

Report from AOC EW Europe

Electronic Warfare Europe Addresses Global and Regional Trends

Over 640 people, including conference attendees, speakers and exhibitors, participated in Electronic Warfare Europe 2016, May 10-12 in Rotterdam. The event, which was produced by the AOC and organized by Clarion Events, drew delegates from 35 countries who listened to presentations from 40 speakers covering operational, policy and technical EW topics.

As with past events, the host city proved to be an excellent choice, providing great architecture, fine weather and convenient transportation to

the spacious and smart Ahoy Centre, where the conference and exhibition were held.

The pre-conference Intelligence Workshop, sponsored by Plath, opened with a keynote address from CDR Stefano Calvetti of the Italian Navy, who set the tone for the day by speaking about the challenges in today's communications intelligence (COMINT) mission. Calvetti explained that the September 11 attacks were a turning point for COMINT. As the Global War on Terror accelerated, COMINT organizations needed a better set of tools to handle the volume and diversity of the signal environment,

which includes VOIP, tactical communications, VSAT, VHF and UHF, new HF capabilities, GSM, etc. On top of this, commercial encryption has improved, diversified and become widely available. The speakers who followed describe some of those tools, touching on topics such as big data, data fusion, metadata, and SIGINT and border protection missions. The Workshop concluded with an interesting session on communications jamming. After the Intelligence Workshop wrapped up, the exhibit floor was opened, where 56 companies and organizations displayed their products and services to attendees.



Air Cdre Madelein Spit delivered an interesting keynote about the effects of Russian air defense systems on NATO planning.



Speakers gathered on stage to answer audience questions at the end of each session.