The Republic of Korea is one of NATO’s “partners across the globe”. Building on dialogue and cooperation that has been developed since 2005, relations were deepened with the signature of an Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme in September 2012. The most recent partnership programme approved in 2017 promotes political dialogue and practical cooperation in a number of joint priority areas, including cooperation under NATO’s Science for Peace and Security Programme. At present, Korea has one ongoing activity with the SPS Programme. The leading areas for cooperation include Cyber Defence and Advanced Technology. Below is a list of the ongoing and completed projects with Korea within the framework of the NATO SPS Programme.

Cooperative Activities

SPS INFORMATION DAY IN SEOUL, KOREA ON 25 NOVEMBER 2015

An SPS Information Day – the first event of its kind in the Republic of Korea – took place on 26 November 2015 in Seoul. The SPS Information Day allowed for dialogue on cutting-edge cyber defence technology and energy security, but also opened the floor for a discussion on Women, Peace and Security – a new area of cooperation between the Alliance and the Republic of Korea.

Organised jointly with the foreign ministry, the event attracted over 80 participants from a wide range of sectors, including government, NGOs, civil society, universities, and international organisations.
IMPROVING CYBER DEFENCE CAPABILITIES THROUGH CLOUD TECHNOLOGY

This multi-year project aims to develop a solution for preserving confidentiality and integrity for big data processing in the defence sector. As with most technologically dependent sectors, the defence sector also faces significant challenges in regard to information processing capabilities. The scale of the data which is continuously collected and requires storage threatens to overwhelm existing data processing facilities. In this context, improving the efficiency of processing large amounts of data is increasingly the key to delivering future defence superiority and security.

GLOBAL PERCEPTIONS OF NATO – VIEWS FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

The ‘Global Perceptions’ project was launched in 2014 with the aim to systematically trace perceptions of NATO among the five Global Partners in the Asia-Pacific region, namely Australia, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea. Prevailing perceptions of the Alliance frame global expectations and affect partners’ reactions to NATO’s initiatives. The multi-year project will conduct comprehensive comparative research of elite perceptions and media images of NATO as a global security actor to identify, measure, and raise global awareness, as well as extend knowledge of NATO in the region. This project was completed in 2016 and was led by experts from Estonia, New Zealand, and the United States, with research partners from Australia, Japan, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea. [ref. G4902]

COMPACT SENSOR SYSTEM FOR UNAMMENDED ARRIVAL SYSTEMS

The project aimed to develop new compact sensor systems that can identify unknown electromagnetic signals and their incoming direction in the battlefield using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The low weight and low power consumption sensors can identify key hazards, outposts or targets, and thus allow the mapping of enemy outposts (manned or unmanned). The multi-year project was launched in 2014 and is expected to be completed in September 2018. This activity is led by experts from the United States and the Republic of Korea [ref. G4919]