NATO ACT · CONTRACT · POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY

Quantum Zero Beacon Project

RFP-ACT-SACT-26-90

A quantum-safe communications pilot between NATO HQ in Brussels and SHAPE in Mons

HQ SACT (Allied Command Transformation) is looking for a contractor to design, build, operate and evaluate a pilot of NATO's transition to **post-quantum cryptography** (PQC). The project is part of the NATO Quantum Technology Roadmap published on 29 September 2026. This is a **firm fixed price contract, not a grant**.

NATO · CONTRACT · PQC · CYBERSECURITY

WHAT IT IS

1. Firm Fixed Price HQ SACT contract with **13 deliverables**; partial bidding is not allowed
2. Pilot in the CFBLNet AQUA environment (NATO UNCLASSIFIED, synthetic data only) with nodes at SHAPE Mons, NATO HQ Brussels and NCIA The Hague, plus a read-only assessment of systems in service
3. PQC algorithms **ML-KEM, ML-DSA, SLH-DSA** in hybrid and pure modes, PKI, crypto-agility and a CBOM (cryptographic bill of materials)
4. **QKD** (Quantum Key Distribution) and data-centric security are explicitly out of scope; QRNG is not excluded
5. Estimated performance **4 January to 31 December 2027**, NATO VIP demonstration by 30 June 2027
6. The RFP does not state a contract value; prices are submitted in USD

WHO IT IS FOR

Companies established in a NATO member nation whose personnel are all citizens of NATO member nations. Realistically for established providers of cryptography and ICT security to government and military customers, or a consortium led by one.

WHAT YOU NEED

NATO SECRET Facility Security Clearance for the company and every subcontractor, and NATO SECRET personnel clearances for the team, valid at the start of performance. At least **3 relevant past performances in the last 5 years**. Ability to handle NATO RESTRICTED information at your own premises.

BID CLOSING

12 Nov 2026

09:00 Eastern Time, Norfolk (15:00 CET) · technical and price proposals by separate e-mails · 70% technical, 30% price · minimum 60 of 100 points

HOW TO BID

1. Request a **Declaration of Eligibility** (Enclosure 5) from your national authority now, for yourself and every subcontractor; without it the bid is non-compliant
2. Confirm NATO SECRET clearances (company and team) and choose 3 references for the Enclosure 3 form
3. Technical proposal: one signed PDF in English, an administrative part and a narrative of **max. 40 pages** in 12 sections matching the criteria, no prices
4. Price proposal (Enclosure 4, PDF and Excel, in USD) goes to a different e-mail than the technical one; both before closing, late bids are rejected

TIMING

The deadline for clarification questions passed on 28 October 2026. HQ SACT publishes answers at act.nato.int/contracting. Bids remain valid for 120 days. The RFP is at Amendment 1; check for a newer version before you submit.

WATCH OUT

HQ SACT may reject without further consideration proposals prepared **wholly or partly with generative AI tools** (para. 10b). A zero on any of the 12 criteria makes a bid technically non-compliant.

FREE CONSULTATION · INDEPENDENT

Considering a QZBP bid?

Defence Hub CzechInvest will help you find your way through the RFP, the eligibility rules and the proposal structure. Free and independent.

defencehub@czechinvest.org

act.nato.int/opportunities/contracting/rfp-act-sact-26-90/

Book a consultation

Source: RFP-ACT-SACT-26-90, Amendment 1; NATO Quantum Technology Roadmap (29 Sep 2026). Status as of 30 Oct 2026.