

New NATO Headquarters



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NATO is moving to a new headquarters - a home for our modern and adaptable Alliance. Designed to resemble interlocking fingers, the new headquarters symbolizes NATO's unity and cooperation.

The new building will accommodate NATO's changing needs long into the future. NATO has been based in its current facility since 1967. Since then, the number of NATO members has almost doubled – from 15 to 28, soon to be 29 – and many partners have opened diplomatic offices at NATO. As a result, almost one-fifth of our office space is now located in temporary structures.

With more than 254,000 square meters of space, the new HQ will accommodate:

- 1500 personnel from Allied delegations;
- 1700 international military and civilian staff;
- 800 staff from NATO agencies;
- Frequent visitors, which currently number some 500 per day.

The state-of-the-art design of the building will also allow for further expansion if needed.

A green building

The new headquarters has been designed and built with the environment in mind. It will reduce energy use thanks to extensive thermal insulation, solar-glazing protection and advanced lighting systems.

The windows covering the building allow it to take maximum advantage of natural light, reducing consumption of electricity. State-of-the-art “cogeneration” units will provide most of the electricity and heating used on site. A geo-thermal heating and cooling system will use the constant temperature beneath the surface of the ground to provide heat during the winter and to cool the building in summer. A system of rainwater collection and storage will supply 90% percent of the water needed for the bathrooms, cleaning and landscaping.

Site of the New Headquarters

The site of the new headquarters has an interesting history. It was the location of Belgium's first airfield, in 1908. When German forces occupied Belgium in 1915, it became a Zeppelin hangar. During World War Two, the site was occupied again, and bombed by both German and Allied forces. During construction works on the new headquarters in 2010 and 2011, four pieces of unexploded ordnance were discovered.

Costs

There is a ceiling of €1.12 billion for the entire project. The budget has been under the supervision of the NATO member states, who have funded the project.

Allies contribute to the project according to the principle of common funding (a cost-share formula based on a number of factors including Gross Domestic Product). The funding process is overseen by the North Atlantic Council.

In addition, each member nation covers costs for works associated with its national spaces i.e. offices used by the national delegations and military representations to NATO.

Timeline

As of May 2017, around 260 NATO staff and contractors are already working permanently in the new building, and construction is largely complete. The bulk of the move is due to start later this year.

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