

# INNOVATION INSIGHTS



## Welcome! Team Members

We are excited to introduce you to **ACT's Innovation Insights** – our new innovation newsletter. We intend to provide a number of these throughout the year in order to keep you up to speed on some of our ongoing initiatives.

This first edition provides a brief teaser to our “Innovation Continuum,” insights on one of our latest Multi-Domain Operations Minimal Viable Products (MVPs) as well as latest news on ACTs participation in the US Air Force led Innovation initiative “Project Mercury.”

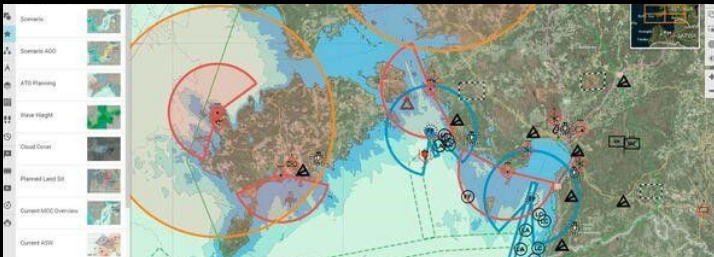
Feel free to connect with us to get more details on the amazing work being accomplished.

- Enjoy!  
Brigadier General,  
**T.L. Jorgensen**  
Assistant Chief of Staff Requirements

## Topics In This Issue



The Innovation Continuum & You



AIMED: Transforming Multi-Domain Operations



Project Mercury: Making Strides & Connections



The Innovation Continuum & You

The Innovation Continuum was established to maximize innovation efforts and cohere Innovation, Interoperability, and Experimentation activities. It provides an overarching, integrated, cross-functional Innovation approach, leveraging external international partners, Nations, the NATO Enterprise, DIANA, Academia, and Industry. The continuum aligns with other strategic initiatives like the Interoperability Continuum and the Experimentation Continuum, creating a cohesive framework that supports NATO's military superiority.



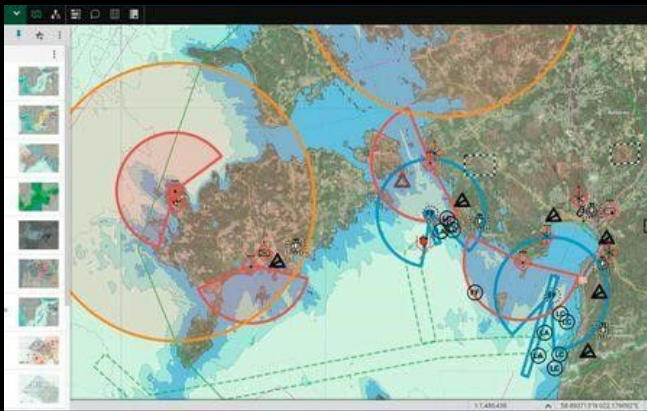
This dynamic continuum encompasses 7 key steps: **Discover, Scope, Blueprint, Develop, Validate, Evaluate, and Inform.** Its aim is both internal, to align and synchronize cross-functional innovation projects, and external, to foster collaborations with nations, industry, and academia. The Innovation Continuum is aligned along the requirements of the Warfare Development Agenda Lines of Development, the Digital Transformation Implementation Strategy LoEs as well as the Multi-Domain Operations Efforts. It will bring together efforts across Science & Technology, Emerging and Disruptive Technologies (EDT), and Open Innovation, assessing military implications and informing the wider capability development efforts (NDPP and CF).

Looking ahead, the Innovation Continuum is a collection of activities and events, including the Innovation Challenge. More to come, in each quarter of this year, with event titles representing the development process of ideas from SPARK, to IGNITE, to GLOW, to the culminating SHINE event. The exact locations and dates for these events will be announced in upcoming newsletters.

This series of events presents a unique opportunity for NATO enterprise bodies and nations to collaborate with ACT, enhancing the value of Science and Technology products in Warfare Development through joint efforts.



Aimed: Transforming Multi-Domain Operations



The MVP of Artificial Intelligence-enabled Multi-domain Effects Demonstrator (AIMED) stands as a testament to our commitment to supporting SACEUR's warfighting mission by providing essential elements of multi-domain situational awareness. AIMED provides the warfighter with the opportunity to synchronize military and non-military activities but also delivers converging effects, all while focusing on strategic and operational warfighting use cases.

The AIMED program focuses on developing an AI-enabled Alert & Recommendation panel, offering options from any domain to complete urgent tasks. Identifying operational stakeholders who can continue fighting the close fight while simultaneously shaping the deeper battle proved to be a challenging task. Collaborating with ACT and ACO, we overcame this obstacle, that saved the MVP. This common goal, mitigated the most significant challenges in the development of AIMED. The need to visualize and understand complex concepts like MDO and Digital Transformation (DT) from an operational implementation perspective is not just a single entities' problem - it's an collective effort.

This journey showcases the power of collaboration and innovation in revolutionizing MDO, delivering solutions that make a real difference on the battlefield.

Project Mercury: Making Strides & Connections

Innovation is not just about ideas; it's about turning those ideas into action. Project Mercury is a testament to this, as it transforms innovation into a tangible practice within NATO. Let's take a journey through the inception, achievements, and future plans of this groundbreaking initiative.

Project Mercury began as an education program, drawing inspiration from the successful collaboration between the US Air Force and the University of Michigan. In 2023, we joined the ranks of participants, forming the Smurfinators team.



This experience proved transformative, leading us to recognize the potential of Project Mercury to drive innovation within NATO. In 2023, the Smurfinators paved the way for the innoNATORs, who will soon present their project and graduate. The program's success is evident in the US Air Force, each successive cohort has a growing board of advisors at their disposal as they seek to accelerate change in their own organizations.



Our focus now turns to the Eastern Flank nations in NATO, which face unique challenges requiring innovative solutions. To address this, we've devised a two-part plan. Part one is a 3-Day Workshop in Warsaw: From June 25th - 27th, senior and junior leadership from Poland and other NATO nations will explore Project Mercury's principles, laying the groundwork for future innovation initiatives in the region. Part two is a NATO-Oriented Cohort: Starting with a jumpstart event at AIRCOM from 1-3 Jul, this cohort includes participants from various NATO entities. They aim to implement Project Mercury's practices, fostering a culture of innovation and adaptability within their organizations. Stay tuned for updates on our progress and the impact of Project Mercury on NATO's innovation journey.

14th Annual Nato Innovation Challenge



The 14th edition of the NATO Innovation Challenge, focusing on Remote Explosive-Contaminated Area Recognition and Neutralization. is underway. Submissions closed on April 16th, 2024. Finalists will be announced May 17th, 2024. The pitch day, where the ten finalist present their solutions to a jury will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania on June 12th, 2024.

The best proposals will be awarded a monetary prize. All the finalist will be invited into the NATO Innovation Network and the winners will be awarded a monetary prize.

Highlights



Upcoming Events

- MAY 6 - 10 | NATO Shipping Work Group (NSWG) - Virtual | Curacao
- MAY 6 - 10 | SOF Week | Tampa, FL
- MAY 14 -17 | Innovation Continuum IGNITE | Pensacola, FL
- JUN 12 | Innovation Challenge Jury | Vilnius, Lithuania

Stay Connected

 [innovationhub-act.org](https://innovationhub-act.org)  [innovationhub](https://www.innovationhub.org)  [NATO ACT](https://www.nato-act.org)

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