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**HQ Supreme Allied Commander Transformation  
Directorate of Multi-Domain Force Development**

Norfolk, Virginia | USA



ACT/MDFD/ACOS/TT-2234/SER: **NU**:866

TO: See Distribution

SUBJECT: **INNOVATION CONTINUUM 2026 - GLOW CALLING NOTICE**

DATE: 12 June 2026

- REFERENCES:
- A. HQ SACT, Save-the-Date, Innovation Continuum 2026, dated 05 December 2025.
  - B. HQ SACT, PP Innovation Continuum Process, dated 01 March 2024.
  - C. HQ SACT, Innovation Continuum 2024 Final Report Vol I, Vol II, dated 04 March 2025.

1. The Innovation Continuum (IC) (Reference A) focuses on the creation and implementation of new ideas, technologies, and methods to advance NATO Military Instrument of Power (MIoP). It drives the development of cutting-edge solutions that address emerging threats and operational challenges. By generating and rapid adoption of innovative concepts, this continuum supports measures that ensure military forces remain ahead of potential adversaries and are equipped with the most advanced tools and techniques.

2. In its 2026 edition IC directly supports SACT's Beacon Projects in addition to Warfare Development Agenda's (WDA) Multi-Domain Operations (MDO), and Digital Transformation (DT) Programmes. This initiative offers an opportunity to NATO and STEP<sup>1</sup> Nations, NATO Enterprise entities, Academia and Industry to join Allied Command Transformation (ACT) efforts to accelerate, via collaborative experimentation and demonstration, development of innovative solutions to enable their prompt delivery to the warfighters.

3. GLOW 26 is led by ACT, and is supported by Host Nation Canada and COVE in Halifax, Canada. The event is open to all of NATO Enterprise and NATO Nations, their industries, research institutions and academia. Additionally it is opened to the STEP nations.

4. GLOW 26 is the evaluation and integration testing event of IC26 cycle – it will synchronize projects and products of the different collaborative partners and ensure, that the project clusters will be able to demonstrate and test their combined projects at SHINE in October. The IC cycle is executed in a collaborative experimentation environment. It will provide, enabled by Emerging

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<sup>1</sup> This includes the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine, Australia and Japan.

Reference: <https://www.nato.int/en/news-and-events/articles/news/2025/03/19/the-republic-of-korea-joins-nato-science-amp-technology-organization-sto-partnership>.

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and Disruptive Technologies (EDT)<sup>2</sup>, a platform for operational experimentation, demonstration and spot-on innovation.

5. The 2026 edition will be capitalizing on recent advances in EDT, and will address following operational themes and technology demonstrators:

- a. Cognitive Warfare
- b. Cyber Resilience
- c. Artificial Intelligence (AI) for C4ISR
- d. Innovation for Audacious Training
- e. Strategic Planning Toolset Enhancement for Multidirectional Force Allocation Analysis and Electronic Warfare Assessment in Counter-UAS
- f. NextGen Targeting (NGT)
- g. Smart Logistics
- h. Electronic Warfare (EW)
- i. Task Force X (TF-X) Arctic
- j. Türkiye SSB-A

6. The operational themes and activities will be coordinated at IC Working Group level. Nations are kindly invited to identify additional topics/projects to link into project clusters. These still can be integrated during GLOW.

7. **Organization.** GLOW will be run in the three following syndicates:

- a. IC Syndicate – Admin/RLS/CIS/Budget/Legal/STRATCOM/EVAL
- b. Operational Syndicate: Operational Experiments and Wargames
- c. Technology Syndicate: Technology demonstrations

8. Türkiye will run its own national ALFA Continuum and synchronize these events in a remote GLOW 26 syndicate.

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<sup>2</sup> Artificial Intelligence, Autonomy, Quantum, Bio-tech, Space Tech, Hypersonics, Novel Materials and Manufacturing, Energy and Propulsion, Next Generation Communication Networks

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9. **Time/Location.** GLOW 26 takes place from 01 - 03 Sept 2026 at COVE, 27 Parker St., Dartmouth Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 4T5. It will start daily at 0800L and close at 1800L.

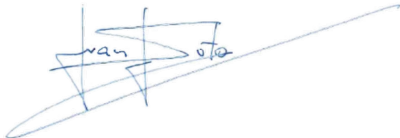
10. **Administration.** Information regarding registration is provided in Annex A. A General Information Packackage (GIP) is provided in Annex B. Additional information when available/required will be desiminated by email and posted on the VISTA information portal. Read ahead materials are available by using the VISTA Portal link provided in Annex A.

11. **Points of Contact.** The points of contact for GLOW 2026 are:

a. IC26 Lead – Mr. Krzysztof Skurzak, Email: [Krzysztof.Skurzak@nato.int](mailto:Krzysztof.Skurzak@nato.int), phone: +1 (757) 839 3206.

b. Innovation Continuum Coordination - LtCol (DEU Army) Thorsten Ritter, Email: [Thorsten.Ritter@nato.int](mailto:Thorsten.Ritter@nato.int), Phone: +1 (757) 747 3173

FOR THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER TRANSFORMATION:



Juan Jose SOTO RODRIGUEZ  
Major General, ESP A  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Multi – Domain Force Development

ANNEXES:

- A. Administrative Instructions for Innovation Continuum 2026 – GLOW
- B. General Information Package for Innovation Continuum 2026 – GLOW

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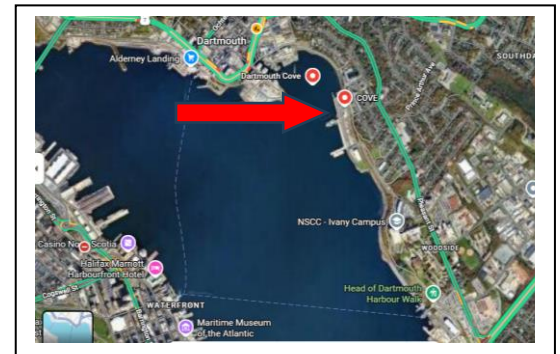
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ANNEX A TO  
ACT/MDFD/ACOS/TT-2234/SER:NU866  
DATED: 12 JUN 26

### ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR INNOVATION CONTINUUM 2026 – GLOW

1. **Introduction.** This Annex provides supplementary administrative information to the HQ SACT calling notice for GLOW 26, that will be held in Halifax, Canada, from 01 - 03 Sep 26.
2. **Venue.** GLOW 26 will be held onsite at the facilities of COVE, 27 Parker St., Dartmouth Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 4T5. There will be no virtual participation option offered.
3. **Registration.** Participants are required to register at the following link:  
<https://events.innovationhub-act.org/event/21/>
  - a. The registration portal will be active from 27 Jul 26 - 21 Aug 26.
4. **In-Processing.** In-processing will start on 01 Sep 26, at 0800L – 0900L at the Plenary Hall of COVE:



- a. Please ensure that registration has been conducted prior to the event, and bring a copy, printed or electronic, of your registration confirmation (QR-Code). Only registered NATO Nations' entities and other organizations/industry sponsored by a NATO Nation, will be permitted access to GLOW. Every participant will be issued a Conference Badge.
5. **Security.** GLOW 26 is a “NATO UNCLASSIFIED” event. Non-NATO entity participants will be required to sign a “Letter of Acknowledgement of Responsibilities” during the online

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registration process for protection of research data within NATO S&T. This Letter will be valid for the complete 2026 IC cycle. This applies for all new participants, that didn't sign up at SPARK or IGNITE already.

- a. Participants will be required to wear (visibly) their Conference Badge during the event, and to get access to the GLOW conference area in general.
  - b. GLOW will be held within the premises of COVE, which is generally an open Innovation HUB. Access to buildings will be controlled, the area access will be controlled by a security service.
6. **Conference Fee.** There is no conference fee for GLOW 26.
7. **VISTA Portal:** The following page on VISTA Portal will be used to further coordinate the event: [https://tide.act.nato.int/mediawiki/vista/index.php/GLOW\\_2026](https://tide.act.nato.int/mediawiki/vista/index.php/GLOW_2026)
8. **Transportation.** There will be no shuttle service provided. At COVE there are no parking spaces available. It is strongly recommended to use public transport to get to the event.
9. **Accommodation.** The recommended Downtown Halifax Hotel is: The Sutton Place, 1700 Grafton Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2C4, Canada, +1-902-932-7548.
- a. **Available Rates GLOW:** 31 Aug 26 – 04 Sep 26 - \$309.00 CAD / Night (standard room).
  - b. **Group Booking Link:**  
<https://reservations.suttonplace.com/113161?groupID=5284824>
  - c. **Web Group Code:** 2608COVE
10. **Attire.** The dress code for GLOW 26 is Business Casual. Uniforms are strongly discouraged.
11. **Language.** GLOW 26 will be conducted in English.
12. **Participation.** The event is open to NATO entities and NATO Nations. Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Ukraine are invited partner nations. New Zealand is invited as an observing Nation. Industry can participate via RFI or if being sponsored by a NATO, a NATO or a Partner Nation.
13. **Draft Agenda.** The general, generic agenda is as follows:

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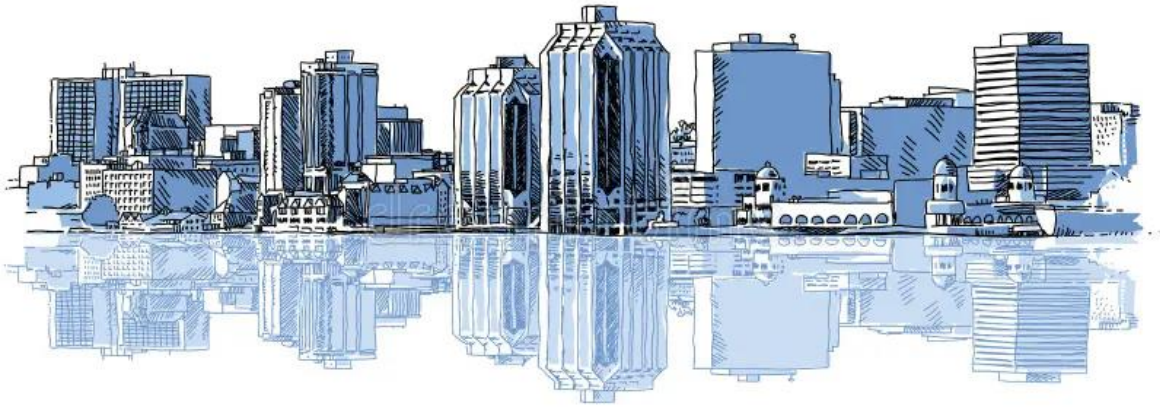
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Tuesday, 01 September</b>			
0800 - 0900	In-Processing Innovators' Networking Morning	IC Syndicate	Reception Area
0900 – 1030	Welcome and Plenary session	IC Lead / HN	Auditorium
1030 – 1200	Syndicate work	Syndicate Leads	Breakout areas
1200 – 1300	Lunch Break		
1300 – 1645	Syndicate work	Syndicate Leads	Breakout rooms
1645 – 1700	Wrap-up, Q&A	IC Lead	Auditorium
1700 – 1800	Syndicate work	Syndicate Leads	Breakout areas
<b>Wednesday, 02 September</b>			
0800 – 0900	Syndicate work	Syndicate Leads	Breakout areas
0900 – 0915	Morning D&G	IC Lead	Auditorium
0915 – 1645	Syndicate work	Syndicate Leads	Breakout areas
1200 – 1300	Lunch Break		
1300 – 1400	Potential Project briefings / VISTA training	IC Syndicate	Auditorium
1645 – 1700	Wrap-up, Q&A	IC Lead	Auditorium
1700 – 1800	Syndicate work	Syndicate Leads	Breakout areas
<b>Thursday, 03 May</b>			
0830 – 0900	Syndicate work	Syndicate Leads	Breakout areas
0900 – 0915	Morning D&G	IC Lead	Auditorium
0915 – 1500	Syndicate work	Syndicate Leads	Breakout rooms
12:00 – 1300	Lunch Break		
1300 – 1330	Potential Project briefings / VISTA training	IC Syndicate	Auditorium
1500 – 1645	Out briefings	Syndicate leads	Auditorium
1645 – 1700	Closing remarks	IC Lead / HN	Auditorium
1700 – 1800	Syndicate work	Syndicate Leads	Breakout areas

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ANNEX B TO  
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DATED: 12 JUN 26

**GENERAL INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR  
INNOVATION CONTINUUM 2026 – GLOW**



**Location**

1. GLOW 26 will be held at the facilities of COVE, 27 Parker St., Dartmouth Nova Scotia, Canada B2Y 4T5. More information about COVE is available on the COVE web site at <https://coveocean.com/>.
2. COVE is a global technology partner advancing high-impact solutions from seabed to space. COVE transforms innovation into market-ready technologies through testing, commercialization support, market expertise and access to critical infrastructure. Leveraging its networks and mission-driven platform, COVE connects investors, innovators, industry, and the research community to drive cutting-edge capabilities for commercial and defence applications.
3. Based in Canada and operating internationally, COVE supports the full lifecycle of maritime and multi-domain technologies – from research and development to manufacturing, integration, and export – linking Canadian innovation to global markets. COVE has built a globally recognized innovation platform, with an ecosystem of more than 700 organizations spanning startups, multinational firms, researchers, Indigenous partners, and public sector collaborators.
4. Through its programmes, facilities, and partnerships, COVE enables real-world testing and validation, strengthens supply chains, and accelerates technology adoption in complex operating environments. With strong connections across the North Atlantic, the United States, and the Arctic, and as part of international networks including NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA), COVE plays a key role in advancing technologies that support economic growth, environmental sustainability, and global security.

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### **Halifax**

5. Halifax is Nova Scotia's capital city and the waterfront is the most visited destination in all of Nova Scotia. Halifax is a historic port city, and the harbour still shapes daily life. The Halifax Waterfront boardwalk stretches nearly four kilometres along the water, one of the longest urban boardwalks in the world.

6. Halifax is an economic centre of Atlantic Canada, home to a concentration of government offices and private companies. Major employers include the Department of National Defence, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia Health Authority, Saint Mary's University, the Halifax Shipyard, various levels of government, and the Port of Halifax. Resource industries found in rural areas of the municipality include agriculture, fishing, mining, forestry, and natural gas extraction. As of 2024, it is estimated that the population of the Halifax CMA was 530,167, with 348,634 people in its urban area. Halifax is a major cultural centre within the Atlantic provinces. The municipality has maintained many of its maritime and military traditions, while opening itself to a growing multicultural population. The municipality's urban core also benefits from a large population of post-secondary students who strongly influence the local cultural scene. Halifax has a number of art galleries, theatres and museums, as well as most of the region's national-quality sports and entertainment facilities.

### **Getting there**

7. You can get to Halifax in various ways: the city is a major transport hub receiving international flights, trains, and buses from across the region. Whether you choose a quick flight or a scenic drive, the journey to Halifax will be an excellent start to your Canadian vacation.

#### **8. By Plane.**

a. The primary way to reach the city by air is to fly into Halifax Stanfield International Airport (YHZ). This is the main aviation hub of Atlantic Canada, hosting many scheduled flights and providing convenient connections to major cities in North America and Europe.

b. Alternatively, you can consider flying to neighbouring cities, for example, to Moncton or Charlottetown, located approximately 180 km away. However, considering the distance and the need for ground transfer, a direct flight to Stanfield remains the fastest and most comfortable option for most travellers.

#### **9. By Train.**

a. Travelling by rail is an opportunity to enjoy scenic views of the province on the way to Halifax. The city is the terminus of the famous The Ocean route by VIA Rail, which connects the Atlantic coast with Montreal.

b. The historic train station is located close to the city centre and the waterfront, making arrival by train very convenient for starting your sightseeing. A train journey will

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take more time than a flight, but it offers a unique experience of admiring Canadian nature from the carriage window.

### Public Transport

10. The bus and ferries are great options for getting around in Halifax, especially for longer distances. Transit can help you get to where you need to go. Schedules and maps for all bus and ferry routes can be found online and in print at ferry and transit terminals. There are several ticket options to ride the bus, ferry and Access-A-Bus. Tickets can be purchased in cash when you ride, at a retailer location, or you can purchase monthly bus passes.

### Traveller Tips

11. To ensure your introduction to the capital of Nova Scotia goes smoothly, we have prepared a list of important recommendations, taking into account local specifics and the climate.

- a. **Dress for the weather.** The weather on the coast is changeable. Even in summer, the principle of "layering" is mandatory: bring a windbreaker, a warm sweater, and comfortable waterproof shoes for walks by the ocean.
- b. **Transport.** The city centre is hilly but compact; it is best explored on foot. For a trip to Dartmouth, be sure to use the Halifax Transit ferry — it is the oldest ferry route in North America and an excellent viewing platform.
- c. **Finances.** The currency is the Canadian Dollar (CAD). Cards are accepted everywhere, but a little cash is useful for tips or small purchases. Tips in restaurants are 15–20%.
- d. **Water Safety.** This is critically important: when visiting Peggy's Cove or other rocky shores, never stand on the black (wet) rocks. Unpredictable waves can wash a person into the ocean in a second.
- e. **Language.** The main language of communication is English. Locals speak with a characteristic accent but are very friendly and always ready to help a tourist.
- f. **Etiquette.** A relaxed and polite atmosphere reigns here. It is customary to hold doors, greet bus drivers, and respect queues.
- g. **What to avoid.** Do not underestimate distances if you plan to travel out of town, and do not forget about the sales tax, which is added to the price at the checkout counter.

### Accommodation

12. Halifax offers several affordable, well-rated lodging options. You will find all major hotel chains with their different houses and more individual, local offer. Top picks range from central

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downtown spots to highly-rated budget chains on the mainland. An accommodation in the downtown area is recommended for the easiness to provide dinner. Commute to COVE by downtown ferry or Uber is the most suitable solution.

### Recommended Restaurants

13. Halifax offers a huge variety of different restaurants for each kind of taste in all price range. Below is only a small selection of potential options for typical Nova-Scotia cuisine:

- a. **Drift:** Located in the Muir Hotel, it offers elevated East Coast Canadian classics like halibut cheeks and snow crab.
- b. **The Bicycle Thief:** A highly rated, upscale Italian restaurant along the waterfront offering great views and hearty pasta dishes.
- c. **Bar Kismet:** A nationally acclaimed, cozy spot in the North End known for handcrafted cocktails, fresh seafood, and handmade pasta.
- d. **The Press Gang:** A popular fine-dining choice set in a historic building, specializing in local oysters, steak, and rack of lamb.
- e. **The Canteen:** Located across the harbor in Dartmouth, it is famous for its scratch-made comfort food and top-tier lobster rolls.
- f. **Evan's Fresh Seafoods:** A casual Dartmouth gem inside Alderney Landing offering stellar fish and chips and hot lobster rolls.

### Places to See / Things to Do

14. Halifax is a city where ancient history meets contemporary urban life. Visitors can enjoy cultural landmarks, museums, green spaces, and vibrant street life. If you want to explore the city with a guided tour.

- a. **Halifax Waterfront Boardwalk:** Stroll one of the world's longest urban boardwalks, home to shops, local eateries, and heritage vessels.
- b. **Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21:** Canada's national immigration museum, located at the historic ocean liner terminal. **Maritime Museum of the Atlantic:** Discover the city's deep ties to the sea, featuring exhibits on the Titanic and the Halifax Explosion.
- c. **Citadel National Historic Site:** Overlooks downtown and offers panoramic city views. Don't miss the tradition of the firing of the Noon Gun. **Halifax Public Gardens:** A beautifully preserved, 16-acre Victorian-style garden in the heart of the city.

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- d. **Halifax Central Library:** An award-winning, architecturally striking community hub known for its rooftop view and distinct stacked-box design.
- e. **Food, Drink & Fun Alexander Keith's Brewery:** Tour the historic 1820 brewery for a taste of Nova Scotia's oldest ale, complete with period-costumed guides.
- f. **Harbour Hopper Tour:** A fun, amphibious tour that takes you through the downtown streets before splashing into the harbour for skyline views.
- g. **Argyle Street:** The premier downtown spot for evening dining, patio drinks, and local live music.
- h. **Peggy's Cove:** Located about a 45-minute drive from downtown, this world-famous fishing village features a working lighthouse perched on massive granite rocks.
- i. **Lunenburg:** About an hour south of the city, this UNESCO World Heritage town features colorful 18th-century architecture and is home to the famous Bluenose II sailing vessel.