
Online Registration Available for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Symposium about Codification

**By
Tim Hoyle
Defense Logistics Information Service**

Organizers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Symposium have established an on-line registration system to help interested parties sign up for the 10th International Symposium on Codification, October 10-13, 2005 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Members of the Defense Logistics Information Service will join international logisticians, businesses leaders, trade associations and other interested individuals gathering from around the world for the symposium. The meetings are conducted every few years to review the current state of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Codification System (NCS) and discuss future development.

“Logistics continues to change and is becoming more complex. Accordingly, the logisticians’ need for standard, accurate information at their fingertips is growing,” said Executive Director Richard Maison, Defense Logistics Information Service (DLIS) executive director, who also serves as the chairman of the NATO Group of National Directors of Codification (Allied Committee 135).

The committee sponsors the meetings to continue the advancement of the NCS, based on the U.S. cataloging system, as the world’s standard language of government supply chain logistics. Originally adopted for NATO, the system is now used by more than fifty nations. It is also becoming a standard for e-commerce.

According to Maison, supporters of the NCS are reaching out to industry to build a common language between government and business. Countries are improving their information products and focusing on accuracy and relevancy, and National Codification Bureaus in participating countries seek to build synergy in the logistics chain from the factory to foxhole.

“This is a very exciting time for those involved with codification. The developments we are pursuing and the projects we are now actively supporting can revolutionize the way cataloging is performed in the next five years,” Richard Maison said.

The committee continued this effort during its semi-annual meeting in Brasov, Romania, in November when a significant step was taken towards developing a Smart Codification (Cataloging) program, to harness modern technology for exchange of product data via the Electronic Commerce Code Management Association’s Open Technical Dictionary (eOTD).

This will support a future capability that allows systems to seamlessly combine computer-aided design and product data management into a Standard for the Exchange of Product Model Data (STEP) file that captures characteristic data encoded according to a standard catalog. The new STEP files will help suppliers characterize products accurately, consistently and efficiently at the source as an integral part of the design process, thus helping acquisition organizations more easily identify suitable products to meet their requirements. The “smart codification” prototype is scheduled to be among the presentations and workshops at the symposium.

The symposium agenda includes speakers from around the world discussing a range of supply chain and codification issues as well as a number of social events planned for both before and during the main conference. Anyone interested in supply chain management, codification (cataloging), logistics and engineering support, international standards for data management and related topics, whether within a military, government, industrial or commercial enterprise or

organization should attend. All spoken and written material will be presented in English and French.

Those who would like to register on-line for the symposium can log on to https://registration.meetingmakers.co.uk/dev-cgi/nato_2005/register?short_conference_name=nato_2005 or use the on-line tool at www.codification2005.org to learn about exhibition or sponsorship opportunities for the symposium.

A field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency, DLIS mission is to provide interoperable, integrated, quality logistics data and information technology solutions that are applicable across the Department of Defense, other federal agencies and international partners in order to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of the supply chain. DLIS is a recognized leader in employing best practices to develop and deliver such tailored solutions for customer's evolving needs. For more information on DLIS and codification, visit www.dla.mil/dlis or call (877) 352-2255.