

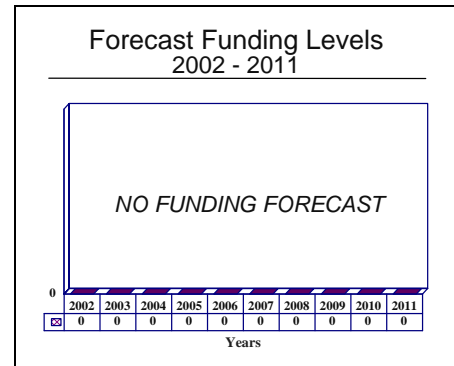
ARCHIVED REPORT

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BICES - Archived 06/2003

Outlook

- Forecast International projects BICES will have the capability to support the multitude of NATO multinational operations across defense commands and civil organizations
- Expect BICES to incorporate myriad technologies
- BICES research and development will be ongoing



Orientation

Description. The Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System (BICES) is a NATO intelligence gathering system. BICES will gather and merge data from each of the NATO member nation intelligence systems to provide a current picture of whichever battlefield a NATO military commander wishes to see.

Sponsor

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Contractors

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Status. Ongoing research and development.

Total Produced. BICES will be a single integrated system. Equipment procurement is not possible at this time.

Application. The Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System (BICES) will provide military commanders in the NATO Central Region with an umbrella system under which the current national C³I systems can work together.

Price Range. BICES will cost approximately US\$210 million to complete.

Technical Data

Design Features. In essence, BICES will be a distributed computer. In the future, different national inputs will need to be fused together. This will demand common formatting of intelligence to allow the necessary comparison of old and new data. Real-time access by all subscribers is planned. Subscribers will draw on a common database. The specific architecture of the system is currently under conceptual formulation.

Variants/Upgrades

The Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System is in the mid-to late phase of development. No variants or upgrades to the system are known to exist at this time.

Program Review

Background. In 1988, the Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) commissioned a study to develop a system to improve the speed and efficiency of intelligence information delivery. The study was called the BICES Concept and Design Study.

Stage one of the study was to confirm the basic BICES concept of a widely distributed common information system. Stage one explored requirements for manpower, technical support, organization, communications, and fusion for such a system. The US Joint Tactical Fusion – Limited Operational Capability Europe (JTF-LOCE) system was used as a testbed.

Stage two was to determine the impact BICES displays would have on the development of the Allied Command Europe (ACE) Automated Command and Control Information Service (ACCIS). ACCIS is the support system for the NATO segment of BICES. This part of the study used the US Defense Nuclear Agency system Battlefield Information and Targeting System (BITS) to provide proof of principle. During Central Region exercises, BITS was used to gain user feedback and define their automated data processing requirements.

By October of 1991, nine of the NATO nations had signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a two-year BICES pilot study. In December 1994, the NATO Communications and Information Systems Agency (NACISA) issued a revised invitation to tender for BICES Initial Core Capability development.

Latest Information. NATO BICES program information is difficult to obtain; not much data is available. That said, a BICES element is gaining attention.

The US European Command's Linked Ops/Intel Centers/Europe (LOCE) is a component of the Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System. LOCE consists of a set of servers containing databases and imagery information and a network supporting more than six hundred workstations distributed among US and multinational users.

LOCE is set at an alliance level of security and can be accessed by all NATO participants. Recently, LOCE has been making greater use of Internet technology to facilitate the movement of information. Forecast International expects LOCE to gain more prominence as internet use to transport data increases.

Funding

BICES is funded by the NATO Communications and Information Systems Agency. The specific amount of funding is unavailable.

Recent Contracts

No production contracts are known to have been awarded.

Timetable

<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major Development</u>
	1988	The Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) commissioned a study to develop a system to improve the speed and efficiency of intelligence information delivery. The study was called the BICES Concept and Design Study
	1991	Nine NATO nations sign a Memorandum of Understanding for a two-year BICES pilot study
Dec	1994	The NATO Communications and Information Systems Agency issues a revised invitation to tender for BICES Initial Core Capability development

Worldwide Distribution

BICES is a NATO program. Distribution of the BICES system is exclusive to NATO member countries.

Forecast Rationale

The Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System (BICES) is a NATO project to integrate current and future intelligence networks. BICES is intended to coordinate and exploit battlefield intelligence gathering among all NATO commands and participating nations. BICES makes use of a communications network with encryption devices.

Although specific funding information is unavailable, BICES is the premier program of the NATO Communications and Information Systems Agency. BICES NATO prominence is a result of Joint Vision

2020, a NATO plan that focuses on interoperability in joint, multinational, and interagency military operations.

One of the fundamental issues confronting commanders in a multinational military operation is the sharing of information among participants. "Need to know" has been operationally overtaken by "need to share." BICES is playing a significant role in this shift. Forecast International predicts BICES will evolve to support the multitude of NATO multinational operations across defense commands and civil organizations. To accomplish this, look for the BICES to incorporate myriad technologies.

Ten-Year Outlook

With the unavailability of funding information, the **Ten-Year Outlook** chart has been omitted.

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