



CALL FOR PAPERS

11-13 MAY 2027 | RAI AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

CCW 2027 is inviting submissions that bring practical experience, evidence and thought leadership from across the critical communications ecosystem. The programme will be built around four connected areas, covering the strategic decisions that shape critical communications, the move towards broadband capability, operational use and the technologies that will influence what comes next.

THE FOUR KEY AREAS

POLICY, REGULATION & FUNDING

Strategy, spectrum, governance, procurement, economics and the frameworks that shape critical communications.

BROADBAND TRANSITION

Deployment, migration, coexistence, assurance, interoperability, training and organisational change.

CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS IN OPERATION

Real-world use, operational outcomes, resilience, user experience, applications and coordinated response.

TECHNOLOGY EVOLUTION

AI, data, space and NTN, future networks, R&D, platforms and emerging technologies.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for submissions that bring practical experience, operational insight, original research or informed thought leadership within the CCW 2027 programme framework. Proposals should be submitted against one of the Call for Papers categories below and identify the key programme area they most closely support.

Priority will be given to content that addresses a clear challenge or opportunity, explains what was implemented, tested, researched or learned, and offers useful takeaways for the wider critical communications community.

WHO WE WANT TO HEAR FROM

CCW 2027 welcomes submissions from **end-user organisations, government and public authorities, network operators, standards bodies, academia, research organisations and industry**. We particularly encourage contributions that bring first-hand operational experience, policy or standards insight, original research, evidence from live programmes or deployments, or informed perspectives on future development.

INDUSTRY & VENDOR SUBMISSIONS

Industry expertise is welcome across the Call for Papers, but the main conference programme is not a product showcase. Category 2 is specifically for exhibitor-led operational case studies presented jointly with an end-user customer. For Categories 3-11, vendor submissions must be thought-leadership-led, evidence-based and non-commercial, offering original insight, research, analysis or transferable learning. Sales pitches, product demonstrations and company overviews will not be accepted for the main conference programme, but may be considered for a separate technology showcase session where appropriate.

WHAT THE FOUR KEY AREAS COVER

The four key areas are the overarching programme pillars for CCW 2027. They provide the wider framework for the agenda and show the issues the programme intends to explore.

1. POLICY, REGULATION & FUNDING

How policy, national strategy, governance and investment decisions shape the development and delivery of critical communications.

- National strategies, governance models and shared-network approaches.
- Spectrum strategy, allocation, licensing and cross-border coordination.
- Regulation and policy frameworks for mission-critical communications and future connectivity.
- Funding models, procurement approaches, economics and public-private collaboration.
- Data sovereignty, supply-chain policy and strategic resilience.
- Civil defence, national resilience, civil-military cooperation and technologies transitioning into civil protection.

2. BROADBAND TRANSITION

Practical experience of planning, deploying, migrating and assuring mission-critical services as organisations introduce broadband capability alongside or in place of existing systems.

- Network deployment and implementation programmes.
- Migration, coexistence and hybrid operating models.
- User trials, onboarding, adoption and trust.
- Operational and technical training, workforce readiness and change management.
- Joint-agency or cross-border exercises, competency frameworks and lessons from large-scale roll-outs.
- Testing, certification, performance assurance and field validation.
- Interoperability, standards, roaming, interconnection and multi-vendor integration.
- Service introduction, lifecycle planning and the practical challenges of moving from project to operational service.

3. CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS IN OPERATION

How critical communications are being used in day-to-day operations and under pressure, with a clear focus on user needs, operational outcomes and lessons from practice.

- End-user operational use cases, user requirements and measurable impact on safety, response or service delivery.
- Resilience and continuity during incidents, disruption or infrastructure failure, including backup and deployable solutions.
- Cybersecurity, secure cloud or edge environments and operational data protection.

- Devices, wearables, user interfaces, human factors, accessibility and inclusive design.
- Control-room, field and mission-critical applications and platform evolution.
- Coordinated response, emergency communications and practical interoperability between organisations or across borders.
- Lessons from live operations, exercises and real-world deployment at scale.

4. TECHNOLOGY EVOLUTION

How emerging technologies, research and new network capabilities could change critical communications, operational decision-making and the services available to users.

- AI, automation, data, situational intelligence and human oversight.
- Space-based and non-terrestrial connectivity, satellite integration and future connected-field operations.
- Future networks, 6G concepts, advanced architectures and new approaches to resilience.
- Advanced positioning, sensing, robotics, drones and connected devices where they support critical operations.
- Applications, platforms, digital twins and wider ecosystem innovation.
- Sustainability, energy efficiency and climate-resilient network or device design.
- Research and future concepts from academia, R&D programmes and collaborative projects.

CALL FOR PAPERS CATEGORIES

These are the categories against which submissions will be received and reviewed. Please select the category that best matches the main focus of your proposal. The categories sit within the wider four-area programme framework above.

1. End-User Organisations and Operational Use Cases

A dedicated category for end-user organisations to share practical experience of critical communications in operation.

Submissions should focus on a genuine operational requirement or challenge, how technology or communications capabilities are being used to address it, and the impact on day-to-day operations, safety, response or service delivery. We welcome current projects, completed deployments, lessons learned and insight into how operational roles and requirements are evolving as technology changes.

This category is solely for submissions led by end-user organisations. Confidentiality can be maintained until the event where required.

***For this category, an end-user organisation is one responsible for implementing or using critical communications in operational service, rather than primarily providing the technology or service. This may include operational users and project or programme leads directly involved in bringing a service into use.**

2. Exhibitor-Led Operational Case Studies

Practical case studies presented jointly by an exhibitor and end-user customer, demonstrating how technology has been implemented to address a genuine operational challenge.

Submissions should explain the requirement, implementation approach, end-user needs, outcomes and lessons learned. The end-user customer must actively participate in the session.

Submissions focused primarily on promoting a product or service will not be considered for the main conference programme.

3. Deployment, Migration, Training and Change Management

Practical experience of deploying new communications capabilities, migrating from legacy systems and preparing organisations and users for new ways of working.

Submissions may explore planning and implementation, user trials, onboarding, operational and technical training, workforce readiness, joint exercises, cultural change, user trust, device adoption, procurement and lessons from deployment or migration programmes.

We particularly welcome insight into what organisations would do differently and what others can learn from the process.

4. Resilience, Continuity, Cybersecurity and Sovereignty

How organisations maintain secure, resilient and dependable critical communications during routine operations, disruption and major incidents.

Submissions may address operational continuity, network and service resilience, backup and deployable capabilities, cybersecurity, secure cloud and edge environments, data sovereignty, supply-chain resilience, energy resilience and approaches to maintaining communications when primary systems are unavailable.

Case studies demonstrating how resilience has been tested in real-world conditions or exercises are particularly encouraged.

5. Interoperability, Standards, Testing and Quality Assurance

How critical communications enable coordination between different organisations, systems and networks during routine operations and emergencies.

Submissions may address interoperability, interconnection, roaming, standards implementation, certification, spectrum coordination, multi-vendor environments, end-to-end testing, performance validation and assurance.

We are particularly interested in practical experience showing what is required to achieve interoperability in reality - not simply what is technically possible.

6. AI, Data, Applications and Situational Intelligence

How AI, automation, data and digital applications are being used to improve operational decision-making, situational awareness and service delivery.

Submissions should identify the problem being addressed, how the technology or application has been implemented, and the value it provides. Topics may include automation, analytics, location and situational intelligence, operational applications, software platforms, data management and integration.

Where AI is involved, submissions should also address governance, human oversight, limitations and risk alongside measurable operational value.

7. NTN, Future Networks and Connected Field Operations

How emerging and evolving communications technologies can extend connectivity, capability and resilience for critical operations.

Submissions may explore non-terrestrial networks, satellite connectivity, future mobile networks, direct-to-device capabilities, connected devices, sensors, robotics and other technologies supporting communications and operations in the field.

We also welcome forward-looking research, trials and emerging concepts that demonstrate how future technologies could address real operational requirements.

8. Devices, User Experience and Human Factors

How devices, interfaces and human factors affect the way critical communications technologies perform in real operational environments.

Submissions may examine device design and adoption, usability, accessibility, inclusive design, wearables, operating-system considerations, lifecycle management and how users interact with technology under operational pressure.

The emphasis should be on the relationship between the technology and the person using it, including evidence from user trials, research or operational deployment.

9. Spectrum, Governance, Procurement and National Strategy

How policy, spectrum, governance, procurement and funding decisions shape the development and delivery of critical communications.

Submissions may address spectrum strategy and allocation, regulatory frameworks, governance models, procurement approaches, funding and investment, public-private collaboration, national programmes and the economic considerations behind major communications projects.

We welcome practical lessons from organisations developing, procuring or governing critical communications capabilities at local, regional or national level.

10. Civil Defence, National Resilience and Critical Infrastructure

How critical communications support civil protection, national resilience and cooperation between civil and military organisations.

Submissions may explore civil-military cooperation, technologies and capabilities transitioning from defence into civil protection, communications across critical infrastructure, and lessons from real incidents, exercises or major resilience programmes.

The focus should be on practical experience, transferable learning and how communications capabilities can strengthen coordination and preparedness across organisational boundaries.

11. Horizon Scanning, R&D and Future Technology

Forward-looking research, horizon scanning and emerging technologies that are not yet commercially released or fully deployed but could shape the future of critical communications.

Submissions may explore early-stage research, prototypes, trials, standards activity, R&D programmes, future network capabilities, new operating concepts, emerging risks or technologies still in development.

The focus should be on credible evidence, analysis and operational relevance. Submissions should explain the problem or opportunity being explored, the maturity of the work, potential impact, limitations and what the critical communications community can learn at this stage.

SUBMISSION TYPES

The Call for Papers categories define what a proposal is about. Submission type identifies who is bringing the paper and the perspective represented.

Submission type	What this means
End-user-led operational case study	Led by an end-user organisation responsible for implementing or using critical communications in operational service. The focus should be on the operational challenge, implementation, outcomes and lessons learned. Confidentiality can be maintained until the event where required.
Joint end-user / industry case study	A joint submission where an end-user organisation and a technology or service partner present a genuine implementation together. The end-user must be actively represented and the session must focus on the operational problem, deployment and learning rather than product promotion.
Thought leadership, research, standards or policy	Submissions from government, standards bodies, operators, academia, research organisations and industry are welcome where they provide original insight, evidence or analysis. For industry and vendor submissions, the content must be thought-leadership-led and non-commercial, with value extending beyond a specific company, product or service.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each proposal should give the programme committee enough information to understand **the problem being addressed, what has been done, what has been learned and what the audience will take away**. Please make sure your submission clearly explains:

- The operational, strategic or technical challenge being addressed, and why it matters.
- What has been implemented, tested, deployed, researched or changed, and the current stage of the work.
- The results or evidence available, including measurable impact, operational outcomes, lessons learned, limitations or unexpected findings where relevant.
- The key learning takeaways for the audience - what others can apply, avoid or learn from the experience.
- Where implementation has taken place, submissions should include real-world experience and evidence wherever possible, rather than only describing the technology or approach.
- For future or emerging technologies, submissions should be grounded in evidence, research, trials, analysis or a clearly defined operational need, and explain the potential impact, limitations and practical relevance.
- Who will present, their role and their direct involvement in the work. For operational case studies, meaningful end-user involvement is expected.
- Why the content is relevant beyond one organisation, project or product.
- For Categories 3–11 industry or vendor submissions must demonstrate thought leadership, evidence and analysis beyond a specific product, service or company.

Submissions that do not provide enough detail to assess these points may not be considered for the main conference programme.

HOW SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ASSESSED

All proposals will first be checked against the basic submission requirements and eligibility of the selected category. Eligible submissions will then be reviewed by the programme team against the following criteria:

- **Relevance and fit:** How clearly the proposal fits the selected Call for Papers category and contributes to the CCW 2027 programme.
- **Audience learning and value:** Whether the session offers clear, practical and transferable takeaways for the wider critical communications community.
- **Evidence and real-world depth:** The quality of the evidence, outcomes, lessons learned, research or analysis supporting the proposal.
- **Implementation and impact:** Where the topic is based on a live project or deployment, whether the proposal demonstrates what was implemented, what happened in practice and what impact or learning resulted.
- **Future relevance:** For emerging or future technologies, whether the proposal is evidence-led and supported by credible research, trials, analysis or a clearly defined operational use case.
- **Originality and timeliness:** Whether the proposal brings a new perspective, current learning or insight that advances the conversation.
- **Presenter expertise and involvement:** Whether the proposed speakers have relevant subject-matter expertise, direct involvement in the work and the experience to speak credibly about the implementation, technical considerations, operational impact or research findings. For operational case studies, meaningful end-user involvement will be expected.
- **Non-commerciality and thought leadership:** Whether the proposal is educational and insight-led rather than promotional. For Categories 3-10, industry or vendor submissions must offer substantive insight, evidence, research or analysis beyond a specific product, service or company.