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Defence Industry

Mini MineWolf Successfully Tested by the German Army Against AP and AT mines

The German Army's Technical Center for Weapons and Ammunition based in Meppen, Germany has published their final results of trials with the 8.1 metric ton remote-controlled "Mini MineWolf" against simulated AP and live AT mines with explosive yield up to 13.5 kg TNT.

Both the tiller and flail working tools were tested for effectiveness in clearing AP mines and survivability against 7 different AT mine types, including stacked mines.

The results of the trial were excellent, with the Mini MineWolf demonstrating survivability of both tiller and flail working tools against heavy AT mine detonations. It also achieved impressive results close to 100% with both flail and tiller attachments against simulated AP mines. All damage was repairable in the field with the prime mover suffering no damage, underscoring the economic viability of mechanical demining in high-threat environments.

According to Colonel Radlmeier, Chief Development Division of the German Army Engineering School. "The ability to provide safe clearance capabilities in areas contaminated with explosive remnants of war is becoming increasingly significant to the future tasks of the German Army's Corp of Engineers. To improve the protection of soldiers in conflict scenarios we need a reliable, quickly deployable mechanical mine clearance tool. The Mini MineWolf is, based on real-world tests and its convincing results, a very interesting option to fill this gap."

AP mines were simulated using computer-controlled "WORM" mines (Wirelessly Operated Reproduction Mine) developed by the Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies (CCMAT). They are able to detect and report damage inflicted by the machine to a remote computer via a wireless link. The purpose of the trial was to determine the capability of the Mini MineWolf to clear (i.e. detonate or destroy) mines at different depths in different types of soil: gravel, sand and topsoil, as well as to survive large AT blasts with minimal damage, repairable in the field.

Defence Industry

Nexter Group - Satisfactory 2007 profits

Nexter Systems (Giat Industries subsidiary) held a Board Meeting on Tuesday, 26th February and closed the Nexter Group consolidated accounts for the 2007 financial year.

Those accounts were closed in compliance with IFRS rules.

- Turnover: 587 M€
- Current operating profits: 44 M€, which represent 7,4 % of turnover
- Order in hand: 1.825 M€ which represents around three years of activity

Nexter Group 2007 orders intake amounted to 495 M€, compared with 780 M€ in 2006. The drop is explained by the lack of a large export order during 2007 whereas, in 2006, a contract was obtained for 76 CAESAR® artillery systems for the Middle East. Export orders thus reached in 2007 an amount of 67 M€. The 2007 domestic orders were slightly higher than the 2006 level.

Nexter Group turnover in 2007 (587 M€) is decreased compared to 2006 (715 M€*). This was expected and is related to the end of the Leclerc MBT deliveries to the French Army (14 vehicles against 47 in 2006), whereas the initial VBCI and CAESAR® deliveries will only start in the second half of 2008.

The main element of the 2007 financial year is the continuing improvement of the Group's profitability. The Nexter Group operating profits were 69,9 M€. "Current operating profits" (not including non-recurring elements) reached 44 M€ in 2007 versus 42 M€ in 2006. The current operating margin was up to 7,4 % against 5.8 % in 2006. The Nexter Group's consolidated net profits were 151,1 M€. This includes a considerable non-recurring part, due notably to the incorporation, for the first time, of future benefits related to carry forward tax deficits that have been transferred from Giat Industries to Nexter Systems.

These profits also take into account the high level of expenditures dedicated to research and development of new products (17 % of turnover against 13 % in 2006).

Nexter Group orders in hand amount to 1.825 M€ and represent around three years of activity.

Robots

iRobot Receives Award for DARPA LANdroids Program

BURLINGTON, Mass., -- iRobot Corp. announced it has received an award under the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) LANdroids program.

Through this multi-year robotics research and development program, iRobot will develop a new portable communications relay robot that is small, inexpensive, intelligent and robust. The new effort takes advantage of the company's extensive experience in

mobile robot design and production.

"More than 1,300 of iRobot's field-tested and combat-proven PackBot robots have been deployed in theater delivering mission-critical support to warfighters around the globe," said Helen Greiner, co-founder and chairman of iRobot. "Research and development awards such as the DARPA LANdroids program enable us to continue driving innovation towards the next-generation of revolutionary mobile, tactical combat robots that deliver advanced situational awareness and help keep warfighters out of harm's way."

The goal of the DARPA LANdroids program is to develop technologies to enable the warfighter operating in dense urban environments to rapidly deploy and maintain a vital communications infrastructure. This infrastructure is composed of a system of multiple LANdroids mobile communications relay robots that form a reconfigurable communications backbone in support of operations.

During this program, iRobot will design and develop the LANdroids robot. This robot will be small enough that a single dismounted warfighter can carry multiple robots, inexpensive to the point of being disposable, robust enough to allow the warfighter to drop and throw them into position, and smart enough to autonomously detect and avoid obstacles while navigating in the urban environment.

DARPA is the central R&D organization for the Department of Defense (DoD) dedicated to sponsoring revolutionary, high-payoff research and development that maintains the technological superiority of the U.S. military.

Defence Industry

Plasan Has Delivered Armor for 1,955 Life Saving MRAP Vehicles

Plasan has delivered the highest quality armor for the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle (MRAP) during the last seven months, meeting its contractual commitments.

Plasan was originally chosen by Navistar International Corporation's military subsidiary, International Military and Government LLC (IMG), to provide armor for 1,955 vehicles to the U.S. Marine Corps for delivery by the end of February 2008. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, MRAP vehicles are required to increase survivability and mobility of troops operating in hazardous fire zone areas. New orders for an additional 2,500 units will also be armored by Plasan.

Plasan's globally redundant supply chain management and production system ensures that Plasan can deliver state-of-the-art product worldwide. Plasan USA's Vermont factory is at the heart of this innovative project management system. To meet the ever increasing demand for more armored vehicles in the field, Plasan has expanded its manufacturing facility in Vermont, increasing employment nearly fourfold to more than 200 jobs while adding new, larger capacity equipment. Additionally, Plasan is licensing its intellectual property to IMG, which is now sharing Plasan's design, technology and assembly with its other suppliers – greatly expanding the global supply chain's ability to deliver quickly.

Plasan, a global company with locations in the United States, Europe and Israel, designs, innovates, manufactures and delivers customized armor solutions for military survivability applications, tactical personnel vehicles and aircraft. Plasan is a recognized leader in supplying proven, innovative, cutting-edge armor solutions that are utilized by the U.S. Army and Marine Corps for the LVSR, HEMTT-A4, the new MRAP vehicle, and in the combat-tested M915 and MTVR vehicle programs. Most recently, Plasan has teamed with Oshkosh Corporation and Northrop Grumman Corporation to compete for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) Technology Demonstration (TD) Phase award.

The choice of Plasan as the armored protection and design supplier for the MRAP program affirms once again that Plasan is out in front in the design, innovation and manufacturing of the world's best lightweight, cost effective armored protection solutions.

Defence Industry

EARS – QinetiQs Battle-Proven Sniper Detection Solution

Designed for both mounted and dismounted infantry, QinetiQs miniature, low-profile acoustic Ears family of wearable, sniper detection and gunshot localisation solutions is based on a miniature single integrated acoustic sensor.

The palm-sized, 6.4-ounce sensor can be coupled with

an individual operators' interface or used in vehicles and at fixed locations. It responds with the direction and distance in less than a tenth of a second from the first gunshot being fired, without being confused by surrounding sounds, to accurately locate snipers in a 360o view, even when in use on a vehicle moving at speeds over 50mph.

The Ears solution was develop by a QinetiQ North America subsidiary and is known to the US Army as the Soldier Wearable Acoustic Targeting System (SWATS). Ears has already been selected by the US Army Natick Soldier Research, Development & Engineering Center (NSRDEC) to integrate the warfighter-wearable member of the Ears sniper detection family into Future Force Warrior (FFW). FFW is the Army's flagship Science and Technology initiative to develop and demonstrate revolutionary capabilities for Future Force Soldier systems. The entire Ears product family makes use of this unique sensor, which is currently combat-deployed with the Army in Afghanistan and Iraq.

During the Autumn of 2007, US Army field tests proved the effectiveness of the Ears solution in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The US Army's positive evaluation of Ears' in-theatre performance – which proved the advantages of Ears' vastly reduced size, weight, and power requirements – led to this award by NSRDEC.

"Natick RDEC's Future Warrior Technology Integration, or FWTI, is interested in concepts that promote notions such as Soldier as a Sensor, leveraging the network age to enhance our Small Combat Unites with real-time situational awareness and Blue Force Tracking," said Bruce Buckland, Project Lead, Soldier Worn Gunfire Detection, NSRDEC. "QinetiQ North America is modifying a limited number of their soldier-worn SWATS gunfire location systems to output sniper location messages that enable Army networks to instantaneously display sniper locations as enemy/red situational awareness throughout the Small Combat Unit. We are looking forward to checking it out during FWTI experiments this summer."

The NSRDEC contract award is for eight Ears SWATS systems for integration into Future Force Warrior. Engineering integration support is a part of this award, in order to assist NSRDC in their goals.

Defence Industry

Thales to Deliver Tactical Reconnaissance Vehicles for Luxembourg Army

The Protected Recce Vehicle (PRV) contract for delivery of a tactical reconnaissance capability integrated with KMW Dingo 2 vehicles for the Luxembourg Army.

The Luxembourg Ministry of Defence mandated the NATO Maintenance & Supply Agency (NAMSA) to conduct the competitive procurement procedure for this programme. Prime contractor responsibility was awarded to Thales. The company will deliver 48 vehicles by the end of 2010.

The PRV contract will provide the Luxembourg military with a tactical reconnaissance capability that is particularly well suited to allied operations. Key requirements include the interoperability of the solution under development, combined with mobility, protection and observation capabilities.

Thales drew on its high-level expertise in complex systems for land forces and key references in vehicle systems to propose an integrated and scalable solution that meets the stringent operational performance criteria of the Luxembourg Army. The company's know-how in interoperability and proven ability to manage programmes to short deadlines were also decisive factors in the final selection.

The vehicles will be equipped with:

A protection system based on the Protector remote-operated turret from Kongsberg, combined with laser detection systems and smoke grenade launchers.

A complete observation system, including a long-range system integrated with a telescopic mast (already selected by France and Belgium), guaranteeing protection, discretion and rapid deployment thanks to all-weather optronic sensors and an off-vehicle surveillance system with Sophie MF handheld thermal cameras

A C4I system based on proven HF/VHF communication equipment (PR4G, TRC 3700 HF) and a tactical situation awareness system (T-BMS) to allow vehicle integration with an interoperable reconnaissance unit.

These subsystems will be interconnected via an innovative open electronic architecture called the Open Information Communication System, designed to optimise integration and enable information exchange both within vehicles and externally. This innovative architecture reduces integration risks, speeds up the tempo of operations, manages all platform systems in real time and allows optimised support services.

Contracts

BAE Awarded $130 M Contract for Thermal Weapon Sights

BAE Systems has been awarded a $130 million U.S. Army order for production of thermal weapon sights.

The order is the second award under a five-year

indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract, and increases the total contract value to more than $313 million. It also increases BAE Systems' monthly deliveries to 3,000 units per month starting in 2009.

The Army's Program Executive Office Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, is the contracting authority.

BAE Systems has delivered more than 20,000 thermal weapon sights to date under a separate five-year, $295 million contract administered by the Army's Communications-Electronics Command at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Final deliveries will be completed in 2008, more than 15 months ahead of the original contract schedule.

These advanced thermal weapon sights give soldiers a tactical advantage on today's battlefield by significantly improving situational awareness, lethality and survivability. The individual soldier now has a 24/7 day-and-night capability to detect, identify, and engage targets at increased ranges under adverse conditions.

BAE Systems' microbolometer thermal imaging technology allows soldiers to see deep into the battlefield during day and night, through smoke, fog, and other obscurants. The sights are used on rifles, machine guns, and mounted weapon systems to significantly improve surveillance and target acquisition capabilities.

Defence Industry

More than 5,200 MRAP orders awarded to Navistar since May 2007

WARRENVILLE, Ill. -- Continuing to grow its share of orders for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, the U.S. Marine Corps ordered additional International® MaxxPro™ MRAP vehicles Friday valued at more than $410 million from Navistar Defense, LLC (formerly known as International Military and Government, LLC) a wholly owned affiliate of Navistar International Corporation.

The new order of 743 increases Navistar's total Category I MRAP vehicle orders to 5,214; current production levels are at 500 vehicle units a month. The company has delivered 2,000 MaxxPro MRAP vehicles to the military. Navistar's overall MRAP vehicle orders total more than $3 billion since the first contract was awarded in May 2007.

MaxxPro MRAP vehicles are designed to protect troops from roadside bombs and other threats. Presently, there are more than 1,500 MaxxPro MRAP vehicles in theater.

"Navistar's worldwide service network, manufacturing power and family of truck and engine products offers the U.S. military and our allies tremendous scale," said Archie Massicotte, president of Navistar Defense, LLC. "Building and servicing the MaxxPro MRAP is a privilege because this is about protecting our troops so they can fulfill their missions safely."

To meet the demands of changing mission requirements calling for increased protection and payload capacity, Navistar introduced its recently updated Category I MaxxPro MRAP vehicle called the MaxxPro Plus.

"Our close collaboration with the military enables us to swiftly adapt the MaxxPro to overcome threats and other challenges faced by the troops in theater," said Massicotte.

As orders continue for these vehicles, Navistar has delivered nearly 120,000 parts pieces, components and other field support services to keep MaxxPro MRAP vehicles in theater mission ready. Parts and service awards from the military thus far total more than $300 million. Additionally, nearly $80 million in truck orders including water and fuel tankers were awarded to the company in recent months by the military.

Navistar has nearly 1,000 dealership locations worldwide with facilities in 75 countries outside North America, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

Defence Industry

US Marine Corps Orders 2,243 Additional MRAP Vehicles from Several Contractors

International Military and Government LLC (IMG), Warrenville, Ill., is being awarded a $410,730,320 firm-fixed-priced delivery order #0007 under previously awarded contract (M67854-07-D-5032) for additional Mine Resistance Ambush Protected (MRAP) Low Rate Initial Production (LRIP) vehicles.

This delivery order is for the purchase 743 Category I vehicles. The Category I is an MRAP vehicle used by the Marine Corps and other Joint Forces for convoy operations. MRAP vehicles are required to increase the survivability and mobility of troops operating in hazardous fire areas against known threats such as small arms fire, improvised explosive devices, and other explosive threats. Work will be performed in WestPoint, Miss, and work is expected to be completed November 2008. Contract funds will not expire by the end of the current fiscal year.This contract was competitively procured. The Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va., is the contracting activity.

Stewart & Stevenson Tactical Vehicle, Division of Armor Holdings, Sealy, Texas, is being awarded $481,835,008 for firm-fixed-priced delivery order #0004

under previously awarded contract (M67854-07-D-5030) for the purchase of 1,024 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Category (CAT) II vehicles with CAT I seating configuration. MRAP vehicles are required to increase the survivability and mobility of troops operating in hazardous fire areas against known threats such as small arms fire, improvised explosive devices, and other explosive threats. Work will be performed in Sealy, Texas, and work is expected to be completed November 2008. Contract funds will not expire by the end of the current fiscal year. This contract was competitively procured. The Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va., is the contracting activity.

BAE Systems Land & Armaments, LP. Ground Systems Division, York, Pa., is being awarded $234,043,500 for firm-fixed-priced delivery order #0007 under previously awarded contract (M67854-07-D-5025) for the purchase of 3 Special Operations Command variants, 51 Ambulance variants, and 393 Category II variants of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles. MRAP vehicles are required to increase the survivability and mobility of troops operating in hazardous fire areas against known threats such as small arms fire, improvised explosive devices, and other explosive threats. Work will be performed in York, Pa., and work is expected to be completed by November 2008. This contract was competitively procured. The Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va., is the contracting activity.

Force Protection Industries, Inc., Ladson, S.C., is being awarded $9,849,420 for delivery order under previously awarded contract (M67854-07-D-5031) to acquire 12 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Category I vehicles and 6 MRAP Category II vehicles. Work will be performed in Ladson, S.C., and work is expected to be completed November 2008. Contract funds will not expire at the end of the current fiscal year. The Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va., is the contracting activity.

Force Protection Industries, Inc., Ladson, S.C., is being awarded $7,690,529 for firm-fixed-priced delivery order #0007 under previously awarded contract (M67854-07-D-5006) for the purchase of 11 Category III (Buffalo) Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. Work will be performed in Ladson, S.C., and work is expected to be completed September 2008. Contract funds will not expire by the end of the current fiscal year. This contract was sole source procured. The Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, Va., is the contracting activity.

Army

The Finnish Ministry of Defence to outsource the Army material maintenance to Millog Oy

The Finnish Ministry of Defence has today announced its decision to transfer the Army material maintenance to a strategic partner, Patria's subsidiary Millog Oy as of 2009 according to the proposition made by the Defence Command.

The eight-year contract between the Defence Administration and Millog Oy will be signed in summer 2008, the Letter of Intent will be signed already in March. The basic yearly value of the contract is EUR 54 – 63 million. The costs of the Army material maintenance is currently approximately EUR 100 million per year.

In the strategic partnership Millog Oy will be integrated to the Defence Forces' operations already during peace time, which will increase the crisis time readiness and security of supply. The partnership agreement covers the Army material life-cycle support for the platforms and systems related to non and armoured vehicles, equipment and weapon systems including modifications and installations.

The maintenance organisations of Materiel Command the Electronics and Vehicle Depots as well as the Depots in Kuopio, Lievestuore and Tervola will be transferred to Millog in the beginning of 2009. The strategic partnership model will lead to the transfer of approximately 660 people to Millog with their current terms of employment.

Millog is a member of the Patria Group, the other owners being Insta Group Oy, Raskone Oy, Oy Sisu Auto Ab and Oricopa Oy.

Patria is a defence and aerospace group with international operations delivering its customers competitive solutions based on own specialist know-how and partnerships. Patria is owned by the State of Finland and the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company EADS N.V

Defence Industry

Rheinmetall takes over Stork PWV, expanding its leading role in European army technology

The Rheinmetall Group of Dusseldorf has taken over Stork PWV B.V. from its parent company Stork N.V. of the Netherlands. The takeover strengthens Rheinmetall's position as Europe's leading supplier of systems and equipment for ground forces.

It also reinforces Rheinmetall's role in the Boxer programme, one of the largest armoured vehicle projects in Europe. The parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price. The acquisition still requires approval from the relevant competition authorities.

Rheinmetall currently holds a 14% stake as a joint venture partner in Artec GmbH of Munich, the company that developed the Boxer armoured vehicle for the German and Dutch armed forces. The takeover, which includes PWV's share in Artec, increases Rheinmetall's interest in the company to 64%.

Stork PWV is responsible for the Dutch share of the Boxer programme, which is worth around EUR500 million and encompasses the development and production of 200 vehicles for the Royal Netherlands Army. Rheinmetall is producing 85 of the 272 vehicles

ordered by Germany's Bundeswehr, representing EUR212 million for the Dusseldorf-based company, which is also in charge of supplying the electronic components in all of the German and Dutch vehicles, generating an additional EUR60 million in sales.

The acquisition increases Rheinmetall's weight in what is currently Europe's largest cross-border military vehicle project – also with respect to future Boxer export sales. At the same time, Rheinmetall is strengthening its market position in the Netherlands with a view to supporting the Royal Netherlands Army in upgrading its capabilities and further enhancing its operational readiness. Thanks to close bilateral cooperation in the defence technology domain, the Dutch armed forces operate numerous German-built military systems, including the Leopard 2 main battle tank, the PzH 2000 self-propelled howitzer and the Fuchs/Fox armoured transport vehicle.

Delivery of Boxer vehicles to the Dutch Army will begin in 2011 and continue until the end of 2016. The first Boxers are slated to reach the Bundeswehr as early as 2009.

Weighing in at 32 tons, the Boxer armoured transport vehicle is a trend-setting, highly mobile, wheeled vehicle with state-of-the art protection, whose modular design offers itself to a wide variety of mission-specific system versions.

The Boxer forms an integral part of the Dutch Army's and Bundeswehr's "Future Soldier" infantry modernization programmes. It is destined to supersede a variety of different protected vehicles to varying degrees.

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Robots

General Dynamics Awarded $40 Million Army Contract to Produce Robotic Security Vehicles

WESTMINSTER, Md. -- The U.S. Army has awarded General Dynamics Robotic Systems an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract with a total potential value of $40 million for production of the robotic Mobile Detection and Assessment and Response System (MDARS).

General Dynamics Robotic Systems is a part of General Dynamics Land Systems (Sterling Heights, Mich.), a wholly owned subsidiary of General Dynamics.

General Dynamics Robotic Systems will manufacture the semi-autonomous security vehicles and provide spare parts, training and technical services for a five-year period. The work will be done at its Westminster, Md., production facility.

Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada will receive the first four robotic security vehicles produced under this program. Since 2005, the MDARS demonstration vehicles have been evaluated at the depot logging more than 8,000 hours and 28,000 miles of service.

MDARS autonomously conducts surveillance activities including checking for intruders, remotely investigating alarm sources, monitoring high-value inventory and assessing facility barriers, such as the doors of storage bunkers. MDARS is a diesel-powered, 4-wheel hydrostatic-drive vehicle, with a payload capacity of 500 lbs. The vehicle is equipped with a real-time obstacle avoidance system and 360-degree sensors. It can operate for 16 hours without refueling and at speeds up to 20 miles per hour.

"General Dynamics Robotic Systems has taken MDARS from concept to full-scale production," said Phil Cory, vice president, General Dynamics Robotic Systems. "MDARS will minimize numerous physical burdens to Hawthorne's human security force while reducing their exposure to potentially deadly situations."

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Contracts

General Dynamics Awarded $33 Million for Stryker-Related Work

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. -- General Dynamics Land Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics, was awarded a $33 million contract for work associated with the Stryker Mobile Gun and Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Reconnaissance variants.

The contract, announced March 5, will fund engineering and manufacturing for the two Stryker variants. Work will be performed in Sterling Heights, Mich., and London, Ontario, Canada, by existing General Dynamics employees and is expected be completed by Dec. 31, 2010.

■

Training And Simulators

Rheinmetall Defence wins order for GUZ expansion

Germany's Federal Office for Defence Technology and Procurement (BWB) has awarded Rheinmetall Defence a contract for a major expansion of the German Army's Combat Training Centre (GUZ) in the Altmark district of Saxony-Anhalt, which has been steadily ramping up operations ever since

2001.

The order encompasses new GUZ system technology for the previously non-instrumented southern part of the Altmark Major Training Area as well as additional mobile online video technology. For Rheinmetall Defence's Simulation and Training Division, the order is worth some EUR25 million.

[Image]Building on a 2006 order for the complete modernization of system technology for the GUZ command & control center and communications network, the new order encompasses expansion of the TETRA wireless data link and tactical voice communications, meaning that exercises conducted in the southern section of the training area can soon be controlled and monitored from the GUZ command & control center. Among other things, new radio relay stations will be erected in the training area and connected to the command & control center by fibre optic cable.

Just as with the modernization of the command & control center, the contract for connecting the southern section was awarded with the proviso that training operations must be able to carry on without interruption. Once the regeneration and expansion work is completed, the German Army will have an enhanced performance, state-of-the-art system at its disposal that will enable highly realistic combat training, ensuring that troops are well prepared for future operations.

Furthermore, Rheinmetall Defence will be supplying two additional video relay vehicles for online recording and documentation of exercises. The new video units will augment the three systems already supplied to the GUZ, and are equipped for the first time with night vision cameras, enabling exercises to be recorded even under conditions of poor visibility. This will make it possible to exploit the full capabilities of the GUZ video system for mobile online transmission, presentation and processing of parallel battlefield videos in the command cell 24 hours a day.

The German Army's Combat Training Centre (GUZ) is on the global cutting edge with regard to operational effectiveness, depth of simulation and ability to deliver a highly realistic training experience. Expanding the GUZ system technology to include the southern section of the training area, coupled with ongoing regeneration of the computer network, will not merely maintain but materially improve the efficiency of this unique facility. The regenerated Combat Training Centre and its southward expansion will give the German Army the world's most advanced system of its kind, now set to encompass the entire Altmark Major Training Area, and making a major contribution to operational readiness.

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Defence Industry

Plasan Has Delivered Armor for 1,955 Life Saving MRAP Vehicles

Kibbutz Sasa, Israel, -- Plasan - a global leader in the field of combat-proven ballistic armor solutions for vehicles, airborne platforms and personnel, has delivered the highest quality armor for the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle (MRAP) during the last seven months, meeting its contractual commitments.

Plasan was originally chosen by Navistar International Corporation's military subsidiary, International Military and Government LLC (IMG), to provide armor for 1,955 vehicles to the U.S. Marine Corps for delivery by the end of February 2008. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, MRAP vehicles are required to increase survivability and mobility of troops operating in hazardous fire zone areas. New orders for an additional 2,500 units will also be armored by Plasan.

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Contracts

Textron Marine & Land Awarded $58 Million for 82 Additional Armored Knight Vehicles

New Orleans, LA -- Textron Marine & Land, an operating unit of Textron Systems, a Textron Inc. company, has been awarded a $58 million contract modification by the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive & Armaments Command (TACOM) to manufacture 82 additional Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) variants for the M1200 Armored Knight.

The M1200 Armored Knight is an ASV variant equipped with a sensor package that is used to locate and designate targets for indirect fire and laser guided weapons. The Armored Knight is the only system in production with target accuracy equivalent to the delivery accuracies of today's precision-guided munitions, such as JDAM and Excalibur. The specially configured ASV is used by Field Artillery Combat Observation and Lasing Teams (COLT) to carry out its missions.

Tom Walmsley, general manager, Textron Marine & Land said, "We're excited to be awarded this contract to manufacture additional ASVs for the M1200 Armored Knight and provide even more protection to our soldiers. This additional variant of the ASV truly shows the versatility of this product. We're proud of the field record of the Armored Knight variant, and the ASV."

The ASV is a light, agile wheeled combat vehicle with 360 degree armor protection against small arms fire that can withstand anti-tank land mines under any wheel and artillery burst fragments overhead.

The ASV vehicle will be provided to DRS Technologies, the prime contractor for the Armored Knight responsible for the integration of the sensor and Mission Equipment Package. The total requirement for the program has been listed at 531 vehicles. In 2007, 19 vehicles were delivered to the customer and it is currently anticipated that 83 will be delivered in 2008 with the remainder to follow in 2009 and beyond.

About the ASV

The ASV is a 4X4 wheeled armored vehicle that offers significant crew protection through the employment of multiple layers of armor that provides defense against small arms fire, artillery projectile fragments, and land mines. This advanced armor is exceedingly lightweight and, along with its dimensions, allows the vehicle to be able to "roll-on/roll-off" C-130 military transport aircraft. The ASV possesses superior mobility, agility, handling, and ride quality through the utilization of a four-wheel independent suspension system. Textron Marine & Land has equipped the M1117 ASV with a specially designed dual-weapon station that, unlike many other vehicles, enables the crew to load, reload and clear gun jams under full armor protection.

With minor modifications and appropriate outfitting, ASV variants can perform a wide variety of missions including scout, infantry personnel carrier, reconnaissance, and command and recovery. Current missions of the ASV include operations with the Military Police, convoy protection, and Field Artillery Combat Observation and Lasing Teams (COLT). Its record of performance, reliability and survivability in the field is impeccable. More than 1000 ASVs have been deployed in the U.S. Army operations around the globe. Textron Marine & Land has built more than 1,300 vehicles to date.

Contracts

General Dynamics Awarded $32 Million for Abrams Tank System Technical Support

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. – General Dynamics Land Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics, has been awarded a $31.5 million contract for Abrams Tank Systems Technical Support (STS).

The award will fund engineering studies on Abrams main battle tanks to identify improvements and replace obsolete parts to maintain the tanks at high operational readiness rates. The work will be performed by existing General Dynamics Land Systems personnel in Sterling Heights, Mich. It is expected to be completed by Dec. 31, 2011.

Defence Industry

PSP Announces New Electronic Soldier Systems Technology for Body Armour

KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA -- Pacific Safety Products Inc., a leader in the field of protective body armour and soldier systems equipment, announced today that the company will be demonstrating its novel Moisture Detection Liner for soft body armour vests at CANSEC 2008.

In the past, moisture in body armour has been shown to degrade the ballistic performance of the material thereby potentially reducing the protection afforded to the wearer of the vest. PSP's unique system is sewn inside the ballistic material and can detect the presence

of minute traces of water in the fabric. A micro control panel only 4mm thick and 5 cm long can detect as little as 1 millilitre of water. With the ballistic material comprising as much as 70% of the value of body armour, this technology can aid the control and inspection of armour vests in the field or storage thereby preserving valuable investments in soldier or law enforcement equipment.

"We are proud to continue to develop and deliver innovative solutions that enhance the safety of our military and law enforcement personnel and reduce life cycle cost to our customers," stated Jacques Bonaventure, Vice President Corporate Development, Pacific Safety Products Inc.

PSP will be displaying its body armour, helmet systems and electronic products at the 2008 CANSEC Exhibition, April 9-10 at the Ottawa Convention Center in Ontario, Canada. Attendees are invited to visit Pacific Safety Products booth #806 to view solutions and speak with company executives.

About PSP

The mission statement of Pacific Safety Products Inc. is ...we bring everyday heroes home safely(TM: 103.79, +1.53, +1.49%). PSP is an established industry leader in the production, distribution and sale of high-performance and high-quality safety products for the defence and security market. These products include body armor to protect against ballistic, stab and fragmentation threats, ballistic blankets to reduce blast effects, and protective products against chemical and biological hazards. PSP is the largest armor manufacturer in Canada, directly supplying the Canadian Department of Defence, Federal Government Agencies and major Canadian law enforcement organizations. The Company also provides specialized law enforcement and safety products through APS Distributors, a wholly-owned subsidiary that services law enforcement and public safety agencies across the country. The Company, through its U.S. subsidiary Sentry Armor Systems Inc., provides body armor products to U.S. based law enforcement and private security firms. The Company also produces tactical clothing and emergency medical kits. Pacific Safety Products is a reporting issuer in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario, Canada and publicly trades under the symbol PSP on the TSX Venture Exchange.

Forward-Looking Statements: This release may contain forward-looking statements based on management's expectations, estimates and projections. All statements that address expectations or projections about the future, including statements about the Company's strategy for growth, product development, market position, expected expenditures and financial results are forward-looking statements. Some of the forward-looking statements may be identified by words like "expects", "anticipates", "plans", "intends", "projects", "indicates", and similar expressions. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Many factors, including those discussed more fully elsewhere in this release and in documents which may be filed with the British Columbia Securities Commission, the Alberta Securities Commission, the Ontario Securities Commission, the TSX Venture Exchange, as well as others, could cause results to differ materially from those stated. These factors include, but are not limited to changes in the laws, regulations, policies and economic conditions, including inflation, interest and foreign currency exchange rates, of countries in which the Company does business; competitive pressures; successful integration of structural changes, including restructuring plans, acquisitions, divestitures and alliances; cost of raw material, research and development of new products, including regulatory approval and market acceptance; and seasonality of sales in some products.