

# Army Guide monthly



## # 12 (87) December 2011

- General Dynamics Awarded \$10 Million for Vehicle Upgrades
- Urgent Delivery of Javelin Kits for French VAB Armoured Vehicle
- Elbit Systems will Supply the Israeli Ministry of Defense and a European Army with Lightweight Weapon Stations under Contracts for Approximately \$21 Million
- Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles supplies the Bundeswehr with protected HX 81
- Qatar`s Internal Security Forces Order 27 Vehicles From Renault Trucks Defense
- Export licence granted for the Patria Nemo mortar system
- Australian Army Reserve to get Bushmasters
- General Dynamics Awarded \$126 Million Contract for Light Armored Vehicles
- Rheinmetall receives €40 million order from Canada for Buffalo armoured recovery vehicle
- BAE Systems Awarded Two Armored Vehicle Awards Totaling More Than \$150 Million
- BAE Systems Awarded \$41.9 Million to Assist in M113 Upgrades for Brazil
- KONGSBERG awarded major Nordic contract
- Spartan Chassis Receives Order From BAE Systems for International Light Armored Vehicles
- DRS Technologies Receives Award of up to \$22.8 Million for Reset of M1200 Armored Knight Systems
- RUAG supplies Leopard armoured engineer and mine-clearance vehicles for the Swiss Armed Force
- DRS Technologies Awarded \$24.5 Million Army Contract for Engineering and Support Services on the Improved Bradley Acquisition Subsystem (IBAS) used on M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles

**Contracts****General Dynamics Awarded \$10 Million for Vehicle Upgrades**

STERLING HEIGHTS -- General Dynamics Land Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics, has been awarded a \$9.9 million contract to upgrade military vehicles for the U.S. Army. The contract was awarded by the Army Contracting Command in Warren, Mich.

The work will be managed by the newly established General Dynamics Land Systems Combat Support and Sustainment business.

"This award to provide combat support and sustainment reflects the confidence our customers have in the General Dynamics Land Systems team," said H. A. "Graz" Graziano, vice president of Combat Support and Sustainment for General Dynamics Land Systems. "The award has special significance in that it underscores the Army's confidence in our ability to continue to provide worldwide, world-class support to the vital mission of U.S. Warfighters."

General Dynamics employees currently provide vehicle support to military customers around the world. Combat Support and Sustainment's field service representatives repair and retrofit vehicles in garrison and in theatre to ensure optimal vehicle performance. Existing support and sustainment employees will perform this work, which will be completed by May 2013.

**Contracts****Urgent Delivery of Javelin Kits for French VAB Armoured Vehicle**

Under an urgent operational requirement, on June 15 2011, the French defense procurement agency (DGA) ordered kits from Renault Trucks Defense for integrating the Javelin anti-tank missile system into the VAB armoured personnel carrier.

Integrating Javelin into this vehicle will make the weapon system easier to use for French Army units deployed in Afghanistan. The VAB is actually the first armoured vehicle to have this missile integrated for transport in a tactical vehicle.

The Javelin was ordered in 2010 to enhance the firepower of infantry units in Afghanistan. In less than six months, Renault Trucks Defense designed, developed and tested an integration kit allowing six missiles, two firing posts and two tripods to be carried inside the VAB.

This integration is currently being carried out on-site by users in Eryx VABs already deployed in theatre. The ten kits were delivered from the Renault Trucks Defense Fourchambault site on October 14.

The VAB is the most widely-used armoured vehicle in all the theatres in which the French Army operates, with over 500 vehicles of this type deployed in the Afghanistan theatre. Weighing over 13 tonnes, they are capable of performing a wide range of roles, including

transporting infantry, providing direct support for troops in contact, or acting as mobile command posts.

Each year improvements are made to the VAB program in a partnership between the manufacturer, the DGA and the French Army Technical Department (STAT).

**Defence Industry****Elbit Systems will Supply the Israeli Ministry of Defense and a European Army with Lightweight Weapon Stations under Contracts for Approximately \$21 Million**

Haifa, Israel -- Elbit Systems Ltd. ("Elbit Systems") announced today that it was awarded contracts to supply Lightweight Weapons Stations (LWS) to the Israel Ministry of Defense (IMOD) and to a European Army.

In Israel, Elbit Systems was awarded a contract valued at approximately \$11 million, for development and initial procurement, as part of an upgrade process of the Israel Defense Forces' (IDF) lightweight weapons arsenal. The 7.62mm, 12.7mm and 40mm LWS are designed to be installed onboard Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs) and Armored Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) and are to be supplied over an 18-month period.

Elbit Systems was also awarded a contract, valued at approximately \$10 million, to supply a European Army with 12.7mm LWS. The stations are to be installed onboard Pandur 6x6 vehicles and will be supplied over a period of one year.

Bezhael (Butzi) Machlis, General Manager- Elbit Systems Land and C4I Division, commented: "We are very proud of our selection to provide LWS to these two customers, reinforcing our position as global leading supplier of diverse types of weapon stations. Our solutions for full scale as well as low intensity conflicts, and our vast experience, enable us to provide customers with cutting edge solutions for all kinds of combat vehicle needs, and we hope other customers will follow."

**About Elbit Systems**

Elbit Systems Ltd. is an international defense electronics company engaged in a wide range of programs throughout the world. The Company, which includes Elbit Systems and its subsidiaries, operates in the areas of aerospace, land and naval systems, command, control, communications, computers,

intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance ("C4ISR"), unmanned aircraft systems ("UAS"), advanced electro-optics, electro-optic space systems, EW suites, airborne warning systems, ELINT systems, data links and military communications systems and radios. The Company also focuses on the upgrading of existing military platforms, developing new technologies for defense, homeland security and commercial aviation applications and providing a range of support services.

## Contracts

### Qatar `s Internal Security Forces Order 27 Vehicles From Renault Trucks Defense



VERSAILLES, France -- The Qatari Internal Security Forces (ISF) have just ordered 22 HIGUARD (MRAP) and 5 Sherpa light APCs from Renault Trucks Defense. The delivery of the vehicles is scheduled for 2012/2013.

The HIGUARD vehicle is derived from a Sherpa medium 6x6. This vehicle can provide very high levels of protection in certain configurations and can transport up to twelve fully equipped personnel. Its dissuasive silhouette makes it highly suitable to law enforcement units.

The Sherpa APC Security and Law Enforcement version can deploy 10 men and act as a mobile command post. The Sherpa APC is the troop transport version of the Sherpa range.

Designed in conformity with military standards, it offers excellent mobility and robust crew protection. This vehicle is already in service with several customers, including France and NATO.

This order is the result of 4 years of discussions with the ISF. The quality of Renault Trucks Defense vehicles is recognized by the ISF, which had already acquired other vehicles from the brand's range.

Renault Trucks Defense, a reference manufacturer for the terrestrial armed forces, designs and develops a full range of armoured vehicles, with the SHERPA. Legacy supplier to the French Army, with more than 4,000 VAB armoured personnel carriers in service, Renault Trucks Defense can claim more than 65 customer countries across the world. Employing 600 people in France, RTD's 2010 revenues exceeded EUR 300 M.

Armoured vehicles represent more than 60% of its activity, but it also has a truck offering geared to a very full range of military uses. Renault Trucks Defense participates in programmes with Nexter, such as the CAESAR artillery system and the VBCI infantry fighting armoured vehicle. It holds several brand names across the world, including ACMAT.

## Defence Industry

### Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles supplies the Bundeswehr with protected HX 81



Germany`s Bundeswehr has contracted with Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles to supply it with HX 81 tractors. Thus, for the first time ever, German troops will have a fleet of protected heavy equipment transporter vehicles at their disposal.

Worth around Euros 12 million, the order encompasses twelve vehicles as well as a training package, tools and spare parts. By the end of 2013, the Bundeswehr will have taken delivery of all twelve of the new HX81 tractors from RMMV.

The vehicle is based on an 8x8 MAN HX-series chassis, long since put to the test by the British armed forces. Careful account of Bundeswehr requirements was taken right from the development phase: a Euro 5 V8 engine with an output of 500 kW/ 680hp gives the vehicle the forward propulsion needed to the move its permissible gross train weight of up to 130 tonnes. In response to the hazards of modern military operations, the driver`s cab provides up to four soldiers with a high degree of protection against ballistic, landmine and IED threats.

Germany`s new tractor-trailer systems will be used for transporting tracked and wheeled vehicles, containers and heavy equipment. Two cable winches with a pulling force up to 20 tonnes each enable loading and unloading defective equipment. A self-recovery winch with a traction force of eight tonnes is mounted to the front of the vehicle. Designed for maximum mobility, the tractor-trailer system will also be able to operate for long distances in areas with poor infrastructure.

The tractor-trailer system consists of a tractor from RMMV and two different low bed semi-trailers for carrying various payloads, which the Bundeswehr is procuring separately. This results in a carrying capacity of up to 70 tonnes, meaning that the tractor-trailer system can carry the latest Leopard 2A7 main battle tank.

## Defence Industry

### Export licence granted for the Patria Nemo mortar system

The Council of State of Finland granted an export licence for 36 Patria Nemo mortar systems. These had been selected as one of the weapon systems for the General Dynamics Land Systems vehicle, as part of the US Government Foreign Military Sales (FMS) project.



With a value of over €100 million, the contract will have a major employment effect for Patria and its Finnish subcontractors. Earlier this year Patria has already delivered six mortar systems to General Dynamics for testing. The actual deliveries will take place between 2012 and 2013.

Patria is the global market leader in turreted mortar systems. The project will provide an excellent reference for Finnish know-how.

”Obtaining an export license is a major step forward for this technology. It is also an important waypoint in efforts to market Finnish mortar systems internationally”, states Seppo Seppälä, President of Patria Land Services, emphasising the importance of the project.

The Patria Nemo is a modern mortar system featuring excellent signature management and ballistic protection. The United Arab Emirates Navy has already chosen the Patria Nemo.

Patria is a trusted provider of defence, security and aviation life-cycle support services and technology solutions. Patria is owned by the state of Finland (73.2 %) and the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS N.V.) (26.8 %).



## Defence Industry

### Australian Army Reserve to get Bushmasters



Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Senator David Feeney, and Commander 2nd Division, Major General Craig Williams AM, today announced major reforms for Army Reserve under Plan Beersheba at Simpson Barracks in Watsonia, Melbourne.

Senator Feeney said that Plan Beersheba, a restructure of the Australian Army, will achieve a greater integration

of full and part time forces and strengthen the operational capability of our part time

“In an increasingly complex strategic environment, we must make sure our forces are positioned for the full range of possible contingencies.

“Plan Beersheba positions Army to deliver capability in an effective, timely and affordable way to meet these contingencies,” Senator Feeney said.

“This Government will ensure that all Reserve Armoured Corps will receive Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles to provide protected transport for our troops.

“This will be the first time in more than five years that all Army Reserve Armoured units will have armoured vehicles.

“In addition, under Beersheba we intend to create a new armoured squadron with protected vehicles in Queensland. This is a major boost to the capability of the Reserve.

“In Melbourne, the armoured unit of 4th Brigade – 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse who famously fought at Beersheba – will get Bushmasters,” said Senator Feeney.

Commander 2nd Division, Major General Craig Williams said that the Army’s Reserve Force (2nd Division) will be realigned with the Regular Army, with two Reserve Brigades linked to each Multi-role Manoeuvre Brigade.

“There will be a significant increase in the operational focus of the Reserve which will be effected through the development of habitual relationships between reserve brigades and the regular Multi-role Manoeuvre Brigades,” Major General Williams said.

“The 2nd Division will be aligned with the 36 month Force Generation Cycle and assigned preparedness levels.”

Defence Reserves Association (DRA) President, Major General Jim Barry (Retd) said:

“This is the most important structural change for the Army Reserve in decades.

“The six Army Reserve Brigades of 2 Division are now assigned specific roles and tasks and are structurally aligned with their regular counterparts. There is now a defined operational focus which the DRA has been advocating for some time,” Major General Jim Barry (Retd) said.

Plan Beersheba is the Australian Army’s plan for the next phase of the Adaptive Army Campaign. It follows the changes in Army’s command and control structure made during 2008.

Under the plan, the 1st, 3rd and 7th Brigades will form three new Multi-role Manoeuvre Brigades. These Brigades will be fundamentally alike in structure to enable sustained operations within a new 36-month Force Generation Cycle.

Force Generation is the process through which Army readies itself to respond to contingencies that may arise. Each Brigade will have the following components – infantry, armour, artillery, engineers, logistics and communications.

Australia's Reserve Force will be more focused on stability operations and will be involved in major exercises with their partnered Multi-role Manoeuvre Brigades.



### Contracts

## General Dynamics Awarded \$126 Million Contract for Light Armored Vehicles



LONDON, Ontario, Canada -- The U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command has awarded a USD\$126 million contract modification to General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada for 73 Light Armored Vehicles (LAVs) for a Foreign Military Sale (FMS). With this latest contract modification, the original contract, announced on January 4, 2011, is now valued at USD\$264 million for 155 LAVs.

General Dynamics Land Systems, the Canadian company's parent corporation, is a business unit of General Dynamics

The contract was signed through the Canadian Commercial Corporation, a Crown Agency of the Canadian Government.

Dr. Sridhar Sridharan, senior vice-president and general manager for International Operations, General Dynamics Land Systems, said, "We are pleased to be extending our relationship with TACOM in support of their Foreign Military Sales program. This order for additional vehicles is the best testament to the effectiveness of our Light Armored Vehicles with our international customers."

Vehicles provided under this contract will be the LAV II version – a 300 horsepower 8x8 vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of up to 32,000 lbs (14,500 kg). The vehicles will be produced in six different variants.



### Contracts

## Rheinmetall receives €40 million order from Canada for Buffalo armoured recovery vehicle

The Rheinmetall Group of Dusseldorf, Germany, is to supply the Canadian armed forces with the state-of-the-art BFjffel/Buffalo armoured recovery vehicle.

Rheinmetall secured this important contract in the face of stiff competition, underscoring the Group's leading role in the world of heavyweight combat support

vehicles. The order is worth around C\$54.7 million (€40 million).



Rheinmetall has thus succeeded in winning another important contract in Canada as well as adding a new chapter to the BFjffel/Buffalo ARV success story: Canada will be the eighth country to field the system.

The recently signed contract encompasses the manufacture and delivery of the tracked armoured vehicles as well as the provision of related training support. They will be equipped with the latest force protection features, making them more than a match for the kind of threats encountered in modern deployed operations, e.g. in Afghanistan.

Delivery of the armoured recovery vehicles is slated to take place in 2013-2014. The Canadian military are furnishing a number of Leopard 2 tank chassis from their inventory, which Rheinmetall will convert into BFjffel/Buffalo ARVs. The project will be carried out in Germany at Rheinmetall's Kiel and Kassel plants as well as in Canada in cooperation with its subsidiary Rheinmetall Canada and other Canadian companies.

Kiel is home to the Group's competence centre for combat support vehicle R&D, while series production of tracked armoured vehicles takes place in Kassel. Rheinmetall Canada is currently engaged in a major programme to modernize and modify 42 Leopard main battle tanks which the Canadian military took over from the Dutch armed forces in 2007.

The Canadian Army has already been using the BFjffel/Buffalo ARVs in Afghanistan since 2007. Drawn from the Bundeswehr inventory, Rheinmetall optimized the vehicles prior to deployment, fitting them with added force protection features. Both the Leopard 2 main battle tank and BFjffel/Buffalo have performed extremely well in this highly challenging tactical environment, reliably protecting their crews from roadside bomb blasts, etc.

Known as the Bergepanzer 3 BFjffel (BPz 3) in German, the BFjffel/Buffalo ARV is based on the Leopard 2 chassis, and was jointly developed on behalf of the German and Dutch armies. It is designed for recovering disabled tanks as well as for conducting maintenance and repair work under field conditions. Thanks to a built-in crane, the BFjffel/Buffalo is able to exchange a Leopard 2 powerpack or complete turret. Besides a powerful hydraulic crane system, this cutting edge ARV is equipped with a robust winch system and a combined dozer and stabilizing blade.



**Contracts****BAE Systems Awarded Two Armored Vehicle Awards Totaling More Than \$150 Million**

ARLINGTON, Virginia -- BAE Systems Land & Armaments has received two contract awards totaling more than \$150 million to provide RG31 and RG32M vehicles to the United Arab Emirates and Sweden.

“These awards mark a significant success in our Land business,” said Chris Chambers, vice president and general manager of Tactical Wheeled Vehicles for BAE Systems. “The RG31 and RG32M have consistently delivered superior levels of protection from mines, improvised explosive devices and other threats to many customers world-wide and mark a standard of operational effectiveness.”

The RG31 is a mature, combat proven mine protected armored personnel carrier designed, developed and manufactured by BAE Systems in South Africa. In total, over 2,166 RG31 vehicles have been delivered.

The RG32M, which is extensively in service with the Swedish Armed Forces, has various military and non-military applications to fulfill a wide spectrum of command, liaison, scouting, patrol and peacekeeping roles.

**Contracts****BAE Systems Awarded \$41.9 Million to Assist in M113 Upgrades for Brazil**

ARLINGTON, Virginia -- BAE Systems, in partnership with the Brazilian Army are upgrading 150 M113 armored personnel carriers for Brazil through a foreign military sales contract worth \$41.9 million.

The Brazilian Army will upgrade the M113B vehicles to the M113A2 Mk1 configuration. Under this work, the vehicle hulls, hatches and ramps will be reused while all other components including the engines, transmissions

and cooling systems will be replaced or upgraded. BAE Systems will provide the materials needed to perform the upgrade work as well as tooling and spares. The company will also transfer technology and train the Brazilian Army on the upgrade and maintenance of the vehicles.

“This low cost upgrade work provides several benefits to the Brazilian Army including, improved vehicle performance and reliability,” said Joe McCarthy, vice president and general manager of Combat Vehicles at BAE Systems. “We have been exporting and doing upgrade work on M113s for decades. The Brazilian Army acquired the M113s from the U.S. Army in the early 1970s. This overhaul and upgrade program will modernize the vehicles and extend their service significantly, bring the vehicles in line with Brazil’s national defense strategy and help increase their defense capabilities.”

The work under this contract will be performed at the Brazil Army Depot in Curitiba, Brazil and is expected to be complete by November 2014.

The M113 is part of the largest family of armored tracked vehicles in the world and includes more than 80,000 vehicles worldwide with 40 variants. It can transport 12 troops plus a driver and is capable of amphibious operation, extended cross-country travel over rough terrain and high-speed operation on improved roads and highways.

BAE Systems has provided support to the Brazilian Armed Forces for Naval guns, radars and armored vehicles since 1998 from its office in Brasilia.

Earlier this year, aircraft manufacturer Embraer and the Brazilian Air Force selected BAE Systems to provide flight control electronics for the KC-390 military transport aircraft.

**Contracts****KONGSBERG awarded major Nordic contract**

KONGSBERG has been awarded a framework agreement valued at MNOK 960 for delivery of PROTECTOR Nordic Remote Weapon Stations for the Norwegian and Swedish Armed Forces.

The contract is an extension of the agreement disclosed 31 January 2011. At the same time a delivery contract valued at MNOK 380, within the framework agreement, was signed.

KONGSBERG has produced and delivered Remote Weapon Stations (RWS) for over a decade and this

contract reflects one of the most technically advanced RWS ordered to date. The new order includes systems for both the Norwegian and Swedish Defence Forces, forming a solid foundation for cooperation in Nordic material programs.

The PROTECTOR Remote Weapon Station provides enhanced protection and security for the men and women serving in the armed forces by enabling operations to be conducted from a protected position inside the vehicle.

"Our systems have been used under extreme conditions for many years, and have proven to be a valuable asset for our customers and the soldiers serving in the field," says Egil Haugsdal, President Kongsberg Protech systems.

"These two customer nations are strategically important to KONGSBERG as key Nordic nations. Cooperation with both Norway and Sweden is an important focus in the company and we are looking forward to executing this program together with our customers."

The systems will be produced in Kongsberg, and deliveries are expected to commence medio 2012.

### Defence Industry

#### Spartan Chassis Receives Order From BAE Systems for International Light Armored Vehicles



CHARLOTTE, Mich. -- Spartan Chassis, Inc., a subsidiary of Spartan Motors, Inc., has received a multi-million dollar subcontract award from defense contractor BAE Systems to support the production of advanced tactical vehicles and spare parts under the International Light Armored Vehicle (ILAV) Program.

"We appreciate our ongoing relationship with BAE Systems," said Tom Gorman, Chief Operating Officer of Spartan Motors, Inc. "This opportunity—which is smaller in volume with greater product variation—is in direct alignment with our strategic and operational strengths of leveraging our expertise, speed and agility to produce reliable vehicle solutions."

Under the terms of the ILAV program, the Michigan-based custom chassis manufacturer will produce 10 ILAVs in two different configurations and supply ILAV spare parts. These mine protected vehicles, provided to the United States Government as part of a Foreign Military Sales contract with BAE Systems, are scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2012 and delivered to Iraq in the second quarter of 2012.

Spartan has a proven history of building ILAVs for BAE Systems since 2006 and has delivered over 700 of these vehicles to Iraq, Yemen and United States military customers. The ILAV features a 4x4 v-shaped hull and has five variants which include: International Light Armored Vehicle (base vehicle), Interrogator Arm, Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Joint Surrogate Vehicle and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Training.

In addition to this new award, Spartan also continues its ongoing support of MRAP prime contractors and the U.S. Government by providing spare/replacement parts for many of the vehicles built at Spartan during the MRAP program.

### Contracts

#### DRS Technologies Receives Award of up to \$22.8 Million for Reset of M1200 Armored Knight Systems



PARSIPPANY, N.J. -- DRS Technologies, Inc., a Finmeccanica Company, announced that it received a follow-on FY11 Reset contract valued at up to \$22.8 Million from TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC), Warren, MI.

This contract is to provide the Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems (PEO GCS) with Reset services for M1200 Armored Knight Systems for use by the U.S. Army Field Artillery units.

This order is a follow-on award to the inaugural FY10 M1200 Reset program where more than 80 M1200 Armored Knights were successfully Reset and deployed to Field Artillery units.

This work will be executed by the company's DRS Sustainment Systems Inc. (SSI) business unit at its facilities in St. Louis and West Plains, Missouri with completion expected in April 2013. As part of the contract, DRS SSI has entered into cooperative relationships with Textron Marine and Land Systems (TML) for the Reset of the M1200 Armored Security Vehicle ASV) chassis and Raytheon for the Reset of the Fire Support Sensor Subsystem (FS3).

Additionally, DRS will also provide logistic fielding and training services for operation and maintenance of the M1200 system.

The M1200 Armored Knight is used as a precision targeting fire support vehicle developed specifically for the Combat Observation Lasing Teams (COLT) in both the heavy and medium divisions by the US Army Field

Artillery Units. The Armored Knight system increases force protection over legacy systems by combining DRS-SSI fire support Mission Equipment Package (MEP) into a modified Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) chassis which uses the Fire Support Sensor Subsystem (FS3) as its primary optical sensor. Armored Knight provides the COLTs with an automated enhanced surveillance, target location/designation, self-location/command, and control/communications package.

"We are proud to provide critical support of this equipment," says Joe Matteoni, vice president and general manager of DRS SSI. "This ensures the continued use of a premier Fire Support Platform that our soldiers use for their mission."

be exchanged for a number of other engineering devices including a bulldozer system with innovative cutting and tilt angle settings and a double-winch system consisting of two 9 tonne capstan winches. If the need arises, the dozer blade can be swapped for a full-width mine plough. This turns the vehicle into a high performance minefield-breaching system that is also capable of clearing field fortifications and installing or clearing obstacles and barriers.

Prior to the AEV's release to the troops, which is timed to coincide with the 3rd military training intake in 2012, training in the vehicles will be given to the professional cadre of the Armed Forces' training units and Logistics maintenance specialists.

### Defence Industry

#### RUAG supplies Leopard armoured engineer and mine-clearance vehicles for the Swiss Armed Force



RUAG, a technology partner of the Swiss Armed Forces, teamed up with systems specialist Rheinmetall to manufacture and market the armoured engineer and mine clearance vehicle.

The vehicle represents a technological world first based on a Leopard-2 chassis. Alongside its military capability, it can be equipped to provide valuable support in the event of disasters or for civil-military collaboration.

Delivery of the units to the Swiss Armed Forces was delayed to iron out problems with the power shovel hydraulics that surfaced during endurance tests under extreme military operational conditions. The system was optimised jointly by Rheinmetall and RUAG and successfully subjected to a battery of tests involving other components.

Commenting on the hand-over, RUAG Defence CEO Urs Breitmeier says: "What makes the armoured engineer vehicle special is that it has to be able to cope with extreme situations. Unlike a regular excavator, it has to be able to withstand temperatures ranging from -40 to 60 degrees Celsius. Endurance tests have shown this is to be the case, as a result of which we have now reached product maturity. I am delighted to be in a position to hand over the powerful Leopard AEV to armasuisse before the end of the year."

The armoured engineer and mine clearance vehicle features a powerful hinged-arm excavator with a quick-release coupling allowing the excavator bucket to

### Defence Industry

#### DRS Technologies Awarded \$24.5 Million Army Contract for Engineering and Support Services on the Improved Bradley Acquisition Subsystem (IBAS) used on M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles



PARSIPPANY, NJ -- DRS Technologies, Inc., a Finmeccanica Company, announced that the U.S. Army has awarded the company's Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition (RSTA) Group a \$24.5 million contract to provide engineering services and support activities for the Improved Bradley Acquisition Subsystem (IBAS).

The new federal contract was awarded by the Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office of the Aviation and Missile Command at the Army's Redstone Arsenal. Under the contract, RSTA will provide level-of-effort (hours-based) support for program management, engineering, logistics, field service, repairs, product assurance, procurement and subcontract activity to support IBAS sustainment requirements.

"This latest contract awarded to DRS Technologies reflects the Army's longstanding confidence in our joint efforts to continuously improve the IBAS subsystem, enhance its reliability and ensure a growing level of effectiveness," said RSTA President Terry Murphy. "As the prime contractor for IBAS, DRS is exceptionally well-positioned to manage the full range of IBAS-related support activities with cost-effective solutions."

IBAS is an upgraded target-acquisition and missile-control subsystem for the M2A3 Bradley



Fighting Vehicle. Its technology includes a second-generation forward looking infrared camera, a daylight television camera, direct view optics, aided dual-target tracking, an eye-safe laser rangefinder and a two-axis stabilized head mirror. The improved subsystem offers greater reliability while reducing maintenance time and logistics costs when compared with previous systems.

The engineering services contract extends over five years, and began in September, 2011. RSTA, based in Melbourne, Fla., and Dallas, Tex., earned the contract based on experience and cost competitiveness.

■