

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Link 22 Communications and Interoperability Working Group

(Link 22 CIWG)

SCOPE

The Link 22 Communication and Interoperability Working Group (Link 22 CIWG) enhances interoperability by assisting prospective Link 22 nations with the background knowledge and required processes for acquisition of Link 22. The Link 22 CIWG is responsible to the NATO Improved Link Eleven (NILE) Steering Committee (SC).

BACKGROUND

The NILE Nations (CAN, FRA, DEU, ITA, ESP, UK, and USA) are cooperating to sustain and implement interoperable Link 22 systems in accordance with the NILE In-Service Support (ISS) Phase Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as amended. The achievement of interoperability among NILE nations, current and future Link 22 Third Party Sales (3PS) Nations (hereafter referred to as “Link 22 Partners”) remains a national responsibility, but requires the cooperation of all nations and agencies implementing Link 22.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The Design and Development (D&D) phase of the NILE Project concluded in 2002 with the delivery of an initial set of NILE documentation and software, allowing for the national development of Link 22 communications systems. The implementation of Link 22 solutions remains the responsibility of individual nations. Without cooperation on the development and implementation of Link 22 solutions, including Link 22 interoperability testing on all levels to integrate Link 22 into the multi-link environment, interoperability will be unachievable. These interoperability testing levels include technical, procedural and operational (Human-Machine Interface).

STATEMENT OF WORK

The Link 22 CIWG acts on behalf of the NILE SC as a forum for prospective Link 22 nations and other agencies, to enhance interoperability. This is achieved by addressing steps necessary to acquire Link 22 systems, familiarization with Link 22 and basic communications, interoperability and implementation concepts in the following areas:

1. Link 22 Familiarization

The Link 22 CIWG discusses the background and current accomplishments and status of the NILE Project, as well as Link 22 implementation among NILE and Link 22 Partner Nations. The CIWG also addresses Link 22 capabilities and limitations with respect to Link 11 and Link 16, and addresses options for acquiring and implementing Link 22 systems.

2. Link 22 3PS

The Link 22 CIWG addresses the process required for interested nations and organizations to become approved Link 22 3PS members. Information on the process for obtaining a Sponsor is provided, in addition to the steps required to achieve Third Party Transfer (TPT) approval from the USA Department of State (DoS).

3. Link 22 Foreign Military Sales

The Link 22 CIWG provides all required information on the steps to obtain Link 22 Block Cycle Release (BCR) updates, as well as the Link 22 modernized COMSEC (LLC 7M), via the USA Foreign Military Sales (FMS) process from PMW 740. Additional information is discussed with respect to the levy payments required by the NILE Nations for release of the initial BCR.

4. Link 22 Implementation

The Link 22 CIWG addresses topics and issues that have to be considered in order to obtain operational Link 22 systems, such as: integration aboard real platforms, testing and training.

COMPOSITION

The Link 22 CIWG is composed of representatives from prospective Link 22 Partner Nation(s) and the NILE Project Management Office (PMO). Nevertheless, representatives of NILE Nations can participate when appropriate. The Link 22 CIWG is chaired by a single, permanent chairman, which is the NILE Project Manager (PM) or or someone designated by the PM. The NILE PMO also provides a Link 22 CIWG secretary. Each nation and organization in attendance must have a Head of Delegation (HoD) nominated by official government communication channels. The HoD for each nation must send the NILE PMO a list of national representatives prior to the meeting for advance approval by the NILE PM. All invitees will need to be submitted by the inviting nation's HoD and approved by the NILE PM. The NILE PM has the discretion to seek SC approval on a case-by-case basis.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

Link 22 CIWG meetings will preferably be held in San Diego or at locations as mutually agreed between the NILE PMO and requesting nations. In either case, dates of meetings will be as mutually agreed between the NILE PMO and requesting nations. No still or video recording or smartphone translation is permitted during meeting sessions. All meetings are conducted as closed-door sessions, and badges will be issued to and are required to be displayed by all authorized attendees. Instructions for the submission of Foreign Visit Requests (FVRs) will be included in each applicable meeting's administrative instructions. Nations may have their own rules for participation in meetings on their territory. Such rules will also be included in each meeting's administrative instructions.

TOR REVIEW

This document will be reviewed as required and at least on an annual basis to determine any required changes or updates. New versions of this document will be reviewed with meeting attendees and submitted to the NILE SC for approval.