# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

**1.  How can I participate in the 18th NATO Operations Research and Analysis Conference?**

The 18th NATO OR&A Conference will be held In Malaga, Spain.  Registration will open in July 2024 and will be managed through the STO Events site. If it is your first time using STO Events, you will need to create your own account by selecting your own credentials.

The online registration process will provide the Programme Committee with necessary information from participants, allows performing a security check and allows sharing of conference material with validated participants. Please monitor the STO Events conference announcement for the [18th NATO Operations Research and Analysis Conference](#) for the latest information. Live-streaming of plenary sessions is being considered.

**2.  Is there a registration fee to attend the 18th NATO Operations Research and Analysis Conference?**

Participants should expect expenses for accommodation, food and beverages.  Every effort is made to keep fees and expenses to a minimum.

**3.  What can I expect from the 18th NATO Operations Research and Analysis Conference?**

The NATO OR&A Conference will bring together analysts from NATO commands and agencies, national defence analysis and research organisations, centres of excellence, academia, and industry to experience an exciting program around the 2024 theme "Collaboration to enable military advantage in an unstable world" with plenty of opportunities for discussion and debate. A detailed Conference Programme will be published at the STO Events conference announcement for the [18th NATO Operations Research and Analysis Conference](#).

**4.  What kind of training will be provided at the 18th NATO Operations Research and Analysis Conference?**

On Wednesday training will be provided, however the content is still under development.

**5.  Who are typical NATO OR&A Conference attendees?**

Participants are typically analysts who work within NATO or within the defence industries and defence ministeries of earlier mentioned nations.  Participation is limited to representatives from NATO nations, NATO organizations and AUS, AUT, CHE, IRL, JPN, NZL. The online registration process will provide the Programme Committee with necessary information from participants and allows performing a security check.

6. **How will information be shared prior to the 18th NATO Operations Research and Analysis Conference?**

After participants have successfully registered through STO Events, they can expect to receive via email a general information package detailing information necessary for travel arrangements, and the final conference programme in due course.

7. **Is there any guidance for authors when presenting in the conference?**

Detailed instructions will be provided by email after Abstracts selection. Selected authors will typically be offered one of the following opportunities to share their work:
- 20 minute presentation;
- 20 min presentation with associated paper, to be published in the conference proceedings;
- 20 min presentation with associated full journal paper.  The journal paper will be submitted to the [STO Review Journal](STO Review Journal) editorial team for consideration;
- Longer tutorial or panel session (e.g. 90 mins) on a topic of educational value to the conference attendees.

Papers and the STO Publication Authorization Form should be sent by 16 August 2024 to the Programme Committee Chair, Ms Sue Collins, [sas@cso.nato.int](mailto:sas@cso.nato.int).

8. **Can I still submit an abstract for consideration by the Programme Committee?**

The Abstract submission period will end 20 April 2024. The Programme Committee sent out abstract acceptance/rejection notifications by 31 May 2024 from the [sas@cso.nato.int](mailto:sas@cso.nato.int) account.

9. **Why is the Publication Release Certificate (form 13-E) needed?**

The STO Publication Authorization Form (form 13-3(E)) is required because it confirms that the author(s) allows the NATO Science and Technology Organization to publish your material on its website as part of the Conference Proceedings or STO Review journal.

The classification marking makes clear what you think the distribution can or should be. We prefer Public Releasable (no restrictions), but NATO UNCLASSIFIED, Releasable to AUS, AUT, CHE, IRL, JPN, NZL would match the potential audience". Authors need to sign off the form or have it co-signed by the Public Affairs Office/Disclosure Office/Security Office. This varies per nation/organization.

Box 1 - information on title/all authors/contact info
Box 2 - mark 'Published by STO' + 'Presented at an STO meeting'
Box 3 - mark 'Approved for Public Release' or 'NATO Unclassified', when 'NATO Unclassified' is chosen 'Releasable to the following non-NATO countries: AUS, AUT, CHE, IRL, JPN, NZL also needs to be added.
Box 4a - strike through unless in your organization a higher authority needs to approve release of content.
Box 4b - for US only, when applicable follow instructions as described.

10. **Will Conference Proceedings be published after the event?**

Yes. Conference Proceedings will be published on the [Publications section of the STO Website](). These proceedings will contain a Foreword, Executive Summary, Conference Papers and Presentations. This publication is expected to be finalized spring 2025.  In addition, papers that have been accepted to the STO Review journal will be published separately.

**11. Will the papers for this conference be peer-reviewed?**

Yes. Submitted papers will be peer-reviewed by two members of the Programme Committee, and feedback will be given.

**12. Is this a classified conference?**

No. We strongly encourage that presentations and papers be releasable to the public and have no security marking.  If necessary, presentations and papers may be marked up to the level "NATO UNCLASSIFIED,  Releasable to AUS, AUT, CHE, IRL, JPN, NZL" to allow discussions with an audience from Participation is open to nationals from NATO Nations, STO Enhanced Opportunity Partners (Australia, Japan), Austria, Ireland, New Zealand and Switzerland.

**13. Do I need a security clearance to attend?**

No. The online registration process will provide the Programme Committee with necessary information from participants and selected authors which allows performing a security check and allows sharing of conference material with attendees.

**14. Are there opportunities for networking during the conference?**

Yes. The Programme Committee will stimulate one-on-one networking and group networking around social events and during health breaks.

**15. What is the dress code?**

For civilians, business casual dress.  For military, either service uniform or civilian dress.

**16. I have a question that is not answered above, what should I do?**

You can email [sas@cso.nato.int](mailto:sas@cso.nato.int) for any further questions.