



NATO MODELLING AND SIMULATION
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
ROME, ITALY



Ref. Number: MSCOE/2026/49

TO: See distribution list

SUBJECT: **CALLING LETTER FOR 21ST NATO COMPUTER ASSISTED ANALYSIS EXERCISE EXPERIMENTATION (CA2X2) FORUM (29 September – 01 October 2026, Rome).**

DATE 15 May 2026

1. The NATO Modelling & Simulation Centre of Excellence (M&S COE) is delighted to announce the 21st Edition of the NATO Computer Assisted Analysis, Exercise, Experimentation Forum (CA2X2 Forum). The forum will be held at the **Ergife Palace Hotel & Conference Center, Rome, Italy, 29 September – 01 October 2026.**
2. For more than twenty years, the NATO CA2X2 Forum has become one of NATO's main events on CAX and M&S. CA2X2 is a premiere international discussion environment where Military, Industry, Academia, Study Groups and Subject Matter Experts meet yearly to discuss the design, planning and usage of M&S for defence related purposes.
3. This year's theme is "**Generating MDO Readiness Through a NATO Simulation Ecosystem**". Specific instructions and details are reported in the following annexes.
4. Addressees are kindly asked to pass this invitation to organisations and individuals for which the event could be of interest.
5. The point of contact (POC) is (USA Army) Lieutenant Colonel (OF4) Douglas ROSS, MSCOE Deputy Director, reached by phone at (NCN) 234-4372, (ITA) +39 06 46912 4372 or via email at: natoca2x2forum@mscoe.org.

Felice DE ROSA
COL (OF5), ITA Air Force
M&S COE Director

ANNEXES:

- A. Call For Papers
- B. Sponsorship opportunities
- C. Administrative information

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M&S Community of Interest

Call For Papers

1. Introduction

The NATO M&S COE kindly invites all interested experts, authors, and presenters to submit abstracts, presentations, and optionally papers or articles aligned with the Forum's topics. Submissions will be evaluated by members of the NATO CA2X2 Forum Technical Program Committee.

Authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to prepare a presentation (and optionally a paper or article in PDF format) and present their work during the NATO CA2X2 Forum. Companies, organizations, study groups, teams, students, and individual experts are also invited to propose and support sessions or activities on specific M&S topics. These may include presentations, round tables, interviews, workshops, demonstrations, courses, and other interactive formats. Proposals will be evaluated and, if feasible, integrated into the event program.

All submissions (abstracts, presentations, and papers) must be made through the 2026 MSCOE CA2X2 Forum EasyChair platform:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=natoca2x2forum2026>

If you have not previously used this platform, registration will be required.

Submission deadlines:

- Abstracts: **30 June 2026**
- Presentations: **25 August 2026**
- Final papers: **31 August 2026**

2. 2026 theme

The 2026 Forum's theme is: **Generating MDO Readiness through a NATO Simulation Ecosystem** in line with the priorities ratified by Supreme Allied Command Transformation.

3. Main Tracks

The 2026 edition will cover contributions organized into the following tracks:

- Experimentation, Exercises and Wargaming for Warfighting Readiness
- Data, Interoperability and Integration across Synthetic Environments
- Emerging and Commercial Technologies for Defense Simulation and Training

1. Main topics

The Forum will be focused on, but not limited to, the following topics:

Artificial Intelligence	Capability Development
Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS)	Training and Exercise
University Research	Lessons Learned
Emerging Technologies	MDO
M&S Standards	Decision Support
Wargaming	Innovation and Experimentation
Interoperability	Evolving Operational Environment

2. Submission Guidelines

Submissions must include complete author and presenter information, including short biographies, as well as an abstract describing the proposed presentation. Presentations may be uploaded after abstract acceptance (no later than 25 August 2026). The submission of a full paper or article is optional. Please select up to three relevant topics for your submission to support appropriate session allocation.

3. Publication

Submitted papers will be considered for publication in the *CA2X2 Forum 2026 Proceedings* or in the *NATO M&S COE Annual Review 2026*, to be released in early 2027 in both digital format and a limited printed edition.

In addition, the Editorial Board, composed of subject matter experts from the NATO M&S COE, will select the best paper. The author(s) of the selected paper will be recognized and receive a financial award of EUR 500 during the final day of the CA2X2 Forum.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

1. Aim

This annex provides general information for companies interested in sponsoring the event.

2. Invitation

The M&S COE would like to extend an offer for companies to support the NATO CA2X2 Forum by serving as event sponsors. Interest in the Forum continues to grow and it serves as a high-profile event for military, academic, and industry partners in the modelling and simulation community of interest. Support from sponsors is critical in enabling the COE to continue improving the quality of forum for our participants.

3. Sponsored Items/event

Sponsorship opportunities include the provision of one or more items or events of your choice with the possibility to apply your company logo on the item itself, according to arrangements to be made with this Centre.

There are opportunities for sponsors to establish a company booth equipped with Wi-Fi internet connection and power supply - up to a maximum of 20 exhibition spaces – in a highly visible area of the CA2X2 Forum conference center to demonstrate their CAX, analysis, experimentation, or simulation related skills and products. Exhibition spaces are available at a standard rate based on the exhibition space needed.

4. Sponsorship offers

Any expressions of interest from the companies must be sent NLT 05 August 2026 to the M&S COE Point of Contact. A detailed information sheet will be sent to all Companies interested in these Sponsorship Opportunities. If there are two or more offers / proposals to sponsor the same event/article, the First-Come/First-Serve criterion will be utilized for selection.

The Centre thanks you in advance for your attention and potential support. To stay current on the event, please visit the following links of the NATO Modelling & Simulation Centre of Excellence website: <https://www.mscoe.org/event/nato-ca2x2-forum-2026/>.

5. POC

The point of contact is Lieutenant Colonel (OF4) Francesco MORETTI, M&S COE Budget and Finance Officer at email: mscoe.budfin@smd.difesa.it or Francesco.moretti@mscoe.org or phone: +39 06 46912 4388.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

1. **Aim**

This annex provides administrative details for the 21st CA2X2 FORUM

2. **Type, venue, dates and timing**

The 21st NATO CA2X2 Forum will be hosted from in **Rome, Italy** from **29 September – 01 October 2026** at the **Ergife Palace Hotel & Conference Center**, located in Largo Lorenzo Mossa n. 8, Roma ([+39 06 66441](tel:+390666441), www.ergifepalacehotel.com).

3. **Travel arrangements**

NATO MSCOE will not provide transportation from / to the hotel. The hotel is a 6 minute walk from the nearest BUS stop and a 15 minute walk from the nearest (underground) LINEA “A” METRO stop “Cornelia”, Contact the hotel (<http://www.ergifepalacehotel.com>) to check transportation services availability.

A limited number of rooms have been reserved at a special rate from 28 September – 01 October 2026 at the Ergife Hotel on a first come, first served basis. Please be aware that September is a popular destination for tourists. Participants are strongly encouraged to reserve their hotel room as soon as possible.

4. **Registration**

Registration to the event for the M&S community of interest will be available from 16 June through 4 September at the NATO M&S COE website at the following link: <https://www.mscoe.org/event/nato-ca2x2-forum-2026/>.

5. **Fees**

The Forum fee to attend will be 310 EUR. There is no reduced fee for attending only certain days or sessions. For any further related information please refer to: Lieutenant Colonel (OF4) Francesco MORETTI (mscoe.budfin@smd.difesa.it or +39 06 46912 4388).

6. **Social events**

- Ice breaker: NATO MSCOE Director will host an optional ice-breaker on Monday, 28 September from 19.00 – 21.00;
- Cultural event: an optional cultural event will be organized at one of Rome’s many historical sites during the afternoon on Wednesday 30 September (exact time TBP);

7. Information security

The event is open not only to NATO Nations, NATO Bodies, EAPC, MD, ICI, NATO Partners across the Globe, and UN, EU, OSCE Representatives, but, on a case-by-case basis, and upon approval, participants outside the listed entities could be admitted.

The conference has no classification marking and all contents will be releasable to the public. The conference will be held under the Chatham House Rule.