



Automated Collaboration: The means for Success in Standardisation

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For many years, TDL standards development and maintenance has been undertaken by the NATO Allies, albeit under the auspices of the NATO HQ C3 Staff. Since partnership for peace, this collection of nations has been expanded and now includes Austria, Switzerland, Australia, Finland and Sweden. In essence, national representatives meet three times per year at the TDL Capability Team (CaT) to submit proposals for changes to the standards and formally exchange their views on such changes as proposed by other nations. As the meeting format still forms the main driver behind this process, progress has remained slow and is predominantly realised through the energy and effort of a small number of nations. A few years ago, a small UK organisation became convinced of the need for radical change and recognised the potential benefits innovative information and knowledge management technologies could deliver.

New ways of working were designed and introduced at NATO level, while at a national level several technologies have been adopted within the UK. The Italian MOD has recently embarked on implementing the latest instalment of a collaborative working environment. This will allow the Italian MOD to bring together a community of TDL representatives from the armed services, their organisations and platforms. Over the decades, Italy has shown to be a leading TDL capability adopter and developer, e.g. a founding member of the MIDS programme, Link 16 for Typhoon and SAMP-T, and the first nation implementing Link 22 on its surface ships. However, the economic downturn and financial limitations have severely restricted its role in the international standards arena. This latest initiative introducing a collaborative working environment will enable Italy to be more effective as a national community and play a more active role internationally.