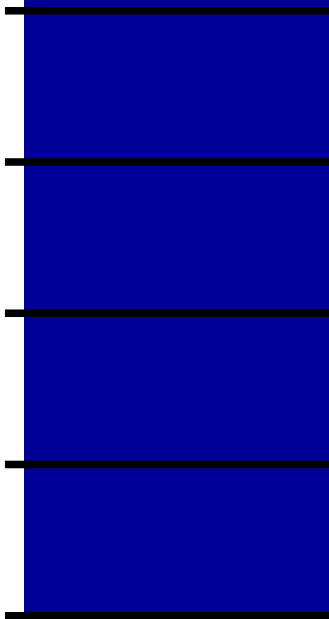


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Contracts**The French ministry of Defence orders vehicles for its Special Forces**

The French defence procurement agency (DGA) notified on the 30th of December to RENAULT TRUCKS Defense (RTD) the realisation of 241 Light Special Forces Vehicles and 202 Heavy Special Forces Vehicles, as well as the integration of sensitive intelligence and communication equipment, and their support elements.

These vehicles will equip all of the Special Forces, who currently operate with a heterogeneous fleet of vehicles particularly worn down by the regularity of their engagement in overseas operations. 25 Heavy Special Forces Vehicles will be delivered in 2016 in a first standard to respond to the most urgent needs. The first light vehicles will be delivered from 2018.

The program responds to a most demanding operational requirement for intelligence or neutralisation missions, and in-depth actions within hostile areas requiring maximum discretion. It aims to improve the interoperability and the fleet's performance level across Land, Air and Marine components of the Special Forces.

Besides RENAULT TRUCKS Defense, the industrial organisation for the realisation of this Special Forces vehicles contract also includes companies Panhard, subsidiary of RTD (conception and production of the light vehicle), and Essonne Sécurité (conception and production of common equipment for both vehicles).

**Contracts****General Dynamics European Land Systems Awarded a Framework Contract to Service the Danish Army's Fleet of Wheeled Armored Vehicles**

KREUZLINGEN -- The Danish Army has awarded a multiyear framework contract to General Dynamics European Land Systems to provide ongoing support for its fleet of PIRANHA 3, DURO IIIP and EAGLE IV vehicles.

The agreement covers the performance of general

post-production support including maintenance, repair and overhaul, technical support, training and modernization activities. It also sets the foundation for the parties to perform technical studies, improvements, upgrades and configuration management for the vehicles.

For more than 20 years, General Dynamics European Land Systems has been a trusted partner to Denmark, supplying vehicles and related life-cycle support to the Danish Army.

General Dynamics European Land Systems, headquartered in Madrid, Spain, is a business unit of General Dynamics, and conducts its business through offices and operating sites in Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic. With more than 1,870 highly skilled technical employees, the companies design, manufacture and deliver land combat systems, including wheeled, tracked and amphibious vehicles, bridge systems, armaments and munitions, to global customers.

**Training And Simulators****Saab to Provide Additional Deliveries for U.S. Army's Combat Vehicles**

Defence and security company Saab has been awarded the fourth and fifth options of a multi-year contract for deliveries of laser-based training system for U.S. Army's armoured combat vehicles. The order value of USD 32 million was booked by Saab as order intake in December 2015.

The Combat Vehicle Tactical Engagement Simulation System (CVTESS) indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract was signed with the U.S. Army in 2012. It consists of this order and further options that can be exercised over a time period of five years with a potential total order value of USD 90 million.

Since 2012, CVTESS has provided the U.S. Army with the next-generation of laser-based training systems for its armoured combat vehicles. The system supplies a highly accurate, laser-based simulation of the combat vehicle weapons used on all M-1 Abrams Main Battle Tank and the Bradley Fighting Vehicles (BFV) variants, including opposing forces vehicles.

"Saab's CVTESS is on the cutting edge of force-on-force training technology. With more than 3,000 vehicle systems fielded to the U.S. Army, we are proud to continue supplying our military with a proven solution for their training needs", said Cyndi Turner, General Manager of Saab Defense and Security USA's Training and Simulation division.

CVTESS is easy to install and maintain, reducing the cost and time of combat vehicle training. Its highly realistic combat scenarios and after-action reports provide soldiers with the experience and knowledge necessary to be safe and effective in the field.

Saab has delivered laser-based training systems to the U.S. Army for the Abrams tanks and BFTVs since 1988.

Defence Industry

AxleTech International builds first axle in new manufacturing facility in India

Troy, Michigan -- AxleTech International produced the first axle from its new dedicated manufacturing facility in India. The 45,000 square foot (4,180 square meter) plant, located in Pune, represents AxleTech's first greenfield project in the country.

"Our new facility strengthens our commitment to support the specialty off-highway vehicle industry in India.

This is an important milestone in our growth strategy as we continue to position ourselves as a global drivetrain components supplier", said Bill Gryzenia, CEO of AxleTech International.

The company has operating facilities in the United States, Brazil, France, and China. The new manufacturing site utilizes an extensive network of local components suppliers.

AxleTech's India-based customers can expect quality products that are engineered to meet their specific vehicle requirements, while also leveraging from a domestic supply base.

The facility is scaled to meet a growing customer demand with opportunity for future product line expansion.

Furthermore, it will supply planetary axles for commercial off-highway applications in material handling, construction, and transportation as well as vehicles for the defense sector.

The grand opening ceremony will take place this coming March and the plant will be fully operational in early 2016.

Defence Industry

QinetiQ Australia starts fatigue testing on Thales's Hawkei vehicle



QinetiQ Australia has commenced the second phase of full scale fatigue testing on the Hawkei vehicle at Thales Australia's manufacturing facility in Bendigo, Victoria.

The eight week test program involves attaching a Hawkei production-level chassis to a 5 x 8m test rig for a series of tests to validate the predicted life of the structure and to demonstrate several improvements made since QinetiQ did the first phase of fatigue tests on the prototype in 2010.

George McGuire, General Manager Land and Maritime of QinetiQ Australia, said: "During the tests, we push the Hawkei to its absolute limits. We artificially recreate the various stresses the Hawkei might be under in the field by placing a combination of loads on the chassis, which are activated by computer-operated hydraulics powered by 100 litres of oil per minute. It is a very significant undertaking that requires a depth of technical expertise and practical implementation experience."

Peter Goodwin, Director Operations at Thales Australia, said: "Both phases of this project have involved a high degree of teamwork and commitment between Thales and QinetiQ using a mix of personnel, equipment and facilities. QinetiQ is one of many suppliers that have played a significant role in shaping the Hawkei and contributing to its success. These full scale fatigue tests will ensure the Hawkei performs for the Australian Army over a long period of time during different stages of operation throughout its service life."

The Commonwealth Government of Australia signed a \$1.3 billion contract with Thales in October 2015 for delivery of 1,100 vehicles and over 1,000 trailers to the Australian Army. The three and a half year production phase is scheduled to begin from mid-2017, with first deliveries expected towards the end of that year.

For more than 15 years, QinetiQ has provided fatigue and damage tolerance assessment services to various commercial and Government customers in Australia, building on existing test and evaluation expertise found in the wider QinetiQ Group. In addition to Thales's Hawkei, QinetiQ Australia has conducted military aircraft full scale fatigue tests and full scale component tests for civil aircraft such as the flaps on the 787 Dreamliner.

Contracts

Rheinmetall wins major artillery ammunition order

An international customer has awarded Rheinmetall an important contract for artillery ammunition. Worth around €130 million, the order encompasses the Group's full spectrum of projectile variants as well as the accompanying propelling charges. Delivery of the products will take place during a period up to the end of 2019.

Rheinmetall Denel Munition of South Africa will produce and supply the complete array of 155mm ammunition.

Ever since the company's foundation over 125 years ago, Rheinmetall has been a centre of excellence in the field of artillery fire support. Today the Group supplies state-of-the-art components for every link in the reconnaissance/command and control/engagement sequence.

Another core competency of the Düsseldorf-based defence contractor is its ability to network individual components into highly effective systems of systems. Furthermore, Rheinmetall's expertise in the field of simulation technology makes an important contribution to training artillery troops.



Contracts

Patria AMV vehicle selected by the United Arab Emirates



The General Headquarters of the United Arab Emirates' Armed Forces has ordered Patria AMV 8x8 armoured wheeled vehicles. All details of the contract are classified.

"This is a magnificent extension for the ongoing, successful co-operation between the UAE Armed Forces and Patria. UAE Armed Forces have been very satisfied with their existing AMV vehicles as they meet all the customer's needs and are suitable for the needed, challenging circumstances. These vehicles will be produced by our Polish partner in a very tight time schedule. The agreement done now is very significant for Patria, and we are excited about this and looking forward to providing the vehicles", says Mika Kari, President of Patria Land business unit.

Patria AMV offers effective protection, increased mobility, modularity and combat proven performance. The vehicle'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. Patria has contracts for over 1,400 Patria AMV vehicles.

Patria is a trusted provider of defence, security and aviation life-cycle support services and technology solutions. Patria has operations and projects in countries such as Finland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Poland, United Arab Emirates, USA and South Africa. Versatile duties employ today some 2,900 skilled professionals.

