

## Collaboration Support Office

*Empowering NATO's Technological Edge*



The strength to refine and employ new technologies has for decades provided countries with a multitude of cutting-edge capabilities to ensure military advantage, provide security to our societies and protect the sovereignty of our democracies. Global technological leadership has been the foundation upon which NATO's ability to deter and defend against potential threats ultimately rests. The NATO Science and Technology Organization is dedicated to ensure that NATO maintains this technological, and hence military, edge over competitors and adversaries.

Through the STO, nations have built a growing international community of more than 5,000 world class scientists, engineers, and military operators. This collaborative research network, managed by the STO's Collaboration Support Office (CSO) located near Paris, France, is the world's largest collaborative forum for defence and security, a vibrant scientific community where recognized world-class scientists, engineers and analysts from NATO countries and its partner nations jointly can leverage their national resources and expertise. The research network gathers national experts from government, industry, academia, and the military. The tangible outputs are world-leading scientific results, essential insights, and technical solutions tailor-made to meet current and future needs of the Alliance and its member nations.



Mr John-Mikal Størdal,  
CSO Director

**CSO is focused on areas of critical importance to NATO's member states.** The research network is essential in assessing challenges and opportunities driven by rapidly evolving technologies through an exchange of knowledge, experiences and perspectives across NATO countries and partner nations.

The network provides the opportunity to examine the advantages and vulnerabilities of rapid and disruptive technological change, and to initiate multinational and multidisciplinary R&D based on top-down guidance from the Nations, through the NATO Science and Technology Board (STB) and initiatives from the Collaborative Research Network.

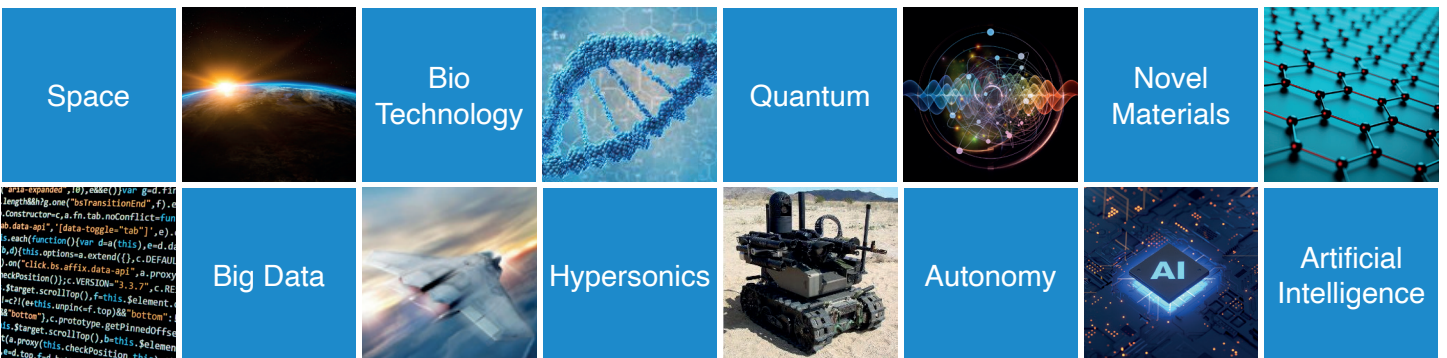
**CSO multiplies the impact of national investments in security and defense-related R&D.** Collaborative efforts draw upon the expertise and resources that already exist within the Alliance and its partner Nations. By engaging in the Network, Nations can, with low bureaucracy, leverage S&T investments and strengthen their national Armed Forces, Industry and Academia by gaining access to other nations' expert knowledge, facilities, and ranges. The collaboration boosts interoperability, spurs innovation and fertilizes growth and prosperity in national economies. In sum, the STO Collaborative Business Model generates a significant return on investment.

**CSO is hosting a growing number of efficient, focused and productive collaborations.** Seven Technical Committees (six Technical Panels and one Technical Group) are the powerhouse of the collaborative business model, facilitating more than 300 research activities last year. The Technical Committees organize the overall workflow and are set up to define, conduct, and promote cooperative research and information exchange. Apart from delivering a critical technical oversight, they provide a communication link to the military users and other NATO bodies.

The CSO's small staff of experts, located near Paris, France, coordinates the collaborative network with low bureaucracy and cost to NATO. Our team is dedicated to facilitate the activities of the network with an unconditional aim of maximizing the value added to member countries and the Alliance, and to advocate increased engagement in scientific and technological progress to the benefit of the security and prosperity for our democracies and the strength of our armed forces.

- STO Technical Committees**
- Applied Vehicle Technology Panel (AVT)
  - Human Factors and Medicine Panel (HFM)
  - Information Systems Technology Panel (IST)
  - NATO Modelling and Simulation Group (NMSG)
  - System Analysis and Studies Panel (SAS)
  - Systems Concepts and Integration Panel (SCI)
  - Sensors and Electronics Technology Panel (SET)

## Examples of the technologies covered



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