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Defence Industry

Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles Australia hosts LAND 121 3B Supplier Days

Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles Australia (RMMVA) hosted a series of Supplier Days in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Melbourne and Sydney in November 2013.

The response has been overwhelming with more than 500 companies attending Australia wide. These Supplier Days provided Australian industry with an opportunity to engage with RMMVA and some of its key subcontractors in order to explore opportunities relating to the LAND 121 3B defence project.

The Commonwealth of Australia has contracted with RMMVA to supply and support mission systems for a medium heavy wheeled logistic vehicle capability consisting of approximately 2,500 vehicle systems and approximately 3,000 modules under LAND 121 Phase 3B.

As RMMVA Managing Director Peter Hardisty explains, “RMMVA, in close cooperation with our key subcontractors, is actively engaging with Australian industry to enable as many Australian companies to be part of this exciting program as possible.”

“The products and services we are seeking include the design, development and production of specific hardware such as modules, some vehicle bodies, sub-systems and components as well as project management and systems integration, developmental, test and evaluation work”, adds Hardisty.

RMMVA is working together with the respective State Governments, DMO Business Access Offices and Australian Industry Associations to involve Australian industry in this ground breaking defence project.

Rheinmetall is one of the world’s leading suppliers of defence technology, including wheeled and tracked military vehicles, weapons, ammunition, simulation solutions, command and control technology, force protection systems and sensor technology.

Training And Simulators

New Order to T&S for US Army's Combat Vehicles

Defence and security company Saab has been awarded the first option year of a multi-year contract for the next generation of laser-based training systems for U.S. Army’s armored combat vehicles. The order value is $ 11.8 million.

The indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (ID/IQ) contract consists of this order and options that can be exercised over a time period of five years with a potential total order value of $ 90 million.

Saab’s solution was chosen after a rigorous and extensive competition for the next generation of Combat Vehicle live training system. This first year option is being exercised based on the successful completion of the development, testing and delivery of the Limited Rate Initial Production (LRIP) systems to the Army The Combat Vehicle Tactical Engagement Simulation System (CVTESS) is a soldier-friendly wireless live training system that is easily installed and maintained. CVTESS will provide a highly accurate laser based replication of the combat vehicles’ weapons which will be used initially on all variants of the M-1 Abram’s Tank and M-2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

Saab Defence and Security USA, Training and Simulation, based in Orlando, FL, has supported the U.S. Armed Forces and Homeland Defence with instrumented range training systems and military training products for more than thirty years.

“This system will enhance the training realism for the mounted soldiers immediately as the Army makes the shift to Unified Land Operations while supporting the Army Force Generation Model (ARFORGEN) as troops return from current combat operations. Saab`s new generation of simulators are designed to connect seamlessly with the modern instrumented training sites”, says Lars Borgwing, President of Saab Defense and Security USA.

Defence Industry

Thai Defense Company Chaiseri and DRS Technologies Team for Integration Project on Chaiseri's New 4x4 Multi-Role Armored Vehicle

DRS Technologies, a Finmeccanica Company, announced that its Network and Imaging Systems group and Thailand's Chaiseri Metal & Rubber Co Ltd. have entered into an exclusive teaming agreement to integrate DRS's C4InSight™ mission command capabilities into the new Chaiseri First Win multi-role armored 4x4 tactical vehicle.

The partnership enables the Chaiseri/DRS team to deliver a combination of innovative Thai engineering with DRS's leading-edge ground vehicle mission systems

integration to customers in Thailand and Southeast Asia.

Central to this initiative is the integration of DRS's Data Distribution Unit (DDU) into the Chaiseri vehicles. The DDU enables centralized communication between the C4ISR platform and weapon subsystems and provides a wide range of services including tactical router, voice cross-banding and call management, tactical server, network video distribution, cellular communications, GPS distribution, vehicle power management, peripheral control and vehicle health management. All of these systems are accessible from a connected common tactical workstation via a configurable interface. Third-party applications such as battle management systems can be hosted on a virtual machine and run concurrently with multiple VM services.

C4InSight™ system is a modular, scalable and open architecture communications system with the ability to interface and control a wide range of HF and VHF radios, SATCOM and other line of sight and below line of sight communications mediums. The DDU also provides embedded Wi-Fi for inter-vehicle and intra-vehicle communications.

"This new partnership is an exciting venture for DRS, providing us with the opportunity to establish a relationship with a world-class defense manufacturer like Chaiseri," said Mike Sarrica, president of DRS's Network and Imaging Systems group. "We are excited to team with a company that values the full spectrum of unique capabilities and experience that DRS has to offer in this field on a superior vehicle like the First Win multi-role armored vehicle," Sarrica continued.

Hiran Koolhiran, CEO and Chairman of Chaiseri said, "This teaming agreement represents a big step for our company in the development of a fully integrated and world-leading tactical vehicle that is designed from the ground up for modern network-centric operations."

DRS mission systems solutions are drawn from more than 15 years of successfully supplying its products into some of the largest military tactical command and control projects, including the U.S. Army's Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade and Below (FBCB2) and the Blue Force Tracking program, with over 180,000 systems delivered; the U.S. Army's Movement Tracking System (MTS) program with over 25,000 systems delivered and the U.K. Bowman program with 15,000 systems delivered. Continuing this proven track record, DRS was recently awarded a $455M indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity contract (IDIQ) contract for the supply of the U.S. Army's next generation of tactical computing. As part of this newly announced effort, a number of these new capabilities will be integrated into the Chaiseri First Win multi-role armored 4x4 tactical vehicle.

Chaiseri will be responsible for in-country installation and on-going support and maintenance of the mission system products and systems. DRS will provide its world-class systems engineering support from its facilities in Melbourne, Florida U.S.A and Farnham U.K.

Defence Industry

Jamaica buys 12 Bushmasters

The vehicles are all troop carrier variants equipped with Thales's SOTAS M2 communication system, and deliveries will begin in 2015.

The contract also includes a five-year support package to ensure the highest levels of availability and performance.

Chris Jenkins, Thales Australia CEO, said: "The Jamaica Defence Force has longstanding interest in Bushmaster, and we are now very pleased to add them as an export customer.

The Bushmasters are ideally suited for both internal security and humanitarian operations. The inclusion of the support package demonstrates the customer's trust in us to deliver and maintain an effective capability over several years.

Defence Industry

Raytheon Excalibur demonstrates unparalleled precision in live-fire testing from PzH2000 self-propelled howitzer

YUMA PROVING GROUND, Ariz., USA -- The U.S. Army and Raytheon Company successfully fired 10 precision-guided Excalibur projectiles during the final phase of compatibility testing at Yuma Proving Ground. This live-fire demonstration, funded by the U.S., Germany and supported by Raytheon-funded initial testing, marked the completion of a multi-phase assessment that verified Excalibur's compatibility and performance with the PzH2000 self-propelled howitzer.

During the testing, the PzH2000 fired 10 Excalibur projectiles at targets at ranges from nine to 48 kilometers. Every round delivered precision effects, striking within three meters of the targets, reaffirming warhead lethality and the required three fuze modes. Average miss distance at 48 kilometers was less than one meter. Additionally, the PzH2000 test demonstrated the projectile's ability to maneuver from the ballistic trajectory to an offset target.

"These trials clearly demonstrate Excalibur's ability to provide true precision to the PzH2000, giving warfighters in multiple nations a superior advantage on the battlefield," said Michelle Lohmeier, vice president of Raytheon Missile Systems' Land Warfare Systems product line. "The PzH2000 is one of many highly capable cannon artillery systems currently deployed, and now we've proven that it can fire the only mature, true precision solution available today."

Similar capabilities were proven during Excalibur testing in October from the Swedish Archer and U.S. howitzers.

The German Ministry of Defence is evaluating Excalibur within a competitive framework with a down-select planned in 2014.

"Warfighters around the world recognize the benefits of precision artillery like Excalibur," said Lt. Col. Josh Walsh, the U.S. Army Excalibur program manager. "Raytheon's Excalibur is a combat proven solution that has been fielded and used in combat since 2007 with nearly 700 firings in coalition operations."

Additional testing this calendar year will include a First Article Test for Excalibur Ib, which will verify its production readiness.

Raytheon has also funded a program to augment its combat-proven 155mm GPS-guided projectile with a laser spot tracker seeker, giving the weapon a dual-mode capability. The company is planning a live-fire demonstration of the "Excalibur-S" early next year.

About Excalibur

Excalibur is a 155mm precision-guided, extended-range projectile that uses GPS guidance to provide accurate, first-round effects capability in any environment. By using Excalibur's level of precision, there is a major reduction in the time, cost and logistical burden associated with using other artillery munitions. Analyses have shown it can take 10 to 50 conventional munitions to accomplish what one Excalibur can.

Excalibur is a cooperative program between Raytheon and BAE Systems Bofors AB.

Contracts

PROTECTOR RWS order to Switzerland valued MNOK 196

KONGSBERG has received an order valued at NOK 196 million from the Swiss Army for the delivery of PROTECTOR Weapon Control System including logistics for the Swiss vehicle program GMTF RP13.

This contract is the fourth major PROTECTOR RWS contract between the Swiss Army and KONGSBERG since 2006.

Deliveries will commence February 2015, and the systems will be produced in Kongsberg, Norway.

PROTECTOR Remote Weapon Station is designed for small and medium caliber weapons and can be installed on any type of platform; it is a fully stabilized, combat proven system qualified for global operations. The Protector Weapon Control System protects military troops by allowing the vehicle's weapons to be operated from a protected position inside the vehicle.

As of 2013 the PROTECTOR has been chosen by 17 nations and KONGSBERG continues to be the world's leading provider of Remote Weapon Stations.

Defence Industry

Sweden Buys 102 More BvS10 All-terrain Vehicles from BAE Systems

BAE Systems has signed a $120 million (SEK 800m) contract to supply an additional 102 BvS10 all-terrain vehicles to Sweden.

The new sale is the result of an extended contract option taken out when the Swedish Defence Materiel Administration (FMV) announced a purchase of 48 BvS10 armored vehicles from BAE Systems Hдgglunds in January 2012.

The vehicles will be delivered in different variants — troop carrier, command vehicle, ambulance, and logistic carrier. They will be manufactured in BAE Systems Hдgglundsr refurbished production facility in Цrnskцldsvik, Sweden with deliveries beginning in 2014 and ending in 2015.

The Swedish go-anywhere BvS10s feature enhanced crew ergonomics, internal volume and increased protection, plus integration of the Protector remote weapon station, radio, and battlefield management systems. Smoke grenade launchers are also fitted to give 360 degree coverage.

Sweden, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and France all operate the BvS10 and more than 10,000 of the earlier, smaller BV206 family of vehicles have been sold around the world. BAE Systems Hдgglunds' all-terrain vehicle family is also gaining interest for use in humanitarian aid and disaster relief around the globe.

BAE Systems Hдgglunds is part of BAE Systems, Inc. in the United States, which employs 40,000 around the world — approximately 34,000 in the United States — with major operations in 38 states, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Israel, and South Africa.