Speakers and Biographies

- Alexander De Croo, Prime Minister, Belgium
- Kersti Kaljulaid, Former President, Republic of Estonia
- Mircea Geoană, Deputy Secretary General, NATO
- Ambassador Baiba Braže, Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, NATO
- General Philippe Lavigne, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, Allied Command Transformation, NATO
- Admiral Rob Bauer, Chair Military Committee, NATO
- John Sherman, Chief Information Officer, Department of Defence
- Ludwig Decamps, General Manager, NCI Agency
- Lieutenant General Michael Vetter, Director General Cyber/It and Chief Information Officer at the German Ministry of Defence
- Jiří Šedivý, Chief Executive, European Defence Agency
- David van Wheel, Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO
- Luis Astorga, Chair, Agency Supervisory Board, NCI Organisation
- Major General Hans Folmer, Chief of Staff, NCI Agency
- Rear Admiral Nicholas J. Wheeler, Director NATO Headquarters Consultation, Command and Control Staff
- Manfred Boudreaux-Dehmer, Chief Information Officer, NATO
- Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director General of Digital Europe
- Brigadier General Chad Raduege, Director of the Command, Control, Communications, and Computers/Cyber Directorate, and Chief Information Officer, Headquarters U.S. European Command
- Brigadier General Peter Wass, Assistant Chief of Staff Resources Management, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe
- Air Commodore Henk Doorten Strategic Adviser on Digitisation of the Chief of Defence, Deputy CIO, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands
- Beatrice Friebel, Director IT Modernization – Joint IT Command NED MoD
- Jennifer Upton, Chief of Acquisition, NCI Agency
- Antonio Calderon, Chief Technology Officer, NCI Agency
- Frederic Cloutier, Chief Technology Officer, NCI Agency
- Sandra Oosterveer, Chief People Officer, NCI Agency
- Angelo Talarico, Chief Operating Officer, NCI Agency
- Hasit Thankey, Head, Enablement and Resilience Defence Policy and Planning Division NATO
- Matt Roper, Chief JISR Centre, NCI Agency
- Captain Peter Chapman, Head Crisis Management and Business Continuity, NCI Agency
- Virginie Viscardy, Head Strategy and Strategic Communication, NCI Agency
- Agata Szydelko, Deputy Chief of Acquisition, NCI Agency
- Alexandre Vitry, Deputy Chief of Acquisition, NCI Agency
- Michael Stoltz, Director, Air and Missile Defence Command and Control, NCI Agency
- Pierre Pradier, Service Line Chief, Core Enterprise Services, NCI Agency
- Moritz Zimmerman, Deputy Chief Of Staff Transition Team NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA)
- Ijeoma (IJ) Ike-Meertens, Head of Acquisition Policy, NCI Agency

- Gilles Bertrand, Head of Multi-domain Combat Cloud – Connected Intelligence, Airbus Defence and Space
- Ian West, Chief of the NATO Cyber Security Centre, NCI Agency
- Sujin Chan-Allen, Legal Adviser, NCI Agency
- Adam Milward, CEO and Co-Founder of METADATAWORKS
- Dr David Milward, CTO of METADATAWORKS Limited
- Geir Michaelsen, Chief Commercial Officer, WILNOR Governmental Services
- Sujeesh Krishnan, Chief Executive Officer, KINNAMI
- Kai Rehnfelt, CEO and Co-Founder, SECLOUS
- Casey Coleman, Senior Vice President of Global Digital Transformation, SALESFORCE
- Pasi Niinikoski, Director for EU and NATO Affairs & Technology and Industry Foresight for Patria
- Detlef Janezic, Chief Architecting and Engineering, NCI Agency
- Joseph Graf, Fellow - Mission Systems Communication Systems Architect, Collins Aerospace
- Rob van Engelshoven, Principle Administrator, Chief Information Office, NCI Agency
- Madeline Zimmerman, Deployment Strategist, Palantir
- Stefaan Vermassen, Senior Service Engineer, NCI Agency
- Snorre Kjesbu, CISCO Senior Vice President & General Manager
- Alistair Bradbrook, Director Antillion
- Martin Fenn, POLARIS Deputy Programme Manager, Chief Operating Office, NCI Agency
- Dr. Helen Greenhough, Senior Consultant, Frazer Nash Consultancy
- Richard Laing, Principal Project Manger, Joint Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance, NCI Agency
- Kai Martius, Chief Technology Officer, SECUNET
- Christ Moss, Vice President, Sales/CTO, Poly
- Ufuk Dirim, Deputy Service Line Chief, Command and Control Centre, NCI Agency
- Sarah Brown, Principal Cyber Security Lead, Chief Information Officer, NCI Agency
- Ben Bennet, Director, HPC & AI Strategy Program, HPE
- Sebastiaan Tampinongkol, Head of the Learning Design and Development Branch, NCI Academy, NCI Agency
- Jeff LaFrenz, President, Vizworkz Inc.
- Jose-Luis Herrero Pascual, Head Service Engineering, Chief Technology Office, NCI Agency
- Erika Vranckx, Head, External Customers Sections, Chief Operating Office, NCI Agency
- Frank Mikla, Principal Programme Manager, NCI Agency
- Olivier Kermagoret, Chief Technology Officer, THALES Defence and Security
- Dave de Bie, Client Technology Lead for NATO, Microsoft
- Khurram Januk, President Strategic Initiatives, Area9 Lyceum
- Natasha Guindy, Director Enterprise Solutions Architect, Nordics, Area9 Lyceum
- Joao Farinha, Head of Cyber Training Branch, NCI Academy, NCI Agency
- Marlin McFate, Public Sector Chief Technology Officer, Riverbed Technology
- Knut Henrik Aas, CEO, FYND Reality
- Bram, Couwberghs, Defence and Intelligence Leader Western Europe, Microsoft
- Laura Striegel, Attache International Relations, Belgian Cyber Security Officer
- Mariano Valle, Principal Service Engineer (Cloud), Chief Technology Office, NCI Agency
- Vincent Rifici, Director Defence Europe, Middle East, Africa and India, Hexagon
- Luc D'Hauwe, Global Solutions Consultant NATO, VMWare
- Hermann Wietgrefe, Principal Enterprise Architect, NCI Agency
- Kristine Kvam, CTO, FYND Reality
- Jean-Paul Massart, Chief, NATO Digital Workplace Centre, NCI Agency
- Shaun Cooney, Advisor, Technology & Innovation, SPLUNK
- Joel Varanda, C2 Segment Architect, NCI Agency
- Alim Solmaz, Senior Scientist, NATO Cyber Security Centre
- Kristine Paine, Strategic Advisor, Technology and Innovation, SPLUNK
- Diego Costa Marques, Telecommunications Researchers, Instituto de Telecomunicacoes

- [Birger Retzius, Principal Scientist, NCI Agency](#)
- [Duncan McSporran, Chief Operating Officer, Kognitiv Spark Inc.](#)
- [Geir Hallingstad, Cyber Security Principal Architect, Chief Technology Office, NCI Agency](#)
- [Ivana Ilic Maestric, Senior Data Scientist, Chief Technology Office, NCI Agency](#)
- [Robert Cardillo, Chairman Planet Federal and Former National Geospatial – Intelligence Agency Director, Planet Federal](#)
- [Luis Dias, Professor and Researcher, Portuguese Army, Military Academy](#)
- [Andreas Hutzenlaub, Service Line Chief, Network Services and IT Infrastructures, NCI Agency](#)
- [Matt Wood, Head of Sales – Europe, Blacksky Global Inc.](#)
- [Dr. Caroline Gardet, Senior AI Consultant, Sopra Steria](#)
- [John Mathieu, Managing Director, Taqtile Europe, Taqtile, Inc.](#)
- [Phil Taneborne, Key Account Director NATO, DATAMIR Inc.](#)
- [Steve Jacob, Autonodyne LLC](#)
- [Israel Illescas, IT Manager, FCC](#)
- [Anna Metsaranta, Head of Sustainable AI, Solita](#)
- [Nathaniel Soule, Senior Scientist, Raytheon BBN](#)
- [Christopher Clinton, Co-Founder, NAQ Cyber](#)
- [Adam Maher, CEO and Co-Founder URSA Space Systems](#)
- [Jens Elstermeir, Sector Head Defence and Intelligence, CGI](#)
- [Petr Vancl Hockberger, Business Developer TOVEK](#)

Alexander De Croo, Prime Minister, Belgium

2020–present: Prime Minister of Belgium

On 1 October 2020, Alexander De Croo took the oath as Prime Minister. The De Croo I government is made up of Socialists, Liberals, Christian Democrats and Greens – the four largest political groups in the country.

2019 – 2020: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, in charge of the Fight against Tax Fraud, and Minister of Development Cooperation. As Minister of Finance, Alexander De Croo faced Belgium's biggest post-war health and economic crisis. Together with the Eurogroup, he set out a framework for a major European recovery package. In his own country, Alexander De Croo led financial efforts to support individuals and businesses as much as possible during this difficult period.

2014 – 2019: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Postal Services**.** Alexander De Croo was Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation, Digital Agenda, Telecom and Postal Services in the Michel I government. As Minister of Development Cooperation, he focused on strengthening human rights and promoting local economic growth in partner countries. With the Digital Agenda, Telecom and Postal Services portfolio, Alexander De Croo aimed to maximise the economic potential of the digital economy. During this period, he also published the book 'The Age of Women', a plea for a pro-active approach to equal rights for women and men.

2012 – 2014: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Pensions

On 20 November 2012, Alexander De Croo took the oath before His Majesty King Albert II as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Pensions. He carried out Belgium's first pension reform package for many years and was involved in setting up the Pension Reform Commission 2020–2040. The Commission's proposals for pension reform 2020–2040 formed the basis for the pension reforms of the Michel I government.

2009 – 2012: Party Chairman and Senator**.** In 2009, Alexander De Croo moved from the world of business to politics. With the backing of Guy Verhofstadt, Open Vld's leader in the European Parliament, he took part in the European elections in May 2009. In December 2009 he convincingly won the election to become Open Vld's party chair, as voted for by the party's members.

1999 – 2009: MBA, business consultant and entrepreneur. A business engineer by training, Alexander De Croo obtained an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago (United States) in 2004.

Kersti Kaljulaid, Former President, Republic of Estonia

Kersti Kaljulaid served as the President of the Republic of Estonia from 2016–2021. During her time in office, she made her presence felt in both her homeland and the international arena. Previously she had been serving as a Member of the European Court of Auditors, advising Prime Minister Mart Laar and holding different top level positions in energy, investment banking and telecom sector. Genetic engineer and economist by education, she has been a member of the Supervisory Board of the Estonian Genome Centre and the Council Chair of the University of Tartu from 2012 to 2016.

In summer 2021, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed President Kaljulaid to the position of Global Advocate for the 'Every Woman Every Child' strategy on the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents around the world for the next two years. She was also the first Estonian to be featured in the Forbes World's 100 Most Powerful Women.

Kersti Kaljulaid has become a sought-after speaker at high-level forums on digital, security and foreign-policy topics and more broadly for analysing and interpreting societal and economic change. President Kaljulaid is a vocal advocate of human rights, rule of law, freedom of speech and democracy. One of the principles in the office of president has been the one she set out upon her inauguration: "I am never silent when our security is in question, when our freedoms are at stake or when those weaker than us are treated unjustly."

Kersti Kaljulaid speaks Estonian, English, French, Russian and Finnish.

Mircea Geoană, Deputy Secretary General, NATO

Mircea Geoană became NATO Deputy Secretary General in October 2019, after a distinguished domestic and international career. Mr Geoană is the first Deputy Secretary General from Romania, and the first from any of the countries that joined the Alliance after the end of the Cold War. Mr Geoană was born in Romania on 14 July 1958. He studied at the Polytechnic University in Bucharest, the Faculty of Law of the University of Bucharest, the Ecole Nationale d'Administration in Paris, and he holds a PhD from the Economic Studies Academy of Bucharest.

Mr Geoană has served as a diplomat and a politician, and in 2009 was his party's candidate to be President of Romania. From 1991 – 1995 he was the Director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania. From 1993 to 1995 he was Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From 1996 – 2000 he was the Romanian Ambassador to the United States. From 2000 – 2004 he was the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania. IN 2001 he was the President in Office of OSCE. From 2004 – 2016 he served as a Senator. From 2004 – 2008 he was the Chair of the Senate Foreign Policy Committee. From 2005 to 2010 he was the President of the Social Democratic Party. From 2008 – 2011 he was the President of the Romanian Senate. From 2012 – 14 he was the High Representative of the Romanian Government for Strategic Economic Projects and Public Diplomacy. From 2012 – 2014 he was the Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Romania's accession to the Schengen Area.

Mr Geoană is a strong advocate of transatlantic integration and has held a number of international positions, including OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in 2001 and personal representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Georgia in 2005. He is President and founder of the Aspen Institute Romania and has published extensively on domestic and international affairs.

In 2000, he was made a Commander of the National Order, The Star of Romania. He has also been awarded the French Legion d'Honneur and the Italian Stella della Solidarieta.

Mr Geoană is married to Mihaela, an architect by training and former President of the Romanian Red Cross. They have two children, Ana Maria and Alexandru.

He is fluent in English, French, Spanish and Italian.

Ambassador Baiba Braže, Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy, NATO

Ambassador Baiba Braže was appointed Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy in May 2020. The Public Diplomacy Division (PDD) works to raise the Alliance's profile with audiences world-wide and to build support for Alliance operations and policies.

Ambassador Braže advises the Secretary General on issues within her remit, oversees the coordination of all Strategic Communications activities across all NATO civilian and military bodies and commands, and also directs all public diplomacy activities (except press and media, which are directed by the NATO Spokesperson on behalf of the Secretary General).

ASG PDD directs the Public Diplomacy Division (PDD), which plays a key role in conveying the Alliance's strategic and political messages to opinion formers and to the public in general.

Baiba Braže was born in Riga, Latvia. She holds two Masters Degrees from the University of Latvia: one in Law (1990) and another in Communication Science (2002).

Ambassador Braže served most recently as Latvia's Ambassador to the United Kingdom (August 2016-early May 2020), prior to which she was Director General Security Policy and International Organizations (June 2011-January 2016) and Director General of the Communications Directorate (February 2016-July 2016) at the Latvian Foreign Ministry in Riga.

Ambassador Braže previously served as Latvia's Ambassador to the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (July 2003-August 2008), prior to which she was Director of the Europe Department, served as Foreign Policy and National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister in Riga. She has held numerous other posts since joining the Foreign Ministry in August 1993, both at home (Legal Department, International Organizations Department) and abroad (United Nations, New York).

In addition to Latvian, Ambassador Braže is fluent in English and Russian, and speaks Dutch proficiently.

General Philippe Lavigne, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, Allied Command Transformation, NATO
The nomination of General Philippe Lavigne to the post of Supreme Allied Commander Transformation was approved by the North Atlantic Council on 28 May 2021.

General Lavigne has accumulated a particularly diverse and robust operational experience. Having joined the French Air Force Academy in 1985, he qualified as a pilot in 1989, flew the Mirage 2000 during operations in the former Yugoslavia and in Iraq before assuming command of the 1/5 Fighter Squadron "Vendée" in 2001. He subsequently served within the Paris-based Joint Strategic Planning and Command Operations Centre (CPCO) where he contributed to the planning of several peacekeeping and humanitarian operations from 2003 to 2005.

After serving in the Planning Office of the French Air Force Staff, where he was tasked with issues related to space and European cooperation in the field of simulation, he was selected to attend the Centre for Higher Military Studies (CHEM) in 2008 and the "Defence Policy" course at the Institute of Advanced Studies in National Defence (IHEDN). He was appointed Deputy Director at the General Secretariat for Defence and National Security in Paris in 2009, where he served for three years dealing with a number of sensitive and complex issues in an interagency setting with multinational entities.

He served twice in high-level joint positions, first as the Information Director within the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces between 2012 and 2014 and then as Director of the French Chief of Defence's front office from 2016 to 2018. Between those two postings, he commanded the Kabul International Airport with its 5000 staff and 57 nationalities and supervised the transfer of military responsibility for the airport to the Afghan civilian authorities.

On 31 August 2018, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the French Air Force, renamed as the French Air and Space Force in 2020, whilst under his command.

General Lavigne was made a Commandeur in both the Légion d'honneur and the ordre national du Mérite, and awarded the Croix de la Valeur Militaire. He has accumulated over 2800 flight hours and flown 46 combat missions on the Mirage 2000. He is married to Isabella and they have three children. He continues to play rugby, a long-held passion, whose cherished values have inspired his motto: "Win as a Team".

Admiral Rob Bauer, Chair Military Committee, NATO
Admiral Rob Bauer (Royal Netherlands Navy) is the 33rd Chair of the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). As the Military Adviser to the Secretary General and the North Atlantic Council, Admiral Bauer is NATO's most senior military officer.

He is the conduit through which advice from NATO's 30 Chiefs of Defence is presented to the political decision-making bodies; and guidance and directives are issued to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation and the Director General of the International Military Staff.

'Expect the unexpected' is for Admiral Bauer a personal mantra, as well as a sacred principle for every military force. In this time of political power shifts and increasingly complex security threats, he firmly believes that the strength of the North Atlantic Alliance lies in its cohesion. Admiral Bauer strives to be a catalyst between NATO's military leaders, and unifying north, south, east and west, large and small.

Rob Bauer (Amsterdam, 1962) was commissioned as an officer in the Royal Netherlands Navy in 1984.

From 2005 until 2007, Bauer commanded the Air Defence and Command Frigate HNLMS De Ruyter. His command included a deployment in the Mediterranean with the Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 as part of the NATO Response Force (Operation Active Endeavour). Late 2006, Bauer was deployed to Bahrain as Deputy Commander of Task Force 150 (Operation Enduring Freedom). In 2010 and 2011, he held command of the Landing Platform Dock HNLMS Johan de Witt.

As Director of Plans (2012-2015), Bauer was responsible for directing strategies relating to the future of Defence, operational policy and innovation, and the organization and structure of the armed forces as a whole, including the creation of the new Defence Cyber Command. As Vice Chief of Defence (2015-2017), Bauer oversaw the move towards more flexible and sustainable cooperation with private companies and organisations.

As Chief of Defence (2017-2021), he commanded the Netherlands Armed Forces during the first four years of substantial investments after a decades-long period of cutbacks. Transforming the organization required determination, strategic foresight and the ability to rebuild trust in and amongst the Armed Forces.

Rob is married to Maaike. They have three children.

John Sherman, Chief Information Officer, Department of Defence
Mr. John Sherman was sworn in as the DoD Chief Information Officer on December 17, 2021. In this role he is the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense for Information Management / Information Technology (IT) and Information Assurance, as well as non-intelligence space systems; critical satellite communications, navigation, and timing programs; spectrum; and telecommunications matters. Before joining DoD, Mr. Sherman served as the Intelligence Community (IC) CIO.

Driving IT modernization across 17 agencies, he led major advancements to the IC's cloud computing, cybersecurity, and interoperability capabilities. Over his 30 year career, Mr. Sherman held leadership positions throughout the IC and uniformed service advancing technology and playing a key role in national security.

Ludwig Decamps, General Manager, NCI Agency
Ludwig Decamps of Belgium was selected by the Nations to serve as General Manager of the NATO Communications and Information Agency, effective 1 July 2021. Ludwig Decamps joined the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency) as Director Demand Management on 1 March 2017, shortly after he became full-time Chief Operating Officer (COO) on 15 February 2018. As COO, he was responsible for aligning demand and supply to create customer value by leading business planning, prioritizing incoming requests, leading life-cycle business development, and overseeing resource allocation to projects and services.

As part of the NCI Agency's Strategic Plan, he was is in charge of strengthening project, programme and portfolio management and service delivery in support of Allied and Partner Nations, NATO Headquarters, and NATO Commands.

Prior to his position as Director Demand Management, Ludwig Decamps served as Director for Armaments and Aerospace Capabilities (2012-2017) and Director for Strategy (2011-2012) in the Defence Investment Division at NATO Headquarters. In that capacity, he led a Joint Civil Military Team in support of the Secretary General's Smart Defence initiative, introduced a Total System Approach to military aviation and promoted multinational armaments cooperation, in particular NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD) and Joint Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR) programmes. As NATO's JISR Capability Area Manager, he played a key role in the delivery of an Initial Operating Capability for NATO JISR and the launch of the Alliance Future Surveillance and Control project aimed at defining a successor to AWACS.

Ludwig Decamps held the position of Head, Armaments Programme Support Section at NATO Headquarters from 2008 to 2011. His portfolio included Ballistic Missile Defence, the Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) programme, and NATO's Defence Against Terrorism programme.

From 2004 to 2008, Ludwig Decamps was assigned as a policy adviser to the Private Office of the NATO Secretary General, where he mainly focused on issues related to defence transformation, capability development, defence planning and the reform of NATO Headquarters. He was Staff Officer at the Belgian Representation to the NATO Military Committee from 2001 to 2004 dealing mainly with NATO outreach programmes, NATO-EU relations and the NATO Security Investment Programme.

From 1997 to 2001, he was Executive Assistant to the Director-General of the Belgian Military Intelligence and Security Service. Prior to this engagement, he held various command and staff positions in armoured units of the Belgian armed forces in Germany (1983-1991) and on the Army Staff (1992-1996).

Ludwig Decamps is a graduate of the Royal Military Academy in Brussels (1978-1982). He also attended the senior course at the Royal Defence College, Brussels (1996-1997) and followed the Advanced Security and Defence Studies co-organized by the Belgian Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2007). He holds a Master's degree in International Politics (2001-2002) from the Université Libre de Bruxelles.

In 2017, Ludwig Decamps was awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal for his contribution to NATO's capability development agenda.

He is married with two adult children.

Lieutenant General Michael Vetter, Director General Cyber/It and Chief Information Officer at the German Ministry of Defence
Lieutenant General Michael Vetter is the Director General Cyber/IT and Chief Information Officer at the German Ministry of Defence in Berlin.

Lieutenant General Vetter joined the Luftwaffe as an officer cadet in 1982 and served as a Logistics Officer and Squadron Commander in a Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.

At staff he served in various functions such as Assistant Chief of Staff Support in the Luftwaffe Air Transport Command and Branch Chief in the Luftwaffe Support Command. At MoD level he held the positions as Assistant Branch Chief in the Air Staff, as Branch Chief Logistics Plans and Policy at the Joint Staff and as Assistant Chief of Staff for Support at the Joint Staff.

From 2003 until 2005 he was the Military Assistant to the Chief of the Air Staff.

Lieutenant General Vetter commanded Luftwaffe Maintenance Regiment 2 in Diepholz from 2005 until 2007 and served as the Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff Bundeswehr Logistics Centre in 2009. From May 2013 until December 2013 he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Support in ISAF Regional Command North, Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan.

From 2012 until 2017 he commanded the Bundeswehr Logistics Centre located in Wilhelmshaven.

In 2017 he became the first Vice Chief Bundeswehr Cyber and Information Domain Service (CIDS) and the Chief of Staff CIDS Headquarters.

Lieutenant General Vetter holds a Master's Degree in Economics from the Bundeswehr University Munich. He attended the German General Staff Officers Course at the Federal Armed Forces Command and General Staff Academy in Hamburg. He is a member of the Royal College of Defence Studies in London and a graduate from the Defence Resources Management Institute/ United States Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey/ California.

Lieutenant General Vetter is married to Yasmin. They have six children. His hobbies include cinema, reading and sports.

Jiří Šedivý, Chief Executive, European Defence Agency
Mr Šedivý has been Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency since May 2020 bringing with him an extensive experience in the defence domain. From 2006 – 2007 he was the Defence Minister of the Czech Republic (2006-2007). From 2010 – 2012 he was the Deputy Defence Minister. From 2007 to 2010 he was the NATO Assistant Secretary General for Defence Policy and Planning. From 2012 to 20119 he was the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to NATO. In 2007 he was the Deputy Minister for European Affairs of the Czech Republic. From 2019 to 2020 he was the Special representative for resilience and new threats, Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 2004 – 2006 he was a Professor of Security Studies at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies.

From 1999 – 20054 Mr Šedivý was Director of the Institute of International Relations (Prague); Assistant Professor of International Relations at Charles University (Prague); and Professor of European Security at New York University (Prague).

As an expert, he played an important role in the Czech Republic's accession to NATO. It was during this period that he also served as external adviser to President Václav Havel.

He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Charles University Prague; an M.A. in War Studies from King's College London and a Public Exam (B.A. level), Political Science from Charles University Prague.

David van Wheel, Assistant Secretary General for Emerging Security Challenges, NATO
The Emerging Security Challenges Division, which he directs and manages, aims to provide a coordinated approach by the Alliance to all new and emerging challenges. These include cyber and hybrid threats, terrorism, as well as emerging and disruptive technologies (such as AI and quantum computing), energy security challenges, including those posed by environmental changes, and data policy. The division also runs the Science for Peace and Security Programme, which promotes dialogue and practical cooperation between NATO and partner nations through scientific research, technological innovation and knowledge exchange.

The Division aims to provide innovative policy solutions for countering and defending the Alliance and Allies against these challenges and to maintain the innovative and technological advantage of the Alliance in conjunction with partners, industry and other multilateral organisations.

Prior to joining NATO, David van Weel was the Foreign Policy and Defense Advisor for the Prime Minister of The Netherlands (2016-2020). This position followed a long career in The Netherlands Ministry of Defence, where he ended as Director for International Affairs and Operations/ Policy Director (2014-2016) after serving as the Chief of Cabinet for the Minister of Defence and the Permanent Secretary (2012-2014) and as the senior policy officer for amongst others operations in Afghanistan and Libya, NATO, nuclear policy and disarmament, special operations and the preparation of the Defence Budget.

David started his career in the Royal Netherlands Navy, where, upon completion of the Naval Academy (1994-1999), he served on different frigates, served in the British Royal Navy as an exchange officer, worked as a Staff Officer for Middle and Eastern European countries in the Defence Staff and ended as a Primary Warfare officer and Navigation Officer.

David is married to Iris and has two daughters, Felice and Alix.

Luis Astorga, Chair, Agency Supervisory Board, NCI Organisation
The ASB reports directly to the North Atlantic Council and is responsible for the organisational governance of the NCI Agency, aiming to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency of the Agency by providing guidance and strategic direction and monitoring its performance.

Dr Astorga has served as a naval officer in the Spanish Navy for the last thirty three years, carrying out different responsibilities in Communication and Information Services. He started in the CIS world as project manager being a junior officer, to finally become, as a senior one, the CO of the Spanish Navy CIS Support, commanding a structure of 700 hundred people. Other relevant CIS assignments during his career were being Computer Science professor at the Spanish Naval Academy and Head of its CSU (CIS support unit) for three years. In the field of CIS planning, Dr Astorga was Head of Information System Section in the Spanish Navy Staff, where he was in charge of Information Systems long term planning for the whole Spanish Navy. He also served as the Spanish NATEX in the NCIA and the Co-chairman of the Working Group of National Technical Experts. Alongside his main duties he has had various other responsibilities (including commanding two warships) and a broad international experience, living and working in four different foreign countries: Morocco, the United States, France and currently Belgium.

After graduating from the Naval Academy he continued his education, throughout his career, with a very broad scope: Joint War College, a PhD in International Politics and a Master Degree in Business Administration. This allowed him to acquire skills which have helped to develop strategic thinking and to successfully manage people and resources. Among other positions, Dr Astorga served as the Director of Strategy and Policy Department in the Spanish Joint War College (2018-2019), Commanding officer of the Spanish Navy CIS Support Structure (2016-2017), Plans and Policy Head of the French maritime HRF (2013-2015), Naval Attaché in Morocco (2010-2013), Spanish Navy Staff, CIS Division, Information Systems (2008-2010), Commanding Officer of patrol frigate "Vencedora" (2005-2007), Tactical Instructor for the Royal Moroccan Navy (2002-2005), Professor at the Spanish Navy Naval Academy (1999-2002).

Dr Astorga holds a PhD in International Security as well as Master Degrees in International Security and Defense, Business Administration, System Analysis. He additionally graduated from the Spanish Naval Academy, Spanish Command and Staff College and US Naval War College. Next to being a native speaker in Spanish he is fluent in English and French and has good command of standard Arabic.

Major General Hans Folmer, Chief of Staff, NCI Agency
Major General (MGEN) Hans Folmer was appointed Chief of Staff of the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency) as of 3 March 2022. In his role, MGEN Folmer acts as the NCI Agency's senior military officer and provides oversight of day-to-day activities, while ensuring the efficient and effective operation of the Agency's functional support elements.
From summer 2018 until 2021, he served in NATO as Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of the NATO CIS Group (NCISG) in Mons, Belgium. In this period, he was also appointed acting SHAPE Deputy Chief of Staff Cyberspace for an extended length of time.

In June 2015, he became the first Commander of the Netherlands Defence Cyber Command, having previously commanded the Cyber Task Force from 2011 to 2015. During that time, MGEN Folmer was responsible for the implementation of the cyber programme for the Armed Forces of the Netherlands.

From 2010 to 2011, MGEN Folmer was Chief Joint C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) requirements at the Dutch Ministry of Defence, Directorate for Operational Policy, Requirements and Planning. Prior to this role, he was the Chief of the European Union's (EU's) Operations Centre and Watch keeping Capability in Brussels, Belgium. MGEN Folmer also chaired the Brussels Joint Coordination Team for the EU Supporting Action for African Union's mission to Sudan (AMIS). From October 2006 until May 2007, he was the Military Assistant to the Commander, NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Regional Command (South) in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

MGEN Folmer was the Commanding Officer of the bi-national CIS Battalion of the 1 (German/Netherlands) Corps from June 2004 until May 2007. With his battalion, he participated in

NATO Response Force and won the General Fellgiebel prize for best German signal battalion. As liaison officer at Germany's Bundeswehr Operations Command, from 2002 until 2004, he was involved in the planning of operations in Afghanistan, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Bosnia and the Persian Gulf.

He has held previous positions such as Assistant Chief of Staff G4 of the Netherlands Mechanized Division and Senior Policy Advisor at the Army Directorate of Materiel, as well as Senior Project Manager on IT systems, communications, IT Architecture and Command and Control Systems.

MGEN Folmer joined the Royal Military Academy in 1982. In 1986, he was commissioned as an artillery officer. He holds a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the Delft University of Technology and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

Rear Admiral Nicholas J. Wheeler, Director NATO Headquarters Consultation, Command and Control Staff

RAdm Nick Wheeler was born on the Channel Island of Jersey in 1970. He was educated on the island and in Dorset UK before joining the Royal Navy in 1991.

Trained as a Warfare Officer, he specialised as a Submariner in 1996. Serving predominantly in SSNs he also completed a number of strategic patrols in SSBNs, gaining a wide range of operational experience at sea and ashore. He completed a tour as a J5 planner in a Joint Operational HQ in Basra, Iraq in 2007, before completing staff training at the UK Joint Command and Staff College. In 2010 he took command of HMS TORBAY, the submarine he had qualified in 14 years earlier, and delivered a varied and challenging operational programme. A further command tour followed in HMS TURBULENT which included her final operational patrol before she was decommissioned late in 2012.

Staff roles followed in Portsmouth at Navy Command, managing a substantial budget, and then on the First Sea Lord's staff in London, dealing with international relations with key partner navies in NATO and the Five Eyes. On promotion to Captain in 2016 he took up the post of DCOM NATO Submarine Command and ACOS SM to MARCOM, delivering day to day NATO Submarine operations and managing UK Maritime contributions to the Alliance. Working closely with CMRE and national authorities, he delivered a series of important NATO exercises, expanding the Alliance's ASW capability in the face of growing Russian submarine activity in NATO's AOR. He then completed an assignment to UK Strategic Command where he was responsible for the setting of policy and the delivery of new capability for the joint aspects of C4ISR. He was promoted to Commodore in 2019 and was seconded to different government department where he was responsible for intelligence support to military operations.

On promotion to Rear Admiral in July 2022, he became the Director of the NATO HQ Consultation, Command and Control Staff.

RAdm Wheeler lives near Tervuren, east of Brussels, with his wife and 1 of 5 children. He remains a thoroughly obsessed, if often frustrated, windsurfer and an overly ambitious mountain biker, with listening to vinyl and dog walking taking up what little remains of his leisure time.

Manfred Boudreaux-Dehmer, Chief Information Officer, NATO

Manfred Boudreaux-Dehmer is the inaugural Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). He commenced his position at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium on September 1, 2021. His principal responsibility is to realize the Allies' vision for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in support of NATO's purpose to guarantee the freedom and security of its 30 member nations. Under the mandate of the North Atlantic Council, and under the delegated authority of the NATO Secretary General, he is tasked with facilitating ICT coherence across NATO's 41 civil and military bodies with 25,000 users. He also performs the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) function as the single point of authority for all cybersecurity issues. From 2010 until 2021, Mr. Boudreaux-Dehmer directed all global computing and information technology systems for Sierra Wireless in Vancouver, Canada. The company provides Internet of Things (IoT) solutions that empower businesses to thrive in the interconnected global economy. Prior to assuming this role, he spent eight years at Hewlett-Packard (HP) IT in Business Intelligence and Strategy & Planning leadership roles. From 1993 to 2002, Mr. Boudreaux-Dehmer oversaw Supply Chain systems at Compaq's Latin America Division in Houston, Texas and São Paulo, Brazil. Prior to

that, he supported material planning processes at Compaq's European Headquarters in Munich, Germany and Gorinchem, The Netherlands.

Mr. Boudreaux-Dehmer holds a Global Executive MBA from Duke University in North Carolina and a Master of Science (M.Sc.) degree in Business Management Research from the University of Reading, UK. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree at the University of Reading. The thesis for this degree examines human-technology interactions within the context of IoT solutions.

Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director General of Digital Europe
Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl is Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE, the leading digital technology industry association representing over 36,000 digital companies in Europe. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Gaia-X and of the European Commission's Industrial Forum. She is also a member of the Stakeholder Cybersecurity Certification Group of ENISA (the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity) and of NATO's high-level Advisory Group for Emerging and Disruptive Technologies, and a member of the supervisory board of EIT Digital.

Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl has more than 25 years of experience in the ICT industry. She previously held international positions at IBM and Oracle as well as with SMEs, building businesses across Europe and China and founding the global SAP implementation company and cloud provider GlobeIT. She has deep insights into the digitalisation of business and society and the data-driven economy, and is regularly invited to deliver keynote speeches on these issues at high-level events across the world.

Brigadier General Chad Raduege, Director of the Command, Control, Communications, and Computers/Cyber Directorate, and Chief Information Officer, Headquarters U.S. European Command
Brigadier General Chad D. Raduege is the Director of the Command, Control, Communications, and Computers/Cyber Directorate, and Chief Information Officer, Headquarters U.S. European Command, Patch Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany. In this capacity, he leads a joint staff responsible for operating five unique networks to enable global operations. In addition, he ensures communications readiness across the European theatre – with NATO, the world's premier military alliance, and 51 countries – through policy and security cooperation efforts.

Brigadier General Peter Wass, Assistant Chief of Staff Resources Management, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe
Knight of the 1st degree of the Order of the Dannebrog; Air Force Long Service Medal; Defence Medal; Defence Medal for International Service; Defence Medal for International Service 1948-2009; The Home Guard's Order of Merit; ECMM Medal; UNMIK Medal; NATO ISAF Medal; The Nordic Blue Berets Medal of Honour;

Currently the SHAPE Strategic Enablement, Assistant Chief of Staff, Resources Management. From 2018 – 2020 Danish Ministry of Defence Personnel Agency, Deputy Director. From 2016 – 2018 Danish Ministry of Defence Personnel Agency, Chief of the Client Services Division. From 2014 – 2016 Danish Ministry of Defence, Chief of Strategic HR. In 2013 Danish Defence Command, Chief of Personnel Strategies Division. From 2011 – 2013 Combat Support Wing, Commanding Officer. From 2007 – 2010 Air Force Academy, Commandant. In 2007 Tactical Air Command, Acting chief of HR Branch. From 2003 – 2006 Danish Ministry of Defence, Head of Department, Personnel. From 2001 – 2003 Danish Defence Command, Deputy, Personnel Section, Air Force, Personnel Staff. From 1998 – 2001 Danish Ministry of Defence, Deputy head of Department, Personnel. From 1994 – 1997 HQ AFNORTHWEST, Fiscal Officer, Budget & Finance Division. From 1991 – 1994 Danish Defence Command, Staff Officer, Personnel Section, Air Force, Personnel Staff. In 1990 Missile Air Defence Group, Staff Officer. From 1983 – 1988 Close Air Defence, Airbase Værløse, Conscript, sergeant and cadet.

From 2010-2011 Senior Course, NATO Defence College, Rome. From 1997 – 1998 Higher Command and Staff Course, Royal Danish Defence College. From 1990 – 1991 Advanced Command and Staff Course, Royal Danish Defence College. From 1985 – 1988 Basic Officers Education, Air Force Academy.

In 2013 Campaign Projects Lead Planner, CJ5, ISAF HQ, Afghanistan. From 2006 – 2007 Military Liaison Officer, UNMIK, Kosovo. In1992 EC Observer, ECMM, Former Yugoslavia.

Air Commodore Henk Doorten Strategic Adviser on Digitisation of the Chief of Defence, Deputy CIO, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands

In 1995 he was one of the last conscripts to be sent to the former Yugoslavia. He continued his military career with training as a fighter pilot. With the 315 Squadron he took part in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Kyrgyzstan. In 2004 he was transferred to Volkel where he held various operational positions within the 311 and 313 Squadron. He was deployed to Afghanistan several times in flying duties and in 2005 as an Air Liaison Officer at ISAF Headquarters in Kabul.

In 2011, a policy position at the Plans Directorate in The Hague followed. Among other things, he played a role in the purchase of the first 37 F-35s.

In 2014, Doorten was the first Dutch person to follow the Higher Defense Training at the Australian Command and Staff College in Canberra.

After his promotion to lieutenant colonel (2015), Doorten became section head within the Fighter Operations Division of the Air Force Staff. From this position he was sent to Jordan as detachment commander of a Dutch F-16 Detachment and a Belgian Force Protection unit.

From mid-2016, Doorten worked for several years at the F-35 Joint Program Office in Washington DC. Thereafter he was the commander of Leeuwarden Air Base and responsible for the F-35 Initial Operational Capability since 2019. The 1st of June 2022 he started as Strategic Advisor Military Digitization and Deputy Chief Information Officer in the Directorate-General within The Department of Defense of the Netherlands.

Beatrice Friebel, Director IT Modernization – Joint IT Command NED MoD

B.J.A.M. (Beatrice) Friebel, Director IT Modernization – Joint IT Command NED MoD

Beatrice Friebel (Nijmegen, 1965) joined the Joint IT Command as Director IT Modernization on 19 April 2021. In her role as Director IT Modernization she is responsible for the program "Groundbreaking IT" (GrIT). This program will realize a new, futureproof IT-infrastructure. In order to execute this program, a commercial consortium was contracted in 2020. The design, development and operationalization of the IT-building blocks which make up the IT-infrastructure will be done by consortium and Ministry of Defense personnel working together in mixed teams.

Beatrice served as adjunct-director of the Social Insurance Bank (Sociale Verzekeringsbank, SVB) before being appointed as Director IT modernization. Working for the first time in the (semi) public domain, Beatrice got impressed by its impact on the day-to-day life of millions of people. An experience that highly motivated Beatrice to choose for her current position at the Joint IT Command. Earlier roles were all characterized by bridging the gap between business and IT. This supports Beatrice in understanding the complexity of the GrIT program from user as well as from an IT perspective.

Beatrice graduated in communication, marketing, business administration and change management. Beatrice is married and has a stepson.

Jennifer Upton, Chief of Acquisition, NCI Agency

Antonio Calderon, Chief Technology Officer, NCI Agency

Frederic Cloutier, Chief Technology Officer, NCI Agency

Sandra Oosterveer, Chief People Officer, NCI Agency

Sandra Oosterveer is a People leader within NCI Agency and a member of the Executive Management Board since August 2021. She works with the Agency's management team to help them address their critical challenges and enable step-change transformation across the Agency. While she covers a broad range of issues, her particular areas of focus are strategic thinking, leadership development and building a peak performing culture.

As a leading team player with strong business acumen, she brings innovative, intuitive and inclusive approaches in creating successful teams to improve productivity in an organisational culture that is

foremost healthy. She strives to create an environment of trust and safety for staff. She is optimistic, full of energy and is able to establish consensus among stakeholders quickly. With her direct approach upholding respect and common sense, she is result oriented, takes an independent role and can quickly analyse and understand underlying issues. Prior to joining the Agency, with her 20+ years of international work experience she has been and is a respected transformational corporate strategy professional. She has provided strategic planning, leadership, and oversight of organizational-wide people activities in a broad range of international profit and not for profit organizations.

She has done interim HR (change) management assignments, in which she was responsible for creating and implementing integrated People Strategies globally, focused on enhancing the effectiveness and creating an employer of choice environment, in continuously changing environments, amongst other, led big global projects, transformations, performed training and coaching at board level. Being brought up in the Netherlands, Sandra graduated from University in Leiden with a Master degree in Civil law and Criminology. She resides in Voorburg, the Netherlands, with her dog, a 3 year old rescue from Spain. Sandra enjoys writing, hiking, kickboxing and not to forget training her dog.

Angelo Talarico, Chief Operating Officer, NCI Agency
Mr. Angelo Talarico is the Chief of the Service Management and Control (SMC) Branch of the NCI Agency, based in Mons (SHAPE compound). Since June 2022, he is acting Chief Operating Officer (COO), accountable for aligning demand and supply to create customer value, by leading business planning, prioritizing incoming requests, leading through-life cycle business development, overseeing resource allocation to projects and services. In addition, as COO, he is directing data-driven performance improvements, keeping the Agency project-portfolio-programme framework updated and ensuring compliance, supporting full life-cycle support for Service Delivery and continual improvement, promoting a collaborative environment for effective and efficient business operations.

Since 2006, Mr. Talarico has had several different roles in NATO. He joined the NC3 Agency in 2006, as Italian Navy Commander. His first role was as System Manager, then Project Manager until 2012 when he joined the NCI Agency. As a NATO Civilian, since 2010, he has delivered multiple projects, including: Document Handling System (DHS), Tasker Tracker TTE and Tasker Tracker Plus (TT+), NATO Information Portal (NIP), and multiple training rooms across the NATO Command Structure. As Programme Manager, he supported the 1st German Netherlands Corps (1st GNC) to gain the very first NATO Response Forces (NRF) certification. In 2016, he became Head of the Project Management Section in the Core Enterprise Services (CES) Service Line, and acting Service Area Owner for Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Services in 2017. Following this, he became the acting CES Service Line Chief until 2018, at which point he became Branch Chief of Service Management and Control.

Until 2010, Mr. Talarico was an officer of the Italian Navy, embarking on the Aircraft Carrier "Giuseppe Garibaldi" as Deputy Weapon Engineering Officer (d-WEO) (1995-1998), and on the Frigate "Aliseo" as WEO (1998-2001). When at sea, he supported different Operations, including: Allied Forces in Kosovo, DINAK, NATO STANAVFORMED NRF in 2001, Enduring Freedom, and Active Endeavour. When ashore, he directed the Education Department of ICT Specialists at the Petty Officer School in Taranto. As a NATO Civilian, Mr. Talarico has supported both Operations International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) and Resolute Support with different deployments in Afghanistan.

Mr Talarico is a graduate from the science high school in Catanzaro (ITA), has a Master degree cum laude in Telecommunication Engineering (radar specialist) at the University of Pisa (1991-1998), has completed 4 years at the Naval Academy in Livorno (1991-1995), and the Navy Staff Officer Course at Naval School in Venice (2006). When in Taranto, he was an expert at the Taranto Court and Chartered Engineer.

Mr Talarico is married to Lucia and has one daughter Carola They live in Brussels with their dog, Peppo. In his spare time, Mr Talarico cultivates three passions: hiking natural landscapes, the sea and astrophotography.

Hasit Thankey, Head, Enablement and Resilience Defence Policy and Planning Division NATO
Hasit Thankey leads the NATO International Staff team responsible for policy and planning support for national resilience through civil preparedness and for the logistics enabling capabilities and services required to support Alliance military forces.

Before joining the International Staff, Mr. Thankey spent more than fifteen years in the Policy Group of Canada's Department of National Defence. He has previously served as Defence Counsellor at Canada's Joint Delegation to NATO and as Political Advisor at the Canadian command element supporting the NATO enhanced Forward Presence battlegroup in Latvia.

Matt Roper, Chief JISR Centre, NCI Agency
A retired senior Royal Air Force officer, Mr Roper has over 30 years' experience across an extensive range of joint national and NATO operational roles, directly responsible for C2 and ISR missions.

He is currently Chief of the Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR) Centre at the NATO Communications & Information Agency (NCIA) responsible for directing a wide range of key projects and programmes supporting NATO and the nations in delivering coherent ISR for the Alliance. Mr Roper's team provide comprehensive services across the full lifecycle of many critical JISR systems.

He was formerly the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) representative for strategic air operations – specifically NATO's C4ISR capabilities and their employment.

In particular, Mr Roper was the Allied Command Operations' representative for the NATO AWACS Force and the NATO AGS Programmes.

Mr Roper has very broad operational, command and staff experiences having served in many key UK, international and NATO assignments. With over 5,000 flying hours in the UK, USAF and NATO AWACS, Mr Roper flew in operational missions in the Balkans, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

He has commanded an operational flying squadron, a flying training wing and also completed an exchange tour, flying as an instructor with the USAF.

Mr Roper has a first class honours degree in Biomechanics, a MA in International Defence Policy and a MBA from London University. He is a distinguished graduate of both the UK's Joint Command & Staff College and the NATO Defence College.

Mr Roper is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and a Member of both the Royal Aeronautical Society and the Institute of Directors.

Captain Peter Chapman, Head Crisis Management and Business Continuity, NCI Agency

Virginie Viscardy, Head Strategy and Strategic Communication, NCI Agency
Ms. Viscardy works for the NATO Communications & Information Agency in Norfolk Virginia, USA, where she is responsible for strengthening relations and building partnerships with known and new stakeholders in the North American regions, including Allied Command Transformation. Her focus is on making the NATO Communications & Information Agency a partner of choice across the Atlantic.

She is also the Head of Strategy and Strategic Communications and Deputy Head of Executive Management. She leads a team responsible for developing key stakeholder engagement strategies and strategic communication activities in line with the NCI Agency five-year Strategic Plan.

Virginie Viscardy has nearly 20 years of NATO experience between assignments in Brussels, Norfolk and Kabul, Afghanistan.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (University of Brussels, Belgium), a Masters of Arts in International and Strategic Studies (University Jean Monet, Paris, France), a Certificate of Business Management from the University of William & Mary and is a graduate of the NATO Executive Development Programme.

Agata Szydelko, Deputy Chief of Acquisition, NCI Agency
Ms Agata Szydełko is Deputy Chief of Acquisition in NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA), in charge of Acquisition Life Cycle, Industry Relations, and Acquisition Office Business

Operations. She leads Change Management for NCIA e-Procurement implementation and establishment of the Agency cooperation Framework with Not-For-Profit Organizations. Previously NCIA Principal Account Manager, led establishment of five multinational projects and Communications and Information Partnerships with several NATO and Partner nations, and the development of the first online NCIA Customer Services Catalogue.

Before that, she was NCI Agency Senior Contracting Officer in charge of C4ISR acquisitions in support of ISAF and KFOR, NATO software enterprise agreements, and the Basic Ordering Agreements (BOA) Programme. Prior to joining NATO, she held posts of International Business Director and Sales and Marketing Director in IT industry.

Ms Szydełko is a graduate of Wrocław University of Economics and NATO Executive Development Programme (NEDP), and holds Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Level 7 Award in Strategic Management and Leadership Practice. In 2015, in recognition of her work at NATO, she was presented with a Medal of Merit for National Defence by the Polish Minister of National Defence. Ms Szydełko is married, with four children.

Alexandre Vitry, Deputy Chief of Acquisition, NCI Agency
Mr. Alexandre Vitry is Deputy Chief of Acquisition at NATO Communication and Information Agency (NCIA) in charge of Procurement and Acquisition Policy.
Alexandre Vitry started his professional career as Commodity Manager at GE in Belgium and in France, where he was responsible for a large portfolio of service contracts for its Healthcare division, and successively for all industrial contracts across Europe, Middle East and Africa at the corporate level (i.e. Energy, Facility Management, Capital and Expenditure).

In his last assignment before joining the Agency, Vitry worked as Vice President of Procurement Operations at Honeywell, based in Bucharest (Romania). In this role, Vitry was in charge of supervising and standardizing all Honeywell procurement transactions across the world worth 16 billion USD, leading a large team of buyers spread over four global hubs (i.e. Bucharest (RO), Bangalore (IND), Shanghai (CN), and Monterrey (MX)).

Prior to joining Honeywell in 2017, Vitry worked for Whirlpool and Electrolux in the home appliance sector, based in Italy for four years and later in Belgium for five years. Vitry was in charge of indirect procurement for those companies, leading a large portfolio of contracts for services, logistic, capital and expenditures.

Vitry relocated to Brussels to join the Agency in February 2021. He is married – his wife also works for NATO. He speaks French, English, Italian and can understand Romanian and Spanish.

Michael Stoltz, Director, Air and Missile Defence Command and Control, NCI Agency
With an effective date of 1 July 2017, Michael Stoltz has been appointed by the General Manager of the NCI Agency as Director Air and Missile Defence Command and Control (AMDC2). The new Directorate of AMDC2 combines all responsibilities and all staff of the former BMD PO&S and AirC2 PO&S Directorates into a single organisation.

In July 2016, Mr Stoltz officially assumed the post of Acting Director Air Command and Control Programme Office and Services for the NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency. He had been Deputy Director and Programme Implementation Branch Chief since June 2013.

Prior to this appointment, he was the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) / Head of the Technology Planning and Analysis Branch of the NATO Programming Centre (NPC) – as of 1 March 2010. As CTO and Head of the Branch Mr Stoltz represented the technical interests of NPC at relevant NATO panels, agencies, committees and conferences and acted as primary technical point of contact for Industry contacts.

From 2006-2010, Mr Stoltz held the position of Principal Technical Advisor at NPC. In this function he was responsible for the NPC Engineering Group and established the Integrated System Support concept and framework for the new NATO ACCS system.

As Principal Systems Analyst he represented NPC from 2002 to 2006 in the ACCS LOC1 procurement and acted as a technical advisor to NACMA and the ACCS Nations. During this period Mr Stoltz was posted for more than a year as technical liaison to the Thales-Raytheon Systems Industry team in Paris/France.

Prior to this, he worked as Senior Analyst/Programmer at NPC, responsible as Leading System Analyst for the maintenance of various fielded Air C2 Systems (1997 to 2002).

As a former officer of the German Air Force (1985-1997), he gained deep insights into the technical and operational needs of the NATO Air C2 community.

Mr Stoltz earned a Master's degree in Computer Science (1990) from the German University of the Armed Forces in Munich and since that time Mr Stoltz is also actively involved in the systematic analysis of complex systems with computer based tools. (Co-developer of tooling for Sensitivitätsmodell Professor Vester © www.mzsg.ch).

Pierre Pradier, Service Line Chief, Core Enterprise Services, NCI Agency

Moritz Zimmerman, Deputy Chief Of Staff Transition Team NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA)
Moritz Zimmermann is the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Transition Team responsible for the stand up the NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA). He previously worked in in NATO's Innovation Unit within the NATO International Staff's Emerging Security Challenges Division, developing NATO's strategic approach to Emerging and Disruptive Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Biotechnologies. Before that he worked in NATO's Science for Peace and Security Programme, the Operations Division of the NATO International Military Staff and the European Commission.

Ijeoma (IJ) Ike-Meertens, Head of Acquisition Policy, NCI Agency
Ijeoma (IJ) Ike-Meertens is the Head of Acquisition Policy in NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency's Acquisition Office. Mrs. Ike-Meertens has over 17 years of procurement experience first with the United States Government (Department of Defense (DoD), the US Intelligence Community, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the White House during the Obama Administration, and the Smithsonian Institution) and since January 2016 with the NCI Agency. Mrs. Ike-Meertens received her Master of Business Administration (MBA) from North-eastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States.

Gilles Bertrand, Head of Multi-domain Combat Cloud – Connected Intelligence, Airbus Defence and Space
Based on 25 years of Military Career, Gilles Bertrand decided to move to the corporate world becoming a leader in the Defence industry. Gilles served as fighter pilot and commanding officer within National and overseas operations. He ended his path at the Armed Forces Staff as Head of the Military Planning and Budget Office.

In 2019 he joined Airbus Defence and Space in the Connected Intelligence program line. In his current position Gilles leads the Multi-Domain Combat Cloud team.

Ian West, Chief of the NATO Cyber Security Centre, NCI Agency
Ian West is the Chief of the NATO Cyber Security Centre within the NATO Communications and Information Agency – the primary provider of ICT solutions and services for the Alliance.

He leads an integrated team of experts which provides a broad range of whole-lifecycle, cyber security services: from service design, through to implementation and operation of NATO's cyber security defences.

From 2004 until his current appointment in January 2014, Ian was the Director of the NATO Computer Incident Response Capability (NCIRC) Technical Centre. From the initial declaration of the NCIRC's operational status in 2004, he led the development of operational cyber defence within the Alliance, helping to transform the NATO Nations' strategic vision for improved cyber defence into an effective capability.

Mr West's appointments with the NCI Agency follow around 30 years' experience in the military security arena. He was formerly a law enforcement and security officer in the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom and later responsible for INFOSEC policy, inspections and security accreditation for NATO's Allied Command Operations.

In the SC Magazine (Europe)'s awards for 2016, the NCI Agency cyber security team was awarded a Highly Commended in the Best Security Team of the Year category and Ian was honoured with the cyber security industry's highest award of 'Chief Information Security Officer of the Year'.

Sujin Chan-Allen, Legal Adviser, NCI Agency
Ms Chan-Allen assumed the role of Chief Legal Advisor, NATO Communications and Information Agency on June 1, 2021.

The Chief Legal Adviser advises the General Manager and the Agency Supervisory Board on legal and policy matters spanning the entire operational and international arena. Ms Chan-Allen is a member of the Executive Management Board and the Contracts Award Board.

Prior to private law practice, Ms Chan-Allen served as Counsel within the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs (2010 to 2015), at the Trade Law Bureau and Treaty Law Bureau. She conducted litigation before the World Trade Organization (WTO) on behalf of Canada, and advised on the Comprehensive Trade and Economic Agreement between Canada and the European Union. Ms Chan-Allen also served within the Treaty Law Bureau, advising on international law and treaty interpretation with respect to bilateral and multilateral treaties. Before joining the Canadian federal government, Ms Chan-Allen served as Counsel at a regulatory commission in Ontario, Canada (2006 to 2010), where she was responsible for litigation before an administrative tribunal and appellate courts, and advice to the Registrar on dispute settlement, procurement, and contracts.

Prior to joining NATO, she was an international lawyer in progressively senior roles at the global law firms of Shearman & Sterling, and Cleary Gottlieb, based in Brussels (2016 to 2021). She advised American and European multinational companies in the defense, technology, and media sectors. Ms Chan-Allen also held the position of Global Head of Competition at *Dassault Systèmes*, Paris, on secondment, managing legal projects in cross-border mergers, and contract issues in the technology and software domains. She has also spent several years managing international programs at a humanitarian organization part of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, and community not-for-profit programs in Ottawa, Canada (2003 to 2005).
Ms Chan-Allen specializes in international law in both the public and private sectors, with particular experience in multilateral treaties, European Union law, state-to-state disputes, commercial agreements, foreign investment, and global antitrust.

Ms Chan-Allen is a Barrister and Solicitor at the Law Society of Ontario, and a Solicitor with the Law Society of England and Wales. She holds an LL.M specializing in public international law from the University of Toronto, and an LL.M in European Union competition law and economics, from the Brussels School of Competition. She received her LL.B from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Her native language is English, and she is fluent in French. She currently lives in Brussels.

Adam Milward, CEO and Co-Founder of METADATAWORKS
Adam is the CEO and Co-Founder of MetadataWorks. He is ex-IBM Top Talent and led the data architecture team for the ground-breaking 100,000 Genome Project.

Adam has lead and delivered national data and standardisation projects for NHS England, Health Data Research UK, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the UK Office for National Statistics. When he's not making data FAIRer he spends his time surfing in the North Sea.

Dr David Milward, CTO of METADATAWORKS Limited
Dr David Milward, DPhil (Oxon) is CTO of Metadataworks Limited, a dynamic new company specialising in big data management software.

David pioneered a new metamodel design for managing metadata while completing a DPhil in computer science at Oxford University, starting a company around this technology which now provides data management solutions to many organisations such as the UK NHS, the (UK) Office of National Statistics, and the IPCC. He has published a number of papers in the field of model driven engineering and formal systems, and spoken at a number of international conferences.

In the past David has worked for NC3A (a forerunner of NCIA) as a senior scientist, working on software interoperability issues for the agency including several stints in Afghanistan in the period

2007-2009. Since then, he has been focussed on solving interoperability problems faced by researchers in the medical domain. Much of the work involves the development and usage of standards which govern data and metadata, and David also sits on ISO JTS32 standards committee on working group 2, the "metadata and data interchange" working group.

Originally qualifying as an electrical engineer, David has worked in the field of software for the past 30 years, having started working on embedded logic controllers he is currently working on solutions involving the application of semantic web and 'artificial intelligence' technologies to legacy and big data systems. In the past he has worked as a consultant for banks, energy companies and government organisations in addition to starting 4 companies.

Geir Michaelsen, Chief Commercial Officer, WILNOR Governmental Services
Chief commercial Officer in WilNor Governmental Services in Norway since 2018. 25 years in commercial shipping and logistics, worked in Europe, Asia and USHolds an MSc in Logistics.

Educated as infantry officer in the Norwegian Army, currently ranked Major in the Norwegian Home Guard (Reserves).

Geir is responsible for promoting HOBS to allied nations after the introduction at Trident Juncture Exercise 2018 in Norway, and HOBS is part of the solution to be presented.

Sujeesh Krishnan, Chief Executive Officer, KINNAMI
Sujeesh Krishnan is the Chief Executive Officer of Kinnami, and has over 20 years-experience leading strategy, sales, market development, and product management in the high-technology industry. His career spans private sector, where he has brought new technologies to optimize supply chains, and solve critical data management issues to market in the aerospace, defence, oil & gas, and chemicals industries, as well as public sector organizations, including the Carbon Trust and the United Nations. Sujeesh serves on the Board of Directors for CLASP, a leading non-profit focused on improving energy efficiency globally. Sujeesh holds a M.S. in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MBA from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Kai Rehnfelt, CEO and Co-Founder, SECLOUS
Kai is co-founder and CEO of SECLOUS, which is focusing on the simplification of secure and controlled data / information exchange in complex, multi-domain environments.

Since 2014 the SECLOUS team has invented several unique solutions in this area, resulting in the development and release of the Non-Visible-Data (NVD) technology stack and being listed in the Top 10 of Germanys most innovative companies in the Cybersecurity sector.

Kai had the honor to share his knowledge on digitization and data protection on international events like the IGF or the MIT EmTech. He and his team were awarded with several innovation awards like from the German armed forces in 2019 and 2022, or winning this year's NATO Innovation Challenge on Resilience.

Casey Coleman, Senior Vice President of Global Digital Transformation, SALESFORCE
Before joining Salesforce, Casey served as chief information officer at the U.S. General Services Administration. She chaired the federal CIO Council's Cloud First committee that developed the FedRAMP standard for cloud cybersecurity. Casey has been awarded the Computerworld Premier 100 Award and the MIT Sloan CIO Symposium Award for Leadership in Innovation.

She is a four-time winner of the Federal Computer Week Federal 100 Award and the 2022 Eagle Award recipient for lifetime contributions.

Pasi Niinikoski, Director for EU and NATO Affairs & Technology and Industry Foresight for Patria
Pasi Niinikoski is a Doctor of Technology with more than 30 years of experience in the defence industry. He spent first 14 years in the area of energetics. Pasi Niinikoski joined Patria in 2006 to work as a President of a Business Unit focusing to sensors, software, life cycle management and large integration projects. His current role in Patria is to lead EU and NATO affairs in Patria. His second role is to facilitate open innovation in ecosystems. Pasi Niinikoski is the Chairman of the Board of the

recently established Finnish Digital Defence Ecosystem bringing together both civilian and defence companies for critical dual-use solutions.

Pasi Niinikoski is the chairman of the Strategy Group and member of the Board in the Association of Finnish Defence and Aerospace Industries.

Detlef Janezic, Chief Architecting and Engineering, NCI Agency
Following his military career with the German Forces, Detlef Janezic started as a NATO civilian in 1991. During the following 20 years he had been assigned as Senior Analyst/Programmer, Head Operations/Logistics, Chief Mission Dedicated Systems, and Chief Service Management Division including 10 months as Acting Director Operations at SHAPE.

In 2014 he was assigned as Chief Service Engineering & Architecture in the Service Strategy Directorate of NCI Agency.

In 2021 Detlef Janezic has been assigned recently as Chief Architecting & Engineering and as Technical Design Authority within the Office of the CTO responsible for requirements, architecture, design, integration and technical cohesion.

Joseph Graf, Fellow - Mission Systems Communication Systems Architect, Collins Aerospace
Joseph Graf is a Collins Aerospace Fellow. In this role, Joseph, who works in Communications and PNT Systems Engineering organization within the company's Mission Systems business unit, is a recognized expert in collaborating across Communications Engineering to influence the architectures and designs of the next generation of software-defined radios based on open industry standards. he joined the company in 1993 and spent his career designing various radio systems that span the RF spectrum.

Rob van Engelshoven, Principle Administrator, Chief Information Office, NCI Agency
Rob van Engelshoven currently works in the Business Strategy section in the NCI Agency's CIO office where he is responsible for the Agency Digital Transformation Strategy. He has over 25 years of experience in military communications, ranging from tactical through strategic architectures. For the last 10 years, Rob worked on developing business architecture strategies and plans for the Agency. His background is in electrical engineering, receiving his BSs. and MSc from Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands, in 1985 and 1987, respectively. He previously held positions at Alcatel Research in Belgium.

Madeline Zimmerman, Deployment Strategist, Palantir
Madeline Zimmerman is a deployment strategist on Palantir's Federal R&D team, where she specializes in go-to-market and product iteration for emerging Space and AI technologies. Prior to Palantir, she was the Head of Business Development at Synapse, an AI computer vision start-up for X-ray security (acquired by Palantir). She began her career as an investment banker in Evercore's Aerospace & Defense practice. Madeline graduated cum laude from Harvard with a degree in economics.

Stefaan Vermassen, Senior Service Engineer, NCI Agency
Ir. Stefaan Vermassen is a Senior Service Engineer in the Chief Technology Office of the NATO Communications and Information Agency, focusing on architecting, developing and delivering software applications using cloud services and DevSecOps practices.

He is leading on container-based software delivery and the establishment of a trusted container repository, hardened to the NATO's exacting specifications. This involves integration via the NATO Software Factory, which makes use of standardised software engineering processes and common tooling allowing collaboration amongst NATO, Industry, Nations and Academia, enabling security by design for NATO applications.

Stefaan holds a Masters engineering degree in Computer Science from Ghent University. Prior to his role with NCI Agency, he was working as a software engineer at Microsoft, where he was designing and building distributed cloud-based solutions for large enterprises across EMEA with a focus on cloud adoption, strategy, governance and automation.

Snorre Kjesbu, CISCO Senior Vice President & General Manager

Cisco Senior Vice President & General Manager, Webex Devices at Cisco. As Vice President & General Manager of Webex Devices at Cisco. After 20 years of engineering experience with communication and collaboration, holding over 20 patents, and on the board of directors for several IT companies, Snorre is passionate about design, providing authentic user experiences, and connecting world. Snorre is leading a worldwide organization responsible for collaboration devices business.

Alistair Bradbrook, Director Antillion

Alistair has worked in the systems engineering and information technology fields for over 25 years, amassing engineering and leadership experience throughout his career starting out in pharmaceuticals before finding his passion in Defence. Alistair has founded several companies over the years, and currently is the Founder @ Antillion a British defence SME.

Alistair is a graduate of Bristol University and gained a Masters in Geospatial Systems from

Edinburgh University. In 1999, he went to work in the Information Technology field for Quintiles Transnational in

London, UK. There he supported the Phase 1 units in London and Uppsala, Sweden, specifically exploring shared systems, processes, and data structures for real-time data capture during Phase 1 and 2 global trials.

In 2000, he founded his first company, Quadratek, supporting global companies implementing systems management tools and process. This by chance led to Quadratek being asked over a 6-week period to design, build and deploy the UK coalition system for the second Iraq war.

Alistair and his team spent 5 years designing and building deployed systems to support coalition troops in Basra and the south of Iraq. This period led to many trips to Iraq, Afghanistan, Washington and Tampa, where his passion for deployed coalition systems was born.

In 2010, Alistair founded Antillion, his current defence focused SME. Antillion has allowed him to explore all aspects of deployed systems, through the design and manufacture of hardware, to the creation of software and new user experiences for edge operators. User-led design is key to everything Alistair and Antillion does, enhancing the user experience in edge environments, blending hardware and software to create new experiences and outcomes, by using his time in military deployed environments to place the user front and centre of all his design thinking.

Martin Fenn, POLARIS Deputy Programme Manager, Chief Operating Office, NCI Agency

NCIA Agency for c.10 years, and POLARIS since 2018. Retired Colonel (OF5), British Army, following 34 years of service. Served in the Royal Engineers with multiple assignments on Land System projects at UK MOD Defence Equipment & Support and its previous incarnations. Last military assignment was to SHAPE as ACO representative to the NATO Investment Committee and Branch Head, J5 Plans, for Crisis Response Operations Urgent Requirements.

Dr. Helen Greenhough, Senior Consultant, Frazer Nash Consultancy

Dr Helen Greenhough has an academic background in Physics, Business and Data Science and a professional career in both the Government Defence and Private Sectors. She began her career at the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) as an Operational Analyst specialising in C4ISR. From there she went on to the UK Ministry of Defence as a Maritime Regional Security Analyst before moving to NATO (Allied Command Transformation) as a Research and Technology Manager.

Helen took a sabbatical from the workplace to pursue a full-time PhD in Computer Science at Imperial College London's Institute for Security Science and Technology. Her thesis 'Tracking in Information Space' investigated the use of the web to track strategic intention of nations based on observations of industrial bases.

After her PhD she joined the private sector. Helen initially joined a Start-Up that applies Machine Learning to data curation tasks before moving to Frazer-Nash Consultancy as a Senior Consultant. Currently Helen is Frazer-Nash's Technical Lead on a joint government-industry project to apply Artificial Intelligence to ISR. She is also part of the team managing a multi-million-pound research

framework – Serapis Lot 6. This framework allows Dstl to rapidly contract with industry* and academia on a 'best athlete' principal.

* including small and medium sized enterprises and non-traditional defence suppliers

Richard Laing, Principal Project Manager, Joint Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance, NCI Agency
Richard Laing leverages over 20 years of intelligence and Joint ISR experience to support the delivery of NATO JISR projects and programmes, notably as deputy programme manager of the Alliance Persistent Surveillance from Space Initiative, and working closely with the NATO AGS Force on many technical and process challenges. Previously serving within the UK Royal Air Force Intelligence Branch, Rich is committed to ensuring that the NATO operational community is fully supported through the harnessing and exploitation of data, information and analytics.

Kai Martius, Chief Technology Officer, SECUNET
Dr. Kai Martius headed secunet's High Security / Public Sector division from 2007 to 2015. Previously, he had been responsible for various consulting and product development topics since 1999, the year of his doctorate in electrical engineering at the TU Dresden. Since 2015, Dr. Kai Martius has been CTO of secunet's extended management board. He was appointed to the Executive Board in June 2019. He is responsible for technology/development, product management and certification. Dr. Martius is one of SINA's architects and also has extensive experience in the design, implementation and use of security products for public authorities.

Christ Moss, Vice President, Sales/CTO, Poly
Chris and his team are focused on designing solutions to create seamless and equitable hybrid work environments that meet the needs of customers and their employees.

Chris has over 20 years of experience in the CRM and Collaboration industries. Prior to HP, he was Senior Director, Worldwide Collaboration CTO at Cisco. He has held numerous product management and technical leadership positions at Avaya and Accenture where he led large scale architecture implementations in the financial services vertical.

Chris resides near Dallas, Texas with his wife Nicole and four children.

Ufuk Dirim, Deputy Service Line Chief, Command and Control Centre, NCI Agency
Mr. Dirim is the Deputy Chief of NATO Communication & Information Agency's Command and Control Service Centre. He holds a BSc. Degree in Industrial Engineering and a MSc. Degree in Systems Engineering.

During his long career in NATO over the last three decades; first in SHAPE Technical Centre, then in NC3A and now in NCI Agency, Mr. Dirim participated in and led the development of NATO's various Logistics, Operations Planning and other C2 Systems.

In his current role, Mr. Dirim is overseeing the execution of the C2 Service Centre's project and service portfolio and management of its resources.

Sarah Brown, Principal Cyber Security Lead, Chief Information Officer, NCI Agency
Sarah Brown is a dedicated cyber security professional leading cross-functional projects and teams at the NCI Agency within the Chief Information Office. From June 2020-July 2021 she served on the Deputy Secretary General (DSG)'s Cyber Adaptation project as one of two NCI Agency Representatives in the Core Staff Team (CST). In this project, regarded as a "once in a lifetime opportunity to fundamentally enhance NATO's cyber resilience", her work focused particularly on the cyber security governance across NATO and NATO's approach to Asset, Configuration, Patch, and Vulnerability Management (ACPV) as a foundational functional area suppoting cyber resilience.

In parallel with this work, she led development of the NCI Agency's current Cyber Security Strategy, taking into account the work of the Cyber Adaptation effort and the NCI Agency's implementation of matrix management.

From Aug 2016 – May 2020, in her role in the Capability Development Branch of the NATO Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), she was responsible for requirements capture, policy recommendations, and system design for future NATO cyber security capabilities in NATO in fixed and deployed environments. She is passionate about furthering partnerships with industry and peer organisations to ensure work within NCI Agency is informed by leading best practices. This includes organising the technical workshop talks for NATO's flagship cyber security conference, NIAS, in 2019.

Prior to NATO, she worked on the threat intelligence team at Fox-IT delivering strategic, operational, and tactical financial cyber threat information to banks around the world. In this role, she evolved Fox-IT's threat intelligence platform to serve structured threat information and automated feeds to its customers, adhering to the STIX threat standard.

Between positions with Fox-IT and NATO, Sarah worked as an independent researcher and consultant to a number of organizations. Her personal research into behaviours and Patterns of Rogue Hosting Providers in Dutch IP space was delivered at the following events: Enigma 2017, ACSC 2017, NCSC One Conference 2017, Borderless Cyber Europe 2017, Holland Strikes Back 2017, and Hack in the Box 2018.

Sarah worked for nine years, from 2004-2013, in the Cyber Security Division of The MITRE Corporation, where her work focused on cyber defence information sharing, coalition operations, cyber exercises, and technical security standards for numerous US Department of Defense and US Intelligence Community sponsors. She moved to The Netherlands in 2008 to serve as a US national contribution and technical liaison to the NATO C3 Agency in The Hague.

Sarah has also spoken at RSA, FIRST, the ACM Workshop on Information Sharing and Collaborative Security (WISCS), and the International Conference on Cyber Conflict (CyCon). Sarah holds B.A. degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science from Oberlin College, Ohio, and an M.A. in Mathematics from University of Maryland, College Park. In 2022 she was awarded the NATO Meritorious Service Medal for her work.

Ben Bennet, Director, HPC & AI Strategy Program, HPE

Ben is an HPC & AI Strategist and evangelist working in the EMEA Organization at Hewlett Packard Enterprise. In this role, Ben focusses on the three to five-year horizon aligning customers' requirements to long-range product plans, working with customers and their stakeholders to ensure the benefits and requirements of future technologies are being identified. Ben also works with HPE's global space borne team and is the lead for activities within EMEA, from designing ground launch-control systems to sponsoring access to the ISS National Lab, enabling customer to run experiments in space. Ben has over 35 years' experience in supercomputing in academia and industry, both as a supplier and purchaser of large High-Performance Computers. Ben holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical & Electronic Engineering and a PhD in Control Engineering looking at data structures in real-time parallel control systems used in flight control systems.

Sebastiaan Tampinongkol, Head of the Learning Design and Development Branch, NCI Academy, NCI Agency
As the Head of the Learning Design and Development Branch in the NCI Academy, Sebastiaan drives the transition to new training methods by implementing digital technology for the delivery of cost-efficient and effective E&T. In addition, Sebastiaan is responsible for the design and development of new learning solutions for the NCI Agency and its customers (NATO entities, NATO Nations and Partner Nations, other International organizations with shared values, e.g. UN, EU), with a focus on C4ISR and Cyber.

Before joining NATO in 2017, Sebastiaan worked in a broad range of L&D related roles in industry, covering Oil & Gas, Financial services, and various consultancy agencies with a focus on digital learning and performance improvement.

Jeff LaFrenz, President, VizworX Inc.
Co-Founder and President of VizworX, an organization focused on delivering enterprise-class digital experiences using the latest in immersive reality and complex data visualization technologies, Jeff LaFrenz is a serial entrepreneur, international speaker and technology leader with over 30 years' experience in technology commercialization. As a multi-disciplinary, multi-industry professional, he thrives on pulling together complex technical and business requirements, contextualizing them in local and global environments and building high performance teams.

A strong supporter of the community, Jeff actively volunteers as a member of a number of technology and academic boards and committees.

Jose-Luis Herrero Pascual, Head Service Engineering, Chief Technology Office, NCI Agency
Since 2015, Head Service Engineering in NCI Agency CTO Office, establishing engineering standards, providing technical coherence and aligning designs of all NCI Agency capabilities and services implemented or operated by the Agency. In addition, leading projects for adoption of new technologies, support major infrastructure projects (ITM, ANWI) and also provide contribution to Directives and Policies, Agency-internal and also inputs to NATO policies as part of POW.

From 2006 – 2010 an Automated Information Systems Engineer and Section Head at local NCSA unit in Madrid, Spain, responsible for operational support and maintenance of all IT systems and applications in local HQ and its interfaces with NATO-wide and National systems.

From 2010 – 2013, At NCSA HQ in Mons, as liaison officer with NATO HQ and NC3A.

From 2013 – 2014 the Section Head Special Systems in NCI Agency in Mons leading teams of Engineers, technicians and contractors in charge of operational support and service management of several NATO-wide systems.

Married, two children, enthusiastic of sports, IT and Military history

Erika Vranckx, Head, External Customers Sections, Chief Operating Office, NCI Agency

Frank Mikla, Principal Programme Manager, NCI Agency

Olivier Kermagoret, Chief Technology Officer, THALES Defence and Security
Olivier Kermagoret, 49, joined the Thales Group in 2013 to develop transformation activities in the Cloud and digital platforms sector. He is now Vice President of the technical direction of Thales PRS Business Line and is in charge of the development of software-based systems in the field of security and defense.

Dave de Bie, Client Technology Lead for NATO, Microsoft
Dave De Bie is the client technology lead for NATO alliance at Microsoft. As a Technology Strategist in defense and intelligence, he works on IT strategy and digital transformation in NATO alliance and the defense industrial base. In his role he particularly focus on cloud services, security & assurance frameworks, DevSecOps and emerging technologies. He holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering Computer Sciences from Katholieke Universiteit.

Today I want to talk about two key innovations as enabler for the mission lifecycle and collaborative architecting.

Khurram Januk, President Strategic Initiatives, Area9 Lyceum
Dr. Khurram Jamil is President of Strategic Initiatives at Area9 Lyceum where he focuses on regional expansions and partnerships, as well as oversees projects for all levels of education and training. Dr. Jamil's entrepreneurial experience extends over 20 years. He has successfully led dozens of teams comprising of medical professionals and educational scientists, spearheaded large development and partnership efforts, and managed multi-million-dollar educational software development projects.

After earning his medical degree in Denmark in 2002, Dr. Jamil chose to advance health care outside the clinical arena through the development of novel educational simulators at Laerdal Medical. These simulators were used in the U.S. Department of Defense for Combat Medic Training. Following this, revolutionary screen-based simulators were created for the American Heart Association (HeartCode ACLS & PALS) used by millions of providers.

He co-founded Area9 in 2006 to evolve and expand these concepts beyond health care, while partnering with McGraw-Hill Education to deploy adaptive learning technology. Since then, more than 30 million students have used LearnSmart & SmartBook (property of McGraw-Hill Education – acquired in 2014).

Dr. Jamil is a cultural bridge builder and is involved with various cultural & art organizations to support building creative and reflective societies. He is a board member at the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Centre at the Boston Public Library – a centre than develops programs to inspire curiosity and learning among people of all ages by using cartographic materials to illuminate history, geography, world cultures, science, and contemporary issues. He is a board member of American Friends of SMK – The National Gallery of Denmark. He also serves on the Education Council of the Centre for Global Education (CGE) at Asia Society.

Natasha Guindy, Director Enterprise Solutions Architect, Nordics, Area9 Lyceum
Both on academic and strategic levels, Natasha Guindy has year-long experiences within the training space. This includes The Royal Danish Defence College, large corporations, colleges, and universities. In The Royal Danish Defence College, Natasha Guindy co-developed and implemented the new learning culture as well as the quality training assurances of officers, lectures and instructors. Her work includes digital initiatives coupled with respect, humility, and understanding of the unique character of the military field.

Furthermore, Natasha Guindy is performing peer-reviews for the Scandinavian Journal of Military Studies, was the editor of the Journal of Danish Pedagogics and is a member of the Employer Panel Advisory Board for the Institute of Pedagogics at the University of Copenhagen.

Natasha holds a MA in Education and Theoretical Pedagogics from the University of Copenhagen.

Joao Farinha, Head of Cyber Training Branch, NCI Academy, NCI Agency
Joao Farinha is the head of the Cyber Training Branch at the NATO Communications and Information Academy in Portugal.

Before joining the NCI Academy, Joao worked in the private sector, leading the Offensive Security and Digital Forensics departments at one of the largest European cybersecurity managed service providers.

Joao graduated in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the Air Force Academy and served in the Portuguese Air Force for more than 20 years, dedicating a large part of his career to cyberspace operations and incident response activities.

Marlin McFate, Public Sector Chief Technology Officer, Riverbed Technology
Marlin McFate is the Public Sector CTO for Riverbed Technology. He plays a crucial cross-functional role by being a strategic and supportive voice for customers, partners, and team members, ensures successful solution delivery, and advises on the direction of Riverbed's R&D of its visibility, acceleration and end-user solutions. An Army veteran, Marlin is a self-taught technologist, transforming his personal technical curiosity into one of the leading experts in the public sector IT community.

Knut Henrik Aas, CEO, FYND Reality

Bram, Couwberghs, Defence and Intelligence Leader Western Europe, Microsoft
Bram is the Microsoft Western Europe Defence & Intelligence Leader and has a profound background in Defence, Intelligence and Public Safety. He holds a Master's degree in Law from the KUL and an Advanced Master in Economic Law from the ULB.

At Microsoft, he is responsible for the defence and intelligence related business and projects, supporting the digital transformation of military, intelligence services and security organizations in Western Europe and NATO.

Before joining Microsoft, Bram worked as Global Director Security Services for RHEA GROUP and as NATO Account Executive for IBM. Prior to his career in industry, Bram had a military career, during which he participated in different roles to the operations in Lebanon, Afghanistan and Libya for NATO and the United Nations.

As Microsoft Defence & Intelligence Leader, it is his passion to understanding the most pressing needs and to identify, develop and drive forward innovative technology solutions for our military and public safety organizations and soldiers on the frontline to support a safe and secure society. With a deep interest for military operations, tactics and history, Bram still serves as a reserve officer with Belgian Defence.

Laura Striegel, Attache International Relations, Belgian Cyber Security Officer
Laura Striegel is the attaché international relations at the CCB, the Centre for Cybersecurity Belgium. The CCB is the national authority for cyber security in Belgium and falls directly under the authority of the prime minister. In her role Ms. Striegel coordinates national positions with regards to new cyber security regulations, advises the director on (inter)national policy issues, enhances bilateral relations and provides technical input to several multilateral fora. Increasing information exchange and public-private partnerships to enhance resilience are two of her focus areas nationally as well as in the OSCE. Ms. Striegel studied international relations and political science in Germany and Belgium and started her career in cyber security in 2018 after having worked several years in West Africa in the development aid domain.

Mariano Valle, Principal Service Engineer (Cloud), Chief Technology Office, NCI Agency
Mariano has worked for the NATO Communications and Information agency (NCIA) since 2013 and currently holds a Principal Service Engineer position, leading cloud computing IT adoption for NATO and developing and coordinating a number of initiatives and projects in support of NCIA Digital Transformation, including support to cloud computing architectures. He leads a technology adoption team in the Chief Technology Office, focusing on Emerging Disruptive Technologies (EDT) and introducing DevSecOps practices in support of C4ISR Application development.

This involves integration via the NATO Software Factory, which makes use of standardised software engineering processes and common tooling allowing collaboration amongst NATO, Industry, Nations and Academia, enabling security by design for NATO C4ISR applications. Mariano has developed NATO Directives, such as the Cloud Computing Directive and contributed to the development of the Directive for Obtaining Software for NATO. Mariano is currently drafting a Cloud Computing roadmap for the NATO CIO. Prior to his role with NCIA, he held different positions in NATO dealing with C4ISR application lifecycle management in support of NATO operations.

Vincent Rifici, Director Defence Europe, Middle East, Africa and India, Hexagon
Vincent leads the EMEA defence team for Hexagon's Safety, Infrastructure and Geospatial division, responsible for the design and implementation of the defence strategy. His team supports the sales and partners both technically and commercially. Vincent is creative, versatile and dynamic with over 25 years of experience in business development and strategy, sales enablement, project management, corporate and communications. He has worked in more than 95 countries in all corners of the world.

Luc D'Hauwe, Global Solutions Consultant NATO, VMWare
Luc D'Hauwe joined VMware in January 2015 as Global Solution Consultant (GSC) for the NATO Global Accounts team. As a GSC he is responsible for ensuring pervasive enterprise adoption of VMware software and solutions within a small number of globally dominant companies. As GSC for NATO, Luc was involved in the DCIS Cube Architecture Initiative where VMware worked with NCI Agency Service Strategy and Industry to create a new modern architecture for NATO's DCIS.

In recent months Luc works closely together with NCI Agency Technical Design Authority in creating a blueprint for ITM-R.

He has over 20 year of datacentre and security experience. Before joining VMware, he worked as Senior Lead Consultant for BT Advise, worked 5 years as Principal Pre-sales Consultant for Symantec and held over a period of 12 years roles as Unix Network Security support engineer, Senior consultant, and Datacentre Architect at Sun Microsystems.

Besides holding a degree of Master of Science in Computer Science Engineering obtained at Ghent University, he is a certified ITIL Service Manager and a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP).

Hermann Wietgrefe, Principal Enterprise Architect, NCI Agency
Dr. Hermann Wietgrefe (born 1962) received his MSc in Telecommunications from Leibniz University Hannover, Germany, in 1990. He then worked at the Leibniz University as a research scientist, later as Associate Professor and Chief Scientist for communication networks. In 2000, he received his Ph.D. from University of Hannover for his research work on network management aspects of mobile networks. In 1999, Hermann Wietgrefe joined the NATO C&I Agency in The Netherlands as a Principal Scientist. From 2005 to 2016, he was the Scientific Lead of the overall deployable CIS program at NCI Agency. In 2016, Hermann joined Service Strategy, Service Engineering and Architecture (since April 2021 Chief Technology Office, Architecture & Engineering), taking on duties as Principal Enterprise Architect with focus on Deployable CIS, Federated Mission Networking, SOF C2 CIS and related architectural areas. Hermann is also a regular contributor to IEEE/AFCEA MILCOM conference series.

Kristine Kvam, CTO, FYND Reality

Jean-Paul Massart, Chief, NATO Digital Workplace Centre, NCI Agency
Jean-Paul Massart was appointed by the General Manager as Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) of the NATO Digital Workplace Programme on 1 October 2020, in the context of the COVID crisis, with the mission to create a newprogramme tackling urgent and medium-
term challenges in the areas of digital consultation and digital collaboration in support of NATO. Initially, the programme team consisted of approximately 140 professionals, assigned from otherdepartments. Since 1 January 2022, following Agency Supervisory Board approval, the team evolved into a permanent organisational entity called NATO Digital Workplace Centre (NDWC) which Jean-Paul is now leading as Chief NDWC. He is accountable to the General Manager for the consolidated Agency consultation and collaboration services that comprise the current Digital Workplace, covering the operational NATO services, across all content classifications and security domains, for desktop computing, mail, instant messaging, video teleconference (VTC), content platform services, telephony, printing and mobility services.

Prior to this assignment, Jean-Paul Massart was the Business Manager (A5) of the newly-formed NCI Academy, whilst he previously worked as the Chief of the Education and Training Service Line (A5) since 2014. In this role he lead the change to merged the various training schools and teams (Latina, Glons, Mons, The Hague), their processes and business into the single entity that eventually became the NCI Academy in 2019.

From 2013 till 2014 Jean-Paul Massart was Programme Manager (acting A5) for the BiSC AIS Programme covering the entire range of 63 NSIP projects across NATO C4ISR applications area and supporting services.

He is known for his drive for innovation and change and as such was awarded the General Manager's Innovation Award twice in his career.

Jean-Paul Massart earned a Master's degree in Engineering and Computer Sciences at the University of Leuven, Belgium in 1987, and is a 2009 graduate of the prestigious NATO Executive Development Programme at the École Supérieure de Commerce de Paris (ESCP Europe) Business School. He was also a reserve officer of the Belgian armed forces.

Jean-Paul Massart was born in Belgium but currently resides in The Hague, Netherlands, with his family.

Shaun Cooney, Advisor, Technology & Innovation, SPLUNK
Shaun is a business technologist who's spent much of his career in intelligence & defence where he has experience in Cyber Security, resilience, data and product development leadership roles. Shaun is Splunk's Strategic Advisor for Technology & Innovation and spends most of his time helping organisations through their transformations, helping them to think more strategically or differently about their use of data and technology to validate and implement their business strategies.

Joel Varanda, C2 Segment Architect, NCI Agency
Joel is a strategic architect for the NATO command and control services, who thrives on understanding complex integration problems and providing ingenious solutions. His passion for Interoperability provided the opportunity to lead multiple multinational initiatives and actively contribute to the development of NATO interoperability standards to achieve greater operational capacity and more-effective combined Alliance capabilities. Leveraging more than 20 years of experience in developing, acquiring, deploying and supporting National and NATO C2 systems and related technologies in different operational scenarios. Before joining NATO, he co-founded ParadigmaXis, a Portuguese company supporting the development of the Portuguese Army Command and Control System.

Alim Solmaz, Senior Scientist, NATO Cyber Security Centre
Alim Solmaz is a senior scientist in the Capability Development Branch of the NATO Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). His work experience includes payment, critical infrastructure and defence industries, mainly focusing on smart card technologies and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). Alim currently works on NATO PKI and identity management projects as well as supporting other cyber security architecture, policy and innovation activities within NCSC. He obtained his masters in nanoscience at the University of Groningen and his PhD degree in applied physics at the University of Twente. He particularly gets excited about the post-quantum cryptography, which resides at the cross section of his work and educational background.

Kristine Paine, Strategic Advisor, Technology and Innovation, SPLUNK
Kirsty is an experienced technologist and security specialist, who thrives on understanding difficult problems and finding creative solutions. She has spent nearly a decade working in cyber security, engaging in international technical fora and with UK and European policymakers. She specialises in international and European technical standards and policy spanning security, privacy, cryptography, AI and internet technologies. Kirsty's mantra is simple and straightforward: "Make Good Choices".

Diego Costa Marques, Telecommunications Researchers, Instituto de Telecomunicacoes
Diogo C. Marques received the B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Computer and Telematics Engineering from the University of Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal in 2021. He is currently a Researcher at the Telecommunications Institute, University of Aveiro, Portugal. His main research interests include 5G mobile communication and reconfigurable digital systems.

Birger Retzius, Principal Scientist, NCI Agency
Birger Retzius is assigned as Head of the Architecting Team within CTO's Chief Architecting & Engineering. His team focuses on ICT architectures while also supporting the alignment of requirements, design and integration to continuously improve common architecting practices throughout the NCI Agency. Birger Retzius also coordinates activities and initiatives with respect to the development and improvement of NATO C3 Policy and Directives on behalf of NCI Agency with our NATO stakeholders

Duncan McSporran, Chief Operating Officer, Kognitiv Spark Inc.

Geir Hallingstad, Cyber Security Principal Architect, Chief Technology Office, NCI Agency
Geir Hallingstad is the principal cyber security architect for the NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency.

He has more than 20 years of experience working with cyber security, covering a wide range of cyber security capabilities and technologies. His background is in computer engineering, receiving his BSc. and MSc. from Iowa State University, USA, in 1996 and 1997 respectively. He has subsequently held different positions in both NATO and in the Norwegian Defence.

Ivana Ilic Maestric, Senior Data Scientist, Chief Technology Office, NCI Agency
Ivana Ilic Mestric obtained her Master's degree in Computer Science with a specialty in Data Analytics. She has more than 12 years of professional experience in data science and related areas, including implementations of complex analytics solutions.

During this professional experience she has worked on projects across different industries including finance, telco, retail and defence. In the last six years she has worked in the NATO CI Agency as a Senior Data Scientist, been instrumental in the establishment of NCI Agency's Exploiting Data Science and AI team. Currently she is leading a range of Data Science projects across NATO, supporting a range of NATO users from HQ, ACT, ACO and STO. She has authored multiple scientific papers and actively participated in specialist conferences in the Data Science area.

Robert Cardillo, Chairman Planet Federal and Former National Geospatial – Intelligence Agency Director, Planet Federal
Robert was the sixth Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and is now the president of The Cardillo Group. He has held leadership positions with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Defense Intelligence Agency, and Office of the Director of National Intelligence. At TCG, he delivers strategic and operational expertise to create an enhanced awareness of our planet to enable improved decision-making. He is Chief Strategist and Chairman of the Board of Planet Federal.

Luis Dias, Professor and Researcher, Portuguese Army, Military Academy
Luis Dias is a Major of the Portuguese Army, specialized in Information Security and a Professor at the Military Academy. He has a PhD in Information Security from the Instituto Superior Técnico and a Master's degree in Military Electrotechnical Engineering (Specialty Signals) from the Military Academy. He is qualified with the Armed Forces Joint Staff Course. He holds several industry certifications (SANS GCFE, EC-Council ECSA and ENSA, etc.) and is a member of the GIAC advisory board.

Andreas Hutzenlaub, Service Line Chief, Network Services and IT Infrastructures, NCI Agency
Mr Andreas Hutzenlaub, has served NATO for over a decade, and is the acting Chief of the NSII Service Line within the NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCI Agency).

His mission is to enable secure and resilient 24×7 Transmission, Local Area Network (LAN), and Networks Services where required by NATO. His team supports deployed operations and exercises for NATO Joint Forces, as well as political consultations between NATO Headquarters and Nations.

In his current post, he is accountable for the strategy, planning and execution of all lifecycle management activities enabling the NATO static and deployable Communication Services.

He is the Executive for the NSII Portfolio of programmes, projects and services with an investment volume of over EUR 2Billion for the next decade. His team covers Service Areas such as Satellite Transmission Services, Wireless & Maritime- Communication Services, Wide Area Network- and Local Area Network- Services as well as Deployable Services for NATO Operations and Exercises.

He leads a team of 330+ highly skilled and motivated professionals geographically distributed over 15 locations worldwide, a multicultural diverse team including NATO civilians, military and contractors.

Prior to Mr Hutzenlaub' s appointment as Chief NSII, he also served the NCI Agency as Deputy Service Line Chief, Head of Acquisition Management Office, and Principal Officer for Acquisition Integrated Logistics Support.

After graduating from the Technical University Berlin as Dipl.-Ing. of Communication Networks and Software Engineering, he began his career as Business Analyst with debis GEI GmbH, in Aachen, Germany. Afterwards he joined T-Systems International GmbH in Bonn, Germany as Senior Project Manager, Senior Consultant, and Senior Service Delivery Manager.

In 2007, Mr Hutzenlaub moved from industry to NATO, hired as the Principal Project Manager and later as Principal Programme Manager with the NC3A Agency in Brussels, Belgium.

Mr Hutzenlaub is married with two children. He enjoys playing football with the German National Team at NATO as well as golf and tennis from time to time.

Matt Wood, Head of Sales – Europe, Blacksky Global Inc.

Dr. Caroline Gardet, Senior AI Consultant, Sopra Steria
Dr Caroline is a senior AI expert at Sopra Steria, a leading Defence IT contractor. With Master's Degrees in Chemical Engineering and Mathematical Engineering, and a PhD in Reservoir Physics she joined Sopra Steria in 2019 after an early career in the energy industry.

Now a data scientist, she leads multi-disciplinary teams looking at the application of AI technology and related methods to address deployment issues, in particular for defence clients.

John Mathieu, Managing Director, Taqtile Europe, Taqtile, Inc.
John began in the video game industry with SEGA, before moving to Electronic Arts UK to join the FIFA team. John then joined Microsoft as a DirectX evangelist. During a 20+ year span at Microsoft, John held a number of different roles encompassing technical, sales and marketing responsibilities with a focus on US, EMEA and Global regions. In 2018, John joined Taqtile as their Managing Director for EMEA, where he drives the business for the region as well as strategic partnerships globally.

Phil Taneborne, Key Account Director NATO, DATAMIR Inc.
Phil Taneborne was a British Army officer for 18 years, graduating from the Führungsakademie Der Bundeswhehr and serving in a variety of reconnaissance and NATO planning / operational roles. He holds an MBA from Warwick Business School and now works for Dataminr, a New York based AI company. At both staff college and business school, his dissertations focussed on using data to make better decisions.

Steve Jacob, Autonodyne LLC
Steve Jacobson is CEO of Autonodyne LLC, a Boston-based commercial and defense company. Prior to this role, he served as Sr VP of Engineering for commercial avionics company Avidyne, and as a System Engineer at CS Draper Laboratory. He holds a BS in Astronautical Engineering from the US Air Force Academy and a MS degree in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University. He was a Command Pilot and Test Pilot in the USAF with over 4,000 flight hours, most in the A-10 attack plane.

Israel Illescas, IT Manager, FCC
Israel Illescas has a MSc in Computer Science, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM). He had a Research fellowship at Intelligent Systems Group, where he acquired a wide experience in AI techniques, specifically statistical classifiers and fuzzy logic control systems applied to civil engineering and traffic management. He worked as a consultant for several telco providers building real-time systems to analyze SS7 traffic and ensure QoS. He joined FCC where he has been playing different roles leading international defense projects and R&D initiatives for more than 20 years.

Anna Metsaranta, Head of Sustainable AI, Solita
Anna Metsäranta is a strategic designer and business developer with a passion for sustainable use of data, analytics, and AI. She has over 15 years of experience in information systems development and utilisation of interdisciplinary teams to solve complex business problems.

Anna leads Solita's work in helping customers and partners to decipher what it takes to create AI solutions that maximise good and minimise harm to business, people, and the environment.

Nathaniel Soule, Senior Scientist, Raytheon BBN
Mr. Soule is a senior scientist at Raytheon BBN. He has over 20 years of experience working in the areas of dynamic information management, adaptive systems and advanced cyber-defense

techniques. He leads a team focused on applying the Tactical Assault Kit (TAK) to new domains and is the Technical Product Manager for Raytheon BBN's TAK Ops. He is a frequent speaker on TAK, prolific TAK plugin developer, and contributes to the TAK Server software, for which Raytheon BBN is the primary developer.

Christopher Clinton, Co-Founder, NAQ Cyber

Christopher Clinton is the co-founder of Naq Cyber: a Dutch/British startup focussed on protecting the world's SMEs and in turn protecting the global supply chain. Naq currently protects hundreds of users across various member states and is now working with defence primes to secure their complex supply chains. Prior to Naq, Chris worked at the NCIA in The Hague within AMDC2 working in the security team of the ACCS program.

Adam Maher, CEO and Co-Founder URSA Space Systems

Adam Maher is the CEO and founder of Ursa Space Systems Inc., whose services enable users to research, monitor, search, and discover changes in physical objects around the globe, from the perspective of space.

Ursa Space's platform uses a proprietary virtual satellite radar constellation management, analytics, and fusion engine to automate and abstract the complicated process of gaining access to, processing, and fusing satellite data with terrestrial data sources.

Jens Elstermeir, Sector Head Defence and Intelligence, CGI

Jens Elstermeier is leading CGI Germany´s Defence & Intelligence business including the global NATO business for 10 years and working for 25 years in the defence sector, spending about ten years at HP and Microsoft before joining CGI in 2007. Between 2018 and 2020, Jens was heading the German Space sector and was accountable for German MoD, NATO European External Action Service, and Defence Industry clients in Germany. Jens was the program director for CGI´s NATO IKM activities as well as the German Harmonized C2 Systems. Within NATO´s mission support, he was several times in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Petr Vancl Hockberger, Business Developer TOVEK

Petr VANCL HOCHBERGER was a military intelligence officer for 14 years including 3 years assignment as the Officer in Charge of NATO Intelligence section at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium. His expertise covers areas such as intelligence information analysis, design and development of intelligence systems and data normalization and standardization. Now he works as a contractor for TOVEK, a Prague based company delivering professional tools for analysis and automated big data processing to the defense, law enforcement and intelligence.