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- ATK Drives International Expansion with $13.4 Million in New 25mm Tactical Ammunition Contracts from U.S. Allies
- General Dynamics Successfully Demonstrates Tactical Version of 120mm Roll-Controlled Guided Mortar
- Force Protection Receives $106.9 Million Award for 1,000 Independent Suspension System Kits
- Navistar Defense Awarded $183 Million for MRAP Dash Ambulances
- BAE Systems Launch Latest Mine Protected Vehicle - The RG35 (4X4) Reconnaissance Patrol and Utility Vehicle
- Force Protection and CAE Partner is offering variants of the Cougar wheeled combat vehicles to meet TAPV requirements
- Metal Storm Completes Mission Payload Module Contract
- U.S. Army Orders More Than 400 FMTV Trucks and Trailers From Oshkosh Defense
- More Bushmasters for Afghanistan
- Lockheed Martin Receives $24 Million Contract to Upgrade Marine Corps Gunnery Trainers
- Elbit Systems to Supply an Asian Army with Advanced Tactical Training Systems for $32.7 Million
- Sagem wins contract to supply second-generation fire control computers for French artillery
- Azerbaijan Ministry of Defence Industries expands joint production of advanced armoured vehicles
- FLIR Systems Introduces Next Generation Explosives Detection
- Oshkosh Defense to Begin Full-Rate Production of New Vehicles for U.S. Marine Corps
- General Dynamics Land Systems Australia Awarded Contract to Deliver Through Life Support for ASLAV, M1A1 and M88A2 Fleets

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Contracts

ATK Drives International Expansion with $13.4 Million in New 25mm Tactical Ammunition Contracts from U.S. Allies

MINNEAPOLIS -- ATK (NYSE: ATK) has received awards totaling $13.4 million in new 25mm tactical ammunition contracts. The awards, received from a mix of allies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, reinforce ATK's position as a preferred, global provider of medium-caliber ammunition.

ATK is the leading supplier of 25mm tactical munitions used by U.S. and allied forces globally, including the contracted M792 HEI-T (High Explosive Incendiary round with Tracer). Delivery of the NATO-certified 25mm M792 rounds is set to begin in March 2012, with production taking place in the company's facilities in Radford, Va. and Rocket Center, W.Va. The rounds are built with a self-destruct fuze developed and produced exclusively by ATK and are designed for use in ATK's widely-embraced M242 Bushmaster® Chain Gun®.

"M792 rounds have a longstanding reputation as a reliable tool in the defense of critical assets globally," said Dan Olson, Vice President and General Manager, ATK Integrated Weapon Systems. "These orders support ATK's position as a global leader in medium-caliber ammunition."

Contracts

General Dynamics Successfully Demonstrates Tactical Version of 120mm Roll-Controlled Guided Mortar

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. -- General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics, announced today that it has successfully demonstrated a tactical version of the company's 120mm Roll Control Guided Mortar (RCGM) at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz. The testing was conducted under a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) with the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC), Picatinny Arsenal, N.J.

The 120mm RCGM is a low-cost, guided mortar that provides precision-strike capability using standard M934A1 mortar components, GPS guidance, M734A1 fuze components and patented Roll-Controlled Fix Canard (RCFC) technology.

Live, tactical 120mm RCGM rounds where used in the demonstration and all of the rounds were successfully guided to within 10 meters of their target at ranges of 1,000 to 5,000 meters. The test demonstrated the RCGM capability in height-of-burst, point detonation and delay fuze modes, and demonstrated the rounds' ability to perform at hot, ambient and cold temperatures.

Michael S. Wilson, president of General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems, said, "These tests fully demonstrate the viability of our system with respect to accuracy, fuze reliability and enhanced lethality for the warfighter. By using existing warheads and fuzing, in concert with our innovative low-cost control and guidance system, we can offer a truly affordable precision mortar round for less than $10,000 per unit.

"This demonstration proves that the General Dynamics low-cost guided mortar is a viable competitive alternative which meets the Army's requirements for affordable precision munitions," Wilson said.

Contracts

Force Protection Receives $106.9 Million Award for 1,000 Independent Suspension System Kits

LADSON, S.C. -- Force Protection Industries, Inc., a FORCE PROTECTION INC. group company, today announced that it has received a firm fixed price modification to existing contract M67854-07-C-5031 from U.S. Marine Corps Systems Command with a total value of approximately $106.9 million for the purchase of 1,000 independent suspension system ("ISS") kits.

The award consists of 650 ISS kits for Cougar Category I vehicles and 350 ISS kits for Cougar Category II vehicles. Delivery of the kits is expected to begin in the Company's 2011 third quarter and be completed by December 31, 2011.

Randy Hutcherson, Chief Operating Officer for Force Protection Industries, Inc., said, "The Cougar with independent suspension continues to perform exceptionally well in Afghanistan, and this award is another clear indicator of how vital the Cougar is to the troops in theater. The delivery of these kits and subsequent installation will help ensure that our Cougar vehicles continue to perform critical missions in extremely rugged areas."

The combination of today's announcement, other awards previously secured in 2011, and the portion of funded backlog at December 31, 2010 that is anticipated for delivery this year, results in solid visibility for the Company's previously disclosed outlook for 2011. As such, the Company reiterates its expectation of year-over-year growth in total revenue and earnings, with the majority of its 2011 full year financial results anticipated to be recorded in the second half of the year. Similar to 2010, the Company continues to expect its fourth quarter will be the most financially significant of 2011.

Contracts

Navistar Defense Awarded $183 Million for MRAP Dash Ambulances

WARRENVILLE, Ill. -- Navistar Defense, LLC today announced that it received a $183 million delivery order for 250 International® MaxxPro® Dash ambulances with DXM™ independent suspension. The order from the U.S. Marine Corps Systems Command for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles falls under the company's existing indefinite delivery / indefinite quantity contract and is Navistar's ninth major MRAP variant.

"Survivability and mobility continue to be key capabilities required to help our warfighters complete their missions safely," said Archie Massicotte, president, Navistar Defense. "Medics face the same threats on the battlefield and we are proud to provide them with a vehicle that offers both MRAP level protection and independent suspension for off-road mobility."

The MaxxPro Dash ambulance is the company's latest MRAP variant and follows Navistar's November and December orders for MaxxPro Dash and Recovery vehicles. The company first unveiled its Dash Ambulance at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting and Exposition in October 2010 as a retrofit kit option for existing MaxxPro variants.

The vehicle includes an easy-to-use litter assist system as well as a protected work space benefitting medics and patients. This solution, paired with the company's DXM independent suspension, helps medical aid navigate rough terrain to complete its mission. Navistar currently supports a fleet of more than 8,000 MaxxPro vehicles.

"All our MaxxPro units share commonality and this allows us to respond rapidly to changing mission needs with vehicle enhancements and fleet support," said Massicotte. "This flexibility extends across our other vehicle fleets and is just one piece of a business strategy that moves us steadily toward our goal revenue base of $2 billion."

Production will occur at the company's West Point, Miss., facility. Delivery will begin and be completed by the end of September 2011.

In addition to the Dash ambulance order, Navistar last week received a $13 million delivery order for MRAP field service representatives, instructors and mechanics. The order was placed by the Marine Corps Systems Command under the company's existing MRAP contract. Work will be completed in Kuwait.

Defence Industry

BAE Systems Launch Latest Mine Protected Vehicle - The RG35 (4X4) Reconnaissance Patrol and Utility Vehicle

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa –- The BAE Systems business in South Africa has developed a purpose built RG35 RPU vehicle that delivers the crucial balance between firepower, proven survivability and tactical mobility troops currently need and will require in the future.

The RG35 RPU is a modern, yet ruggedly dependable tactical 4X4 wheeled vehicle that is truly purpose built for multiple missions. Not only can the reconnaissance variant be equipped with light and medium turrets, as well as direct and indirect-fire weapons, it can power its way through the toughest terrain, taking troops to wherever the mission is. The vehicle can easily be modified a number of ways to transport cargo, conduct routine patrols, or be outfitted with cameras and other electronics for surveillance missions.

"No matter the mission, ensuring that troops make it to and from their home base safely is paramount," said Chris Chambers, Vice President and General Manager of BAE Systems' Tactical Wheeled Vehicles business. "With the RG35 RPU, we've developed a unique armour protected capsule, integrating decades of expertise and experience that we call the 'crew citadel.' It is designed to shield troops inside the vehicle from mine blasts, road side bombs and gunfire while ensuring they can fulfill their missions effectively."

The RG35 is an open architecture fit for many applications and is currently being adapted to suit the Canadian Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) program. As the business moves forward submitting its formal proposal with the proven hardware in response to the TAPV RFP, the team has coined the tagline "mission complete" to succinctly and simply describe the RG35 RPU's value proposition.

"What's mission complete? It's delivering true value to the customer, throughout its life: providing troops with enhanced crew protection; delivering the tactical mobility required across extreme terrain and multiple missions and, specifically for the TAPV program, built and supported in Canada, for Canada. That's mission complete, and that's the RG35 RPU," added Chambers.

The RG35 RPU is a 4X4 mine protected multi-mission tactical wheeled vehicle. It measures approximately 5.2 meters in length, 2.6 meters in width, and 2.5 meters in height, with a ground clearance of 414 millimeters. The RG35 RGU's gross vehicle mass is 21,000kg and seats driver plus 9 crew members.

Defence Industry

Force Protection and CAE Partner is offering variants of the Cougar wheeled combat vehicles to meet TAPV requirements

LADSON, S.C. and MONTREAL -- Force Protection Industries, Inc., a FORCE PROTECTION, INC. group company, and CAE today announced the companies have entered into a teaming agreement to compete for the Canadian Forces Tactical Armoured Patrol Vehicle (TAPV) project.

Force Protection Industries, Inc. previously announced that it has been selected by the Canadian Government as one of the competitor companies qualified to provide up to 600 wheeled combat vehicles and related long term support services. The Canadian Department of National Defence (DND) expects to award a contract to the final selected bidder by early 2012.

Randy Hutcherson, Chief Operating Officer of Force Protection, said, "We are pleased to partner with CAE, a global leader and one of Canada's most respected companies, to provide what we believe is the optimal solution for the TAPV project. Force Protection and CAE are committed to offering the Canadian Forces the safest and most reliable vehicle and to provide Industrial and Regional Benefits (IRB) that will contribute to the continuing viability of Canadian companies' capability and improve their competitiveness in both the domestic and international markets while continuing to strongly invest in the Canadian industry. We are looking forward to working with CAE as they have a wide range of capabilities and in-service support experience that will help us shape a winning technical, support, and industrial and regional benefit solution for the Canadian government."

Force Protection is offering the Canadian Forces variants of the Cougar wheeled combat vehicles to meet TAPV requirements. As the main Canadian partner, CAE would have overall responsibility for the comprehensive in-service support (ISS) solution, including: vehicle operator and mission training systems; engineering information environment; fleet management services; systems engineering support; and, lifecycle and integrated logistics support services. CAE would also be responsible for assembling a pan-Canadian team of companies to develop and support any country-specific requirements for Canada's replacement fleet of tactical armoured patrol vehicles.

"We look forward to partnering with Force Protection to develop a comprehensive in-service support solution for Canada's TAPV program," said Martin Gagne, CAE's Group President, Military Products, Training and Services. "We have a wealth of experience in comprehensive in-service support solutions, as we have demonstrated over many years for Canadian Forces air, land, and sea platforms. This partnership with Force Protection will produce a turnkey solution that is flexible, high-performing, cost-effective, and most importantly, supports our Canadian Forces in performing their missions safely."

Defence Industry

Metal Storm Completes Mission Payload Module Contract

Brisbane, Australia -- Defence technology specialist Metal Storm Limited has announced that Metal Storm Incorporated (MSI) has completed all of the requirements under the Mission Payload Module Non-Lethal Weapon System (MPM-NLWS) Technology Development Phase contract. The US Government has provided written confirmation that all Contract Data Deliverables have been received and accepted.

Metal Storm has been a participant in the program since 2005 when the Marine Corps began evaluating alternative solutions for the MPM program. This latest phase of the Procurement Process required the development of a non-lethal payload with suppressive effects. This was subjected to exhaustive testing by the U.S. Marine Corps. Additionally, a representative system was developed and fitted to the Marine Corps Transparent Armoured Gun Shield (MCTAGS) to facilitate evaluation of human systems integration.

Metal Storm, Inc. President, Peter D. Faulkner stated, "Our participation in the Technology Development phase of the program allowed Metal Storm and its team members to better understand the unique requirements of the MPM program. We were able to solve many of the difficult challenges in developing a system that maximizes the incapacitating effects while at the same time, minimizing the risk of significant injury to the targeted personnel."

Metal Storm developed a version of its FireStorm that can deliver a large volume of non-lethal munitions at ranges up to 150 meters. The munition was co-developed with Safariland, (a division of BAE) which was demonstrated in a series of tests witnessed by the U.S. Marine Corps.

John Kapeles, Safariland Site Director, Operations and Engineering said "Safariland, a BAE Systems Company, is proud to partner with Metal Storm, Inc., on the MPM-NLWS development and demonstration program. Safariland's primary area of focus was development and characterization of an explosive payload design to meet the system requirements for light and sound stimuli, personnel incapacitation, and non-lethal effects. The successful payload characterization tests conducted as part of this effort demonstrated a significant improvement in the ability to meet operational requirements requiring a robust, reliable and quantifiable non-lethal human effect. The non-lethal human effects, combined with the high-volume payload delivery made possible by the Metal Storm launcher system, will provide the warfighter an increased capability to project non-lethal force accurately at extended ranges."

Mr. Faulkner said "The next step in the Marine Corps acquisition process will be the Engineering & Manufacturing Development (EMD) phase. Under EMD, the selected system will be more fully developed to a production ready state. We are anticipating the source selection process for EMD to begin in Q4 of this year."

Contracts

U.S. Army Orders More Than 400 FMTV Trucks and Trailers From Oshkosh Defense

OSHKOSH, Wis. -- Oshkosh Defense, a division of Oshkosh Corporation (NYSE:OSK), will deliver more than 400 Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) trucks and trailers to the U.S. Army following an order from the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC). The FMTV supports Army and National Guard units at home and abroad in combat operations, relief efforts, unit resupply missions and other functions.

"These reliable and very capable Oshkosh-built vehicles keep soldiers and supply chains moving on the battlefield," said Mike Ivy, vice president and general manager of Army Programs for Oshkosh Defense. "As part of our complete sustainment support for this program, we also started FMTV training earlier this year at our facility in Warren, Mich., and at our training facilities in Oshkosh. We will take our mobile training wherever the customer wants it."

The FMTV is a series of 17 models ranging from 2.5-ton to 10-ton payloads. Vehicles have a parts commonality of more than 80 percent, resulting in streamlined maintenance, training, sustainment and overall cost efficiency for the U.S. Army and National Guard.

This is the latest order under the five-year FMTV contract awarded to Oshkosh Defense for the production of trucks and trailers, as well as support services and training, through calendar year 2014. The order is valued at more than $71 million and deliveries are scheduled to be completed in February 2013.

Defence Industry

More Bushmasters for Afghanistan

The Australian Government has approved the purchase of an additional 101 Bushmaster protected mobility vehicles to support Australian Defence Force (ADF) operations in Afghanistan.

Minister for Defence Stephen Smith and Minister for Defence Materiel Jason Clare announced the purchase today.

The Bushmaster has proven to be a most effective combat vehicle, providing Australian troops with mobility and protection, including against Improvised Explosive Devices.

It has unquestionably saved lives in Afghanistan.

The purchase provides for operational attrition.

31 Bushmasters have been damaged beyond repair in recent years and their replacement with a further 70 vehicles will support current and future operations.

Defence will also evaluate a range of enhancements to the Bushmaster vehicle to increase the level of protection it provides to ADF personnel.

If these enhancements are viable they may be applied to the 101 vehicles.

The purchase of the Bushmasters is subject to the satisfactory negotiation of a contract with acceptable terms and conditions including in relation to performance, cost and schedule.

Details of costs will be released on finalisation of contract details.

Under standing arrangements, Defence will be supplemented for the cost of Bushmasters damaged on operations, with the remainder to be funded from the Defence Capability Plan.

Training And Simulators

Lockheed Martin Receives $24 Million Contract to Upgrade Marine Corps Gunnery Trainers

ORLANDO, Fla. -- The U.S. Marine Corps awarded Lockheed Martin a $24 million contract to provide four new systems and upgrades to 36 of its gunnery trainers for M1-A1 main battle tanks and LAV-25 Light Armored Vehicles.

Marine Corps gunnery trainers, called Combat Vehicle Training Systems, include Lockheed Martin's Advanced Gunnery Training System (AGTS). AGTS is a simulator designed to train individuals, crews, platoons and companies in precision gunnery skills, allowing trainees to transition quickly to live fire or combat gunnery.

"With AGTS, we developed an agile, affordable solution that offers unique configurations for users to train for their critical missions anytime, anywhere," said Jim Craig, vice president of training systems at Lockheed Martin Global Training and Logistics. "The new systems and upgrades will provide effective gunnery training for years to come."

The new features being deployed on the systems include an upgraded, more realistic visual image-generation system – Lockheed Martin's Scalable Advanced Graphic Engine – as well as upgrades that reduce the number of instructors required to staff training exercises.

Additional upgrades include driver stations for the LAV-25 trainers, trainer usage data and record-keeping capabilities and an upgraded ability to fire M1-A1 weapons in closed-hatch mode to protect from snipers and improvised explosive devices. The base order also includes updates to the instructional system that will allow greater flexibility in training exercises.

Lockheed Martin originally developed the AGTS architecture more than 15 years ago. Since then, more than 200 AGTS systems and upgrades have been delivered to the U.S. Department of Defense, with an additional 180 delivered to foreign partner nations.

Training And Simulators

Elbit Systems to Supply an Asian Army with Advanced Tactical Training Systems for $32.7 Million

Haifa, Israel -- Elbit Systems Ltd. ("Elbit Systems"), announced today that it was awarded a contract valued at $32.7 million to supply an Asian army with advanced training systems for its armor and infantry forces. The project will be performed over the next three years.

The project comprises driving simulators for various armored vehicles (tracked and wheeled), and an advanced gunnery and tactical simulator. The flexibility of the solution allows training from the individual soldier's level to tactical teams and even higher hierarchies. The trainees also can configure the training session to match any combat scenario. To maximize its cost effectiveness, the system is designed to reuse as much of the components as possible by applying a "roll in roll out" concept to both the gunnery as well as the driving simulators. The users are therefore able to reconfigure the systems with any combination of turrets they desire. Additional unique capabilities include a smart scenario generator and large training areas at extremely high resolution for both open and urban terrains.

Yoram Shmuely, Co-General Manager of Elbit Systems' Aerospace Division, said: "This is a follow-on contract to a previous project that was successfully delivered to this customer, attesting to the satisfaction and belief in our advanced training and simulation capabilities. This award reinforces Elbit Systems' position as a world leading supplier of advanced training systems."

Elbit Systems is the leading supplier of training solutions in Israel and worldwide and has a leading position as a proven supplier of live, virtual and constructive (LVC) solution. Furthermore, Elbit Systems has fielded joint training solutions that enable its customers to conduct training of collaboration between different services (Land, Naval and Air).

Defence Industry

Sagem wins contract to supply second-generation fire control computers for French artillery

Following a competitive call for tenders, the new-generation ballistic computer offered by Sagem (Safran group) was chosen by French defense procurement agency DGA to outfit all control stations in the French army`s Atlas* artillery system.

The outstanding technical quality of this product was

the decisive factor in winning the contract for this program, designated CADET 2G.

Sagem's computer will determine fire control solutions for 155mm artillery pieces and mortars, as primary or backup control for the Atlas system, as well as during force projection missions. More than 100 of these computers will be delivered.

CADET 2G will provide the following services: deployment of artillery pieces as a battery; management of technical and tactical firing data; determination of firing solutions; ballistic calculations (NATO methods or firing tables); fire control and adjustment.

The CADET 2G solution intended for French artillery was directly derived form the Storm FCC (Fire Control Computer), a new Sagem product developed to meet artillery and mortar firing requirements in international markets.

Designed according to NATO standards, the Storm family is available in three different versions:

- Storm FCC stand-alone computers for control stations.
- Storm FCS (Fire Control System) for gun fire control, as original equipment or retrofit.
- Storm FMS (Fire Management System) for tactical systems.

Some 20 different countries have already chosen Sagem systems for their artillery units. These systems offer state-of-the-art capabilities, including target designation, optronic sensors, laser-gyro based navigation and pointing systems (Sigma 30), fire control and tactical information systems.

(1) Atlas (Automatisation des Tirs et Liaisons de l'Artillerie Sol-sol): automated artillery fire control and communications.

Defence Industry

Azerbaijan Ministry of Defence Industries expands joint production of advanced armoured vehicles

The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defence Industries (MDI) has extended the Joint Production Agreement with Paramount Group, Africa`s largest privately owned defence company, to produce 60 new mine protected vehicles in Baku.

This expansion of the current production facility was announced at IDEF, Turkey's international defence exhibition, and will comprise 30 Marauder and 30 Matador IED and mine-protected vehicles, with deliveries running through to late 2012.

The announcement follows Paramount Group's recent successful establishment of a joint production facility and the production of an initial 30 vehicles (15 Matadors and 15 Marauders) to the Azerbaijan MDI, under a joint production agreement set up in 2009.

Commenting on the new order, the Honourable Minister of Defence Industry of Azerbaijan, Mr Yaver Jamalov, said: "Both Matador and Marauder are highly flexible and advanced IED-protected vehicles that ideally meet the requirements of our armed forces. We chose Paramount Group's vehicles because they are the most technologically advanced on the market and are flexible enough to deal with a variety of situations.

"Since 2009 we have had a robust partnership with Paramount Group based around our firm belief in the creation of a strong local defence industry and we look forward to continuing to benefit from this partnership by further developing Azerbaijan's engineering skills and vehicle production capacity. Partnerships like this show the world that the future of Europe's defence industry is no longer in the hands of a few West European manufacturers."

Commenting on the new order, Ivor Ichikowitz, Executive Chairman of Paramount Group, said: "This agreement is great news for both Paramount Group and Azerbaijan. It shows that our original project to produce 30 vehicles in Azerbaijan has been an outstanding success for all involved and is a testament to the foresight of President Ilham Aliyev in seeking to establish a production base for the future success of the country.

"Paramount Group is a world leader in the development of mine-protected vehicle technology. We apply a 'blank sheet' approach to design which means we develop the most modern technology for our vehicles. Our success in Azerbaijan gives Paramount a firm foothold in Eastern Europe from which to explore future joint production partnerships.

"A key benefit of our continued partnership is that Paramount Group is able to establish joint production facilities with the Ministry of Defence Industry of Azerbaijan, which helps the wider development of high-technology industries and the skilled workforce they require. This 'in-country' approach is key to Paramount Group's philosophy of sharing the economic and technical benefits of hi-tech production with countries where our vehicles are produced."

Paramount Group is keen to form mutually beneficial partnerships with governments as part of its growth strategy. In 2010 it agreed a joint venture with Ashok Leyland, a leading manufacturer of commercial vehicles in India, and earlier this year two more joint ventures were signed. One was with the United Arab Emirates' International Golden Group for the production of vehicles in-country, and the other with Griffon Aerospace Middle East.

The Azerbaijan MDI is exhibiting its production Matador and Marauder vehicles at the International Defence Industry Fair in Istanbul, Turkey, from May 10-13th 2011.

Defence Industry

FLIR Systems Introduces Next Generation Explosives Detection

PORTLAND -- FLIR Systems, Inc. announced the introduction of the next generation of its industry leading handheld, explosives detector – Fido® NXT. The completely redesigned Fido NXT provides expanded explosives detection capabilities in a smaller, more compact, rugged device.

The Fido NXT was designed and developed based on the lessons learned from more than 3,000 Fido detectors currently fielded around the world. The light weight system delivers fast, accurate and consistent explosives detection through a simplified user interface suitable for users of any experience level. The multi-modal design allows operators to use the device with confidence, even after long periods of inactivity, while also enabling expanded capabilities and additional response data for advanced users and subject matter experts. With all-weather and day/night capabilities, the Fido NXT is ideally suited to covert operations or screening in high risk, high threat environments.

"Explosives and IEDs continue to provide a detection challenge for our forward deployed military as well as law enforcement agencies," said Bill Sundermeier, president of FLIR Detection & Protection. "With the introduction of the Fido NXT, FLIR continues the tradition of providing cutting edge solutions for the emerging challenges of our time."

Hands-on demonstrations of the Fido NXT will be provided at the upcoming Force Protection Equipment Demonstration (FPED VIII) in Stafford, VA, May 17-19.

Defence Industry

Oshkosh Defense to Begin Full-Rate Production of New Vehicles for U.S. Marine Corps

OSHKOSH, Wis. -- Oshkosh Defense, a division of Oshkosh Corporation, will deliver more than 200 Logistics Vehicle System Replacement (LVSR) tractors and nearly 70 LVSR wreckers following an order from the U.S. Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM).

These will be the first full-rate production tractor and wrecker variants, complementing the LVSR cargo variants that have been supporting Marines in Afghanistan since September 2009.

"The LVSR tractors and wreckers allow Marines to navigate some of their heaviest equipment through the most challenging off-road terrain," said John Bryant, vice president and general manager of Marine Corps Programs for Oshkosh Defense. "In addition to optimizing mobility, the LVSR incorporates technology that provides sophisticated on-board diagnostics information and integrated armor for superior protection. Oshkosh is pleased to support Marine Corps missions with these innovative and highly protected tractors and wreckers."

The LVSR tractor is designed to haul combat vehicles, semi-trailers and other equipment. It has a fifth-wheel vertical-loading capacity of 25.3 tons and a recovery winch with a 30-ton capacity. The LVSR wrecker supports vehicle recovery in a wide range of terrain – from deserts to mountains – including sand, mud, water and snow. The heavy-payload vehicle can flat tow vehicles weighing as much as 55 tons as well as lift and tow vehicles weighing as much as 48 tons.

The advanced LVSR is produced in three variants – cargo, wrecker and tractor – and features an on-road payload capacity of 22.5 tons and an off-road payload capacity of 16.5 tons. It is equipped with the Oshkosh Command Zone™ embedded diagnostics system to provide real-time performance feedback on vital vehicle information and uses the company's patented TAK-4® independent suspension system for off-road mobility in the most challenging environments.

LVSR tractor and wrecker production is scheduled to begin in January 2012 and be completed in September 2012. The order is valued at nearly $125 million.

Defence Industry

General Dynamics Land Systems Australia Awarded Contract to Deliver Through Life Support for ASLAV, M1A1 and M88A2 Fleets

ADELAIDE, SA, Australia -- General Dynamics Land Systems-Australia (GDLS-A), a business unit of General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada in London, Ontario, received a five year, AU$44.8m Through Life Support contract today.

The contract also includes a one year phase-in period.

The Through Life Support services will deliver enhanced fleet availability of the Army's ASLAV wheeled armoured fighting vehicles, M1A1 Abrams tanks, and M88A2 Heavy Recovery vehicles. Ongoing spare parts, repairs, maintenance and engineering tasks will be ordered as required through this integrated support contract. It also provides the opportunity for stronger relationships with the Commonwealth and local industry.

The contract will change the mechanisms and business processes between the Commonwealth and General Dynamics in Australia to improve efficiency, reduce costs and promote value. The contract also includes the implementation of a performance management framework for the services, which contributes toward the

Commonwealth Strategic Reform Program (SRP). This provides the basis for awarding up to 15, one-year contract extensions based on performance. The low risk Through Life Support solution is founded on local and experienced capability; leveraging the full range of original equipment manufacturer engineering, technical support network and product service centres.

Gary Stewart, Managing Director of General Dynamics Land Systems - Australia, said the performance-based contract provides an adaptable framework to ensure sustainable, dependable and high quality service delivery.

"We have leveraged our extensive experience in implementing and executing performance-based support contracts for other customers, which has enabled us to incorporate attributes such as cost transparency, continuous improvement and application of lean initiatives," Stewart said. "Our service delivery model is flexible, enabling effective change and ongoing service delivery in response to the Commonwealth's constantly changing operational and support environments."

Stewart added that the contract enables the repair, maintenance and upgrade of combat vehicle fleets to remain a strategic industry capability within Australia.

"The long range focus of this program also presents the opportunity for Australian industry to participate in General Dynamics' global supply chain," Stewart said. "We look forward to engaging with Australian companies as part of our design, manufacturing and sustainment transfer initiatives for this contract and other programs."