NATO adopts an AI-enabled combat system: a technological breakthrough for the Atlantic Alliance

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MONS, Belgium – On March 25, 2025, the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) and the U.S. company Palantir Technologies Inc. formalized the acquisition of the *Maven Smart System NATO* (MSS NATO), intended to be used within the Allied Command Operations (ACO). This is a fundamental step towards modernizing the Alliance's operational capabilities in an era of digital warfare and hybrid threats.

The system, based on advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, represents one of the fastest acquisitions in NATO's history: only six months passed from the definition of the operational requirement to the actual procurement. According to forecasts, the system will be operational at the ACO within 30 days of acquisition.

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Artificial Intelligence: A new generation of tools for the combatant

The Maven Smart System NATO is designed to enhance the effectiveness of military operations through a unified AI-enabled platform. Thanks to a diverse range of applications – from *large language models* (LLM) to generative AI and machine learning – the system offers significant improvements in information fusion capabilities, battlefield awareness, operational planning, and accelerated decision-making processes.

“The NCIA is pleased to collaborate with SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) and Palantir to provide MSS NATO to combatants, offering cutting-edge AI capabilities tailored to the Alliance's needs,” said Ludwig Decamps, Director General of the NCIA. “These tools are essential for operating effectively and decisively in modern operational contexts.”

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The Alliance strengthens its deterrent posture

The introduction of MSS NATO underscores the Alliance's willingness to boldly lead technological innovation in an increasingly competitive geopolitical context, characterized by the growing use of cyber tools, disinformation, and cognitive warfare.

“It is an honor to support NATO in its desire to strengthen deterrence through an AI-enabled platform employed at SHAPE,” said **Shon Manasco, Senior Counselor of Palantir Technologies**. “This partnership demonstrates how determined the Alliance is to stay at the forefront of the technological revolution in the military field.”

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Transatlantic synergy and strategic vision

The implementation of the system at SHAPE aims not only to strengthen ongoing operations but also to act as a catalyst for the adoption of other emerging capabilities already under development within the Alliance. Among these are new AI models, advanced simulation solutions, and virtual environments for operational experimentation.

“Technology is at the heart of our combat capability,” said **General Markus Laubenthal, Chief of Staff of SHAPE**. “MSS NATO enables the Alliance to leverage complex data, accelerate decision-making processes, and ultimately add tangible operational value.”

Through MSS NATO, collaboration between the technological bases of North America and Europe is also strengthened, with a clear strategic direction towards the integration of dual-use capabilities (civil and military) and greater interoperability among the various actors of the Alliance.

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A paradigm shift for NATO

With this acquisition, NATO takes a decisive step towards a new paradigm of multi-domain warfare, where information, decision-making speed, and cognitive superiority are the key elements of operational success. The ability to process and interpret enormous volumes of data in real-time allows anticipating the adversary's moves, identifying emerging threats, and optimizing the conduct of operations in the field.

The speed with which the acquisition process was completed also demonstrates the growing awareness within the organization of the urgency to equip itself with modern tools to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Conclusions

The introduction of the Maven Smart System NATO marks a turning point in the digital transformation of the Atlantic Alliance. More than just a computer system, MSS NATO is a force multiplier, capable of integrating artificial intelligence into decision-making processes and combat operations.

In a rapidly changing international context, where technological superiority is increasingly decisive, NATO proves ready to face future threats with tools that match its strategic ambitions.

News link: https://shape.nato.int/news-releases/nato-acquires-aienabled-warfighting-system-