



Press Release
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The NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation pursues future solutions to protect the “Internet of Underwater Things”

*National organizations convened in La Spezia to discuss security
of tomorrow’s network-enabled battlespace, including in the undersea domain*

The NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE), the Science & Technology Organization (STO) executive body in charge of scientific research and technology development in the maritime domain, showcased future solutions to address defence and security needs of the Alliance by using unmanned vehicles connected through the “Internet of Underwater Things”. It happened during the eighth meeting of STO Task Group IST-096 focused on maturity models, scenario definition and prototyping environments in cyber defence.

National organizations convened in La Spezia to discuss information assurance and secure information sharing within dynamic coalitions. The meeting was held from 8-12 April 2013 and was organized in cooperation with the STO Information Systems Technology (IST) Panel. Participants to the meeting, which ranged from NATO agencies to national governmental Organizations, exchanged their visions on the application of innovative risk assessment methodologies for high assurance information sharing in tomorrow’s battlespace.

CMRE presentations showed how authoritative and curated data sets, such as those maintained by CMRE, can be used by the cyber defence community to build synthetic environments in which the operation of complex cyber-physical systems can be modelled with a high degree of fidelity including proper verification & validation of the underlying risk assessment models.

IST-096 will continue its evolutionary development of the initial Information Assurance research plan, incorporating concepts and models of defensive cyber operations into the technical framework: the futuristic scenarios discussed during the meeting will help inform the research agenda for the years to come.

About CMRE. The STO-CMRE (Science and Technology Organization – Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation) is located in La Spezia, Italy. Formerly NATO Undersea Research Centre (NURC), the Centre focuses on research, innovation and technology in areas such as defence of maritime forces and installations against terrorism and piracy, secure networks, development of the common operational picture, the maritime component of expeditionary operations, mine countermeasures systems, non-lethal protection for ports and harbours, anti-submarine warfare and marine mammal risk mitigation. CMRE operates two ships, NATO Research Vessel *Alliance*, a 93-meter 3,180-ton open-ocean research vessel, and Coastal Research Vessel *Leonardo*, a smaller ship designed for coastal operations. In addition to its laboratories the Centre is equipped with a fleet of autonomous underwater and surface vehicles and a world-class inventory of seagoing sensors.

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