.1.h., and 3.5.1.i. we ask which facilities could be available in which time period and the level of logistical support that could be offered on land and ashore.

3.6. We ask Nations to provide a list of assets that could be integrated into TFX-Arctic. Relevant assets are identified as follows:

- Unmanned systems across all domains (vehicles, deployable sensors, sensing platforms) equipped for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), and Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA) functions.
- Artificial targets to be utilized during testing and validation exercises, simulating adversarial forces.

- Agentic AI & data-centric theater infrastructure already in operational use with associated software development kit / APIs for C2 applications.
- Software and algorithms which could contribute to maritime surveillance missions (able to be deployed or not, including Agentic AI tools).
- Warships such as submarines or surface vessels (possibly equipped with helicopter / aviation facilities including a flight deck).
- Data sources (e.g. satellite intelligence).
- Digital RF communications links and enablers, including shore-based short range, shore-based long range, and satellite services.

The list should include a broad technical and operational description of the system, namely the logistical requirements to mobilize / deploy / recover, endurance, required personnel to operate, and operational cycles.

3.7. Requirements and compliance

Any capability provided by Nations or national industries will need to comply with the following requirements:

- Commitment to share real-time relevant sensing data within a NATO common data infrastructure, in alignment with NATO data governance, classification, national data sovereignty, and protection standards (in compliance with already approved FMN standards).
- Compliance (or willingness to build such compliance ahead of the integration) with STANAG 4817 standards for asset reporting and digital tasking.
- Ability to sustain and operate under high-latitude Arctic conditions (e.g., limited communications, navigation impairments, low temperatures, harsh weather and sea conditions, possible sea ice) for an indicative period of two weeks.

We ask for a high-level description of data that could be shared by each system, data classification, any limitations in the sharing of data, ability to comply with STANAG 4817 for reporting and digital tasking, Technology Readiness Level for capabilities under development and operational envelopes in terms of weather / sea state.

3.8. Expected Benefits to Respondents

3.8.1. Accelerate the integration of relevant Emerging and Disruptive Technologies with conventional forces.

3.8.2. Inform NDPP and nations' development and acquisition plans.

3.8.3. Maturation and de-risking of relevant national industries' solutions.

These strategic objectives will be achieved through:

3.8.4. Involvement in the development and validation of NATO operational enablers for next-generation Unmanned Systems operations.

3.8.5. Improved readiness to join multinational unmanned-centric surveillance forces, in particular in (but not limited to) the Arctic region.

3.8.6. Engagement in an experimental initiative that could influence future Arctic surveillance policy and capability development.

3.9. Expected Benefits to NATO

3.9.1. Increased tangible national contribution to the NATO Joint Forces Command, Norfolk led enhanced Vigilance Activity, Arctic Sentry (eVA Arctic Sentry).

3.9.2. Contribution to the development of integration and interoperability capabilities at the NATO level.

3.9.3. Development of multinational and interoperable situational awareness in the Arctic.

3.9.4. Increased strategic advantage over potential threats.

3.9.5. Acceleration of technology integration and procedures to conduct autonomy-based surveillance missions in high latitudes.

4. RESPONSE AND PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

4.1. Proprietary Information.

4.1.1. Proprietary information, if any, should be minimized and clearly marked as such. HQ SACT/CMRE will treat proprietary information with the same due care as the command treats its own proprietary information and will exercise due caution to prevent its unauthorized disclosure.

4.1.2. Please be advised that all submissions become HQ SACT/CMRE property and will not be returned.

4.1.3. HQ SACT and CMRE reserve the right to share RFI information within the NATO Alliance.

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

Submissions must include both POCs listed on page 2. The responses shall not contain proprietary and/or classified information. CMRE reserves the right to seek clarification on submissions and furthermore may engage directly with Nations (or identified national industry) for any necessary coordination.

4.2. Eligibility to Respond:

Only NATO Nations are eligible to respond to this RFI.

4.3. Response procedure:

4.3.1. Nations are invited to fill the response template enclosed with this RFI (attached as a separate spreadsheet) and attach it to the submission via e-mail.

4.3.2. Responses shall not be classified above NATO UNCLASSIFIED.

4.4 Timeline

4.4.1. Procedures for Responses are listed on page 2.

4.5. Participation procedures:

Given the nature of TFX-Arctic's objectives and requirements, it is possible that not all submissions can be retained. The number of participating Nations (or national industries), and retained submissions will depend on the following:

4.5.1. Hosting and integration capacity, depending on the hosting proposals received after this RFI, and on practical considerations of operating in this type of environment.

4.5.2. Technical requirements for operating in the Arctic such as seaworthiness, deployment and recovery, autonomy and resupply of capabilities.

4.5.3. Ability to integrate a diverse yet coherent, and credible force including a mix of interconnected underwater, surface, air, and space capabilities with different sensor packages.

4.5.4. As an example, the participation criteria may be based on the following non-exhaustive list:
- Interoperability and compliance with STANAG 4817;
- Ability and willingness to share sensing data using FMN standards;
- Technical and operational maturity;
- Sensing capabilities;
- Ability to operate under Arctic conditions.

Thank you for your time and effort supporting HQ SACT and CMRE with the development of new capabilities for NATO.

ENCLOSURES:

1. **20260430-TFX-Arctic_RFI_Response_Form (separate spreadsheet)**