



**Technical Co-operation Agreement  
(TCA)  
between  
the NATO Standardization Agency (NSA)  
and  
GS1**

**WHEREAS :**

- GS1 is a global organization dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards, technologies and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility of supply and demand chains.

GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit standards and services organization. It has 101 national Member Organizations driven by a membership of more than a million organizations who in turn do business in more than 140 countries.

GS1 offers a diversified portfolio of products, solutions and services, including the GS1 System of standards the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world. GS1's portfolio ranges from GS1 common identifiers to GS1 BarCodes and GS1 eCom (electronic commerce tools) and on to next generation technologies and solutions such as GS1 GDSN (data synchronization), EPCglobal (using RFID technologies) and traceability.

- NSA is an independent NATO Agency having the scope of initiating, co-ordinating, supporting and administering Standardization Agreements (STANAGs) and activities conducted under the authority of the NATO Committee for Standardization (NCS). The NSA is also the NATO Military Committee's (MC) lead agent for the development, coordination and assessment of operational standardization. NSA also promotes the development and implementation of concepts, doctrines, procedures and designs to achieve and maintain the required levels of compatibility, interchangeability or commonality in the operational, procedural, material, technical and administrative fields to attain interoperability of forces within the whole NATO framework, including the Partnership for Peace, the

Mediterranean Dialogue and missions not covered by the application of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

**Both GS1 and NSA have agreed upon the following:**

1. Both organizations recognize the value of cooperating in the fields of supply chain standards and technologies directly or indirectly related to their relative scopes of work.

Contributions by NSA to establish and to guarantee consensus on proposed draft specifications is seen as a direct benefit for the subsequent GS1 standardization process and for the establishment of relevant international standards.

NSA is invited to assist in and to contribute to the standards development activities of GS1 in full conformity with GS1 Global Standards Management Process (GSMP) and with the principles defined in this TCA.

The GSMP was developed to maintain standards-based solutions for global trade using GS1 System technologies. The GSMP uses a global consensus process to develop supply chain standards that are based on business needs and user-input.

The objective of the GSMP is to bring together users from all industries, from anywhere in the world, to allow for a uniform approach and methodology for global standards management. This includes but is not limited to standards development, standards maintenance, and implementation support.

The GSMP is built on these core activities:

1. Identify and assess business needs
2. Gather business requirements
3. Document best practices
4. Gain solution consensus
5. Develop and implement standards

On a basis of reciprocity, GS1 is invited to assist in and to contribute to the standardization activities of its fields of interest within the NATO standardization community in full conformity with the regulations established for NATO and with the principles fixed in the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the relevant working groups or entities.

- 3 The co-operation includes participation in task groups, either to written contributions or exchange of experts, whereby representatives shall perform active observership and represent the views of the technical body that appointed them.
- 4 NSA, represented through technical experts designated from NATO Working Groups or other committees involved in relevant standardization fields in particular may:
  - formulate advice on current and future standards programs, e.g. by stating needs and by proposing priorities;
  - propose work items to the GSMP with a view to their possible incorporation in the GS1 standards through the normal submission and approval procedures;
  - deliver expert advice where necessary on the implementation dates and legislative consequences of the adopted GS1 standards;
  - support GS1 during the standards development process

NSA proposals and contributions will be introduced to GS1 GSMP as Statement of Work (“SOW”).

- 5 In consequence of the introduction to the relevant GS1 technical committee of the Work Items delivered by NSA and its related working groups and technical experts, NSA may be invited by the relevant GS1 technical committee in charge of the subject to introduce, clarify and where necessary, after discussion, to amend its initial proposals. NSA will also be invited to participate on the relevant GS1 work groups.
- 6 The GSMP is a global, open, standards process which invites open participation and public reviews. Status regarding SOWs can be found on the GSMP public web site.
- 7 NSA fully recognizes the application to the standards work in its field of competence of existing and future GS1 standards.

- 8 GS1 will retain all copyrights in its standards and related publications even though present TCA remain the property of NSA.

The Standards resulting from an NSA proposal (“Resulting Standards” or “RS”) shall identify this fact by the following statement in their introduction:

"This standard has been drafted with contribution by the NATO Standardization Agency and was adopted by GS1."

NSA wishing to reproduce parts of a RS' in its publications, shall include the following statement: "Portions of this document have been reprinted with the permission of GS1". Permission to further reproduce any of this material must be obtained in writing from GS1. The current, original editions of the GS1 standards are available directly from GS1."

The 26 NATO member countries will be able to download any RS from the GS1 Public Website. Each such RS shall include the following copyright notice "©Copyright GS1 (year)".

- 9 NSA Members and their experts will continue to contribute fully to all technical consultations and preparation activities of the relevant bodies of GS1.
- 10 Besides contributing to the standards, development work, co-operation between GS1 and NSA may also include the following:
- Regular information exchange on standards, standards' projects and work items, in principle through the central offices;
  - Joint or cooperative programs and projects of mutual benefit, including contribution of expertise on standards' projects or in standards' revisions;
  - Mutual co-operation in international and regional organizations relating to standardization;
  - Organization of and participation in conferences, symposia, courses, workshops, exhibitions and other joint meetings of mutual interest;

- Exchange of technical data and information relating to standardization and conformity assessment;
- Joint training or education programs to raise competency in standardization;
- Other forms of co-operation as agreed by the Parties, including meetings between the two Parties on a regular basis.

11 Co-operative activities under this TCA shall be subject to the availability of funds and personnel. The terms of financing shall be agreed upon in writing by the Parties before the commencement of activities.

12 Whenever more than the exchange of technical information or exchange visits of individuals or promotion activities is planned to take place, such activity shall be described in a Project related to this TCA which shall set forth as appropriate to the activity, a work plan, staffing requirements, cost estimates, funding source, and other undertakings, obligations, or conditions not included in this TCA.

13 The Parties do not anticipate the transfer or exchange of intellectual property rights during the implementation of this TCA. GS1 shall own all copyrights and related intellectual property rights in the Resulting Standards.

14 The Parties shall consult with each other before any information derived from cooperation activities under this TCA is disclosed for commercial or industrial purposes.

15 Both Parties agree to maximise reference made to each other's publications according to their own policy in the matter.

16 Both Parties agree to consult regularly at senior management level on the operation and possible improvement/amendment of this TCA.

17 Both parties confirm that this TCA can be terminated after consultation and following the receipt of an official letter stating the reasons for termination with six months' notice. Both parties, however, shall at such event take the required measures to duly finalize the existing work and contracts.

Brussels, 31st January 2006

For GS1



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Miguel Lopera  
CEO GS1

For the NSA



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Brigadier General Julian Maj  
Director NATO Standardization Agency  
(NSA)