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Defence Industry

Finnish Patria offers cooperation possibilities for Lithuanian industry in the IFV project



The nordic defence, security and aviation group Patria offers armoured modular vehicles to Lithuania, as well as cooperation with the local industry, which is in a very significant role in the project. There are great examples about similar cases eg. in Croatia and South Africa. Patria would manufacture the new vehicles in Lithuania, which will ensure the security of supplies in Lithuania and create new working places for industry.

Patria AMV – market leader

With deliveries to seven countries, eg. Poland, Sweden and Finland, Patria AMV is the market leader among 8x8 armoured wheeled vehicles. AMV products are under continuous development and are fitted with the latest technology. Patria AMV's structural solutions enable high payload capacity, high level of protection and integration of heavy weapon systems. Patria AMV has received excellent feedback from customers for its performance in combat and crisis management operations in Afghanistan and Chad.

The latest addition to this product family, Patria AMVXP IFV, provides further strength to the company's product range. This vehicle's highly intensive testing phase verified that its features met the expectations. Patria AMVXP IFV provides the best solutions to match the customer needs of tomorrow.

Local support essential

Patria is actively looking for subcontractors with required competence to take a role in the supply chain. If chosen, Patria will create a service support system for the Lithuanian vehicles by collaborating with Lithuanian companies that already work with the Lithuanian Armed Forces. In addition Patria will have Lithuanian companies involved in the delivery phase by enabling the local industry to participate into the assembly, manufacturing and delivery of the IFV 8x8 vehicles for the Lithuanian project.

- Engaging local Lithuanian industries would be of high importance in the delivery process of the Lithuanian IFV project. We have already negotiated about the various co-operation possibilities with the local industrial partners, which will have an excellent opportunity to participate into the Lithuanian project as well as to become a

subcontractor not only for Patria but also for Patria's current manufacturing partners and thus creating export opportunities outside Lithuania, highlights Mika Kari, President of Patria Land business unit.

The collaboration with Patria as a part of Patria's industrial participation programme would also enable Lithuanian high-tech industries to enter entirely new market areas outside Europe. Patria is constantly in search of new innovations with development and marketing potential still in its infancy. Patria's industrial participation programme offers promising companies an opportunity to start cooperative undertakings in growing market areas, particularly in the Middle East.

Defence Industry

AxleTech International announces release of new independent suspension model



Troy, Michigan – AxleTech International has shipped the first custom order of their newest 2000 Series model of independent suspensions and is releasing standard versions of Independent Suspension Axle Systems (ISAS) to their customer base this month.

The 2000 Series ISAS is engineered for lightweight tactical and combat vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of up to 15,400 lb (7,000 kg). Like AxleTech's other independent systems, the 2000 Series features the company's double-wishbone design for unrivaled ride control and handling with superior cross-country mobility and safety in various terrains. "Our commitment to our customers is to continuously provide the best custom-engineered drivetrain components and systems to support mission requirements. We have designed the 2000 Series ISAS specifically to fill the gap for 6 to 7.5 ton vehicles that are lacking independent suspensions today", said Tyler Bean, Vice President of OE Sales at AxleTech International.

AxleTech offers the largest range of independent suspension systems with axle payloads from 3 to 15 tons. AxleTech's ISAS product line is the leader in its class and has been selected by more defense vehicle OEMs on more continents than any other system.

AxleTech also provides planetary steer and rigid axles with ratings from 3 to more than 120 tons, as well as transfer cases and drop boxes.

Defence Industry

Minister for Defence Materiel and Science - Hawkei Contract Supports Australian Defence Industry



Minister for Defence Materiel and Science, the Hon Mal Brough MP, today visited the Thales Australia vehicle manufacturing facility in Bendigo, the production hub for Defence's \$1.3 billion Hawkei protected vehicles.

Defence signed a contract with Thales Australia on 5 October 2015 for the manufacture and support of 1,100 Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicles – Light (PMV-L) and associated trailers.

Minister Brough said Thales will draw on its experience producing the Australian designed and made Bushmaster, which they have been producing since 2004 and widely recognised as one of the best protected mobility vehicles in the world.

"The Bushmaster has been deployed on operations in the Middle East and performed exceptionally well and have been vitally important in ensuring our ADF personnel are safe while undertaking operations. The Bushmasters have unquestionably saved countless lives where it has been deployed," Minister Brough said.

"Thales Australia has proven its design and engineering quality with the Bushmaster and the expertise and skills of its workforce will transition to the new Hawkei vehicle."

Thales Australia estimates that the workforce in Bendigo dedicated to the Hawkei contract will exceed 170 staff over the period 2016-17, with additional jobs to be created in Thales' supply chain and as part of the support arrangements.

Importantly, Australian companies will supply key Hawkei components, including cross-drive and steering racks, electrical harnesses, sub-frame components, steering, hydraulic systems, cooling systems, bonnets, instrument clusters, and dashboards.

Thales also is pursuing export opportunities for the Hawkei.



Defence Industry

Oshkosh Resumes Work on Joint Light Tactical Vehicle

The U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments

Command (TACOM) Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) has directed Oshkosh Defense, LLC, an Oshkosh Corporation (NYSE: OSK) company, to resume work on the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) production contract. The JLTV program fills a critical capability gap for the U.S. Army and Marine Corps by replacing a large portion of the legacy HMMWV fleet with a light vehicle that provides unprecedented protection, off-road mobility and transportability.



"We are pleased that the JLTV production contract, awarded to Oshkosh in August, is now moving forward to deliver the world's most capable light tactical vehicle," said U.S. Army Major General (Retired) John M. Urias, executive vice president of Oshkosh Corporation and president of Oshkosh Defense. "Our JLTV is designed to safely transport Soldiers and Marines as they perform their missions 'outside the wire' – providing unprecedented off-road speed and mobility on future battlefields that could be virtually anywhere in the world."

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) dismissed Lockheed Martin's protest earlier today based on Lockheed's notice that it intends to file a protest in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Army lifted the stop work order and instructed Oshkosh to resume performance of the JLTV contract. According to the JLTV production contract, Oshkosh will begin delivering vehicles within the next 10 months, reaching an expected total volume of nearly 17,000 vehicles, as well as kits and sustainment services over an eight-year period.

"The Army conducted a thorough, methodical procurement including exhaustive testing and evaluation to ensure our troops get the best vehicle," said Urias. "The Oshkosh team and our employees will immediately resume work to deliver JLTVs to our Soldiers and Marines."

"The JLTV program fills a critical gap in the U.S. military's current tactical vehicle line-up," said Urias. "The Oshkosh JLTV will give our troops new levels of payload, performance and protection in a platform that was engineered to evolve as new technologies emerge and our adversaries' tactics change."

In designing its JLTV, Oshkosh leveraged its extensive experience producing and sustaining more than 150,000 heavy, medium and protected MRAP vehicles for the U.S. and its allies. The JLTV Family of Vehicles is comprised of two seat and four seat variants, as well as a companion trailer (JLTV-T). The two seat variant has one base vehicle platform, the Utility (JLTV-UTL). The four seat variant has two base vehicle platforms, the

General Purpose (JLTV-GP) and the Close Combat Weapons Carrier (JLTV-CCWC).

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Contracts

General Dynamics Awarded \$92 Million for Abrams Tank Production



STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. -- The U.S. Army TACOM Lifecycle Management Command has awarded General Dynamics Land Systems a \$92.2 million contract to upgrade M1A2 System Enhancement Package (SEP) v2 Abrams tanks to the M1A2 SEP Version 3 (v3) configuration. General Dynamics is working closely with the Army to improve the survivability, maintainability, fuel efficiency, power generation and network capability of its fleet of Abrams Main Battle Tanks.

“Projected for full rate production within the next two years, the Abrams M1A2 SEPv3 will provide the Army with the tank they need to dominate the battlefields of the future,” said Donald Kotchman, vice president of Tracked Combat Vehicles for General Dynamics Land Systems.

The M1A2 SEPv3 production process will begin with a pilot program of six tanks before moving into full-rate production.

Work will be performed by existing employees in Anniston, Ala.; Tallahassee, Fla.; Lima, Ohio; and Scranton, Pa.

General Dynamics Land Systems is a business unit of General Dynamics.



Contracts

Germany buys another 131 Boxers – total order volume is €476 million



The German Bundeswehr has contracted with Rheinmetall and Krauss-Maffei Wegmann to supply 131 Boxer armoured fighting vehicles. The order is worth €476 million.

On behalf of Germany's Federal Agency of Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-service Support, the international procurement agency Occar has placed an order with Artec GmbH – a joint venture of Rheinmetall and KMW – to supply an additional 131 Boxers configured for an armoured personnel carrier role. Delivery is slated to take place during the period 2017 to 2020.

Back in 2006, Artec booked an initial order for 272 Boxer vehicles for the Bundeswehr, the last of which will be transferred to the German military in March 2016. The contract encompassed command and control, medevac and driver training vehicles as well as APCs capable of transporting a complete infantry section/squad.

The Netherlands is also a partner in the cross-border Boxer programme, having ordered a total of 200 vehicles, including in this case a combat engineering configuration and an additional transport version.

Thanks to its composite add-on armour, the Boxer is one of the world's best-protected 8x8 tactical vehicles. This wheeled armoured vehicle assures excellent protection from landmines, improvised explosive devices and ballistic fire, coupled with outstanding mobility both on and off road, even in the toughest terrain.

Powered by a 530 kW (720 HP) MTU turbo diesel engine, the Boxer – weighing up to 36.5 tonnes with a full combat load – attains a top speed of 103 km/h.

Featuring separate drive and mission modules, the Boxer design concept assures maximum flexibility and versatility. In the section/squad APC configuration, the Boxer serves as a ‘mother ship’ for up to ten troops. It is equipped with a remotely operated FLW 200 light weapon station featuring a 40mm automatic grenade launcher or 12.7mm heavy machine gun.

Operational experience in Afghanistan makes it clear that the Boxer significantly enhances battlefield sustainment and mobility of an infantry section or squad. The positive performance of the Boxer in deployed operations was a powerful factor in the German government's decision to place the new order.



Defence Industry

KONGSBERG Protector MCRWS selected for Stryker



General Dynamics Land Systems has notified KONGSBERG that the 'PROTECTOR' Medium Caliber Remote Weapon Station (MCRWS) has been selected as the 30-millimeter weapon system solution for the Stryker vehicles.

“We are very pleased that our PROTECTOR MCRWS has been selected as the solution for this Stryker brigade. The system is the result of several years of determined effort to develop a system with capabilities and performance required for these types of vehicles,” says Espen Henriksen, President of Kongsberg Protech Systems.

“This is a very important milestone for our newest innovation in this field, the Medium Caliber RWS, and we are honored to support US Army and General Dynamics Land Systems in this urgent operational requirement,” says Walter Qvam, President and CEO of KONGSBERG.

KONGSBERG has extensive experience with remote weapon stations, and has delivered more than 17,000 units since 2001. The PROTECTOR MCRWS has been developed over the last six years, based on the expertise KONGSBERG has gained delivering remote weapon systems to 17 nations over the last 15 years.

Contracts

Otokar Receives €47,5 Million Contract for COBRA II



Otokar, the biggest privately owned company of Turkish Defence Industry, was awarded 47.5 million Euro contract for COBRA II tactical wheeled armoured vehicle to perform in various missions of Turkish security forces. The delivery of the vehicles will be completed in the first half of 2017.

Turkey’s largest land system manufacturer Otokar received a new order for its COBRA II 4x4 tactical wheeled armoured vehicle. 47.5 million Euro amounted contract for COBRA II includes various systems, maintenance and support services except for the vehicles. The delivery of the vehicles will be completed in the first half of 2017. The vehicles will be in service to meet various requirements of the security forces.

COBRA II

COBRA II 4X4 Tactical Wheeled Armoured Vehicle is a modular platform with superior technical and tactical characteristics which is developed over existing COBRA Vehicle. Besides outstanding mobility, COBRA II provides higher ballistic and mine protection, increased payload capacity and internal volume. With its wide range of weapon integration and mission equipment options COBRA II can serve various types of missions including urban and peacekeeping missions with optional amphibious feature. The vehicle provides a remarkable performance in a wide range of challenging terrains and