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Defence Industry

Oshkosh Truck Signs Agreement with ADI Limited to Offer Bushmaster(R) Armored Vehicles in North America

Oshkosh Truck Corporation, a leading manufacturer of specialty trucks and truck bodies, announced that it has added an armored vehicle to its stable of combat-proven military trucks.

Under a licensing agreement with the vehicle's developer, ADI Limited of Australia, Oshkosh Truck will market, manufacture and support the Bushmaster armored vehicle for North American customers as well as countries eligible for Foreign Military Sales. Senior executives from both companies signed the agreement at a ceremony held at the Australian Embassy, on Friday, Feb. 24.

The Bushmaster was originally developed by ADI, in conjunction with the Australian Defence Force. The vehicle is mine-blast resistant due to its v-shaped hull, and its armor provides IED and ballistic protection to its occupants. The vehicle's mission profile requires it to travel long distances over rough terrain and deliver its occupants to their destination as safely and comfortably as possible, making them more effective in a tactical environment. There are currently over 100 Bushmaster vehicles in service with the Australian Defence Forces, with a number of the vehicles deployed with Australian units in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. An additional 200 vehicles are under contract and scheduled for production at ADI's Bendigo (Australia) facility.

"The Bushmaster provides Oshkosh Truck with an even greater ability to support our customer through a wider spectrum of conflict", said John Stoddart, Oshkosh's executive vice president and president, defense. "As threats and the nature of conflict have evolved, the need for vehicles offering greater safety has grown. This vehicle can meet that need by not only improving troop safety, but delivering the level of performance the military expects from an Oshkosh vehicle."

Oshkosh plans to manufacture Bushmaster vehicles at its defense manufacturing facility in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and can support significant volumes of Bushmaster vehicle production if required. ADI's Bendigo facility will work in conjunction with Oshkosh Truck to support any increase in demand.

Steps are also being taken to integrate components currently used on Oshkosh Truck's fleet of military logistics vehicles. This will increase parts commonality between the Bushmaster and vehicles currently used by the U.S. military, making it easier and less expensive for the U.S. military to supply logistics to a Bushmaster fleet. Oshkosh Truck is already providing logistics support to the Australian Bushmaster fleet in Iraq and Afghanistan through its global parts and service network.

Contracts

BAE SYSTEMS Awarded $32 Million Contract For M113 Add-on-armor And Transparent Armored Gun Shields For U.S. Army

SANTA CLARA, Calif. – BAE Systems has been awarded a $32 million contract for add-on-armor kits and Transparent Armored Gun Shields (TAGS) from the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM).

“We’re seeing examples where the M113 up-armor suites are enhancing soldier survivability,” said Paul Para, program manager for BAE Systems. “These add-on armor packages, combined with our transparent armor, provide an enhanced level of protection for troops against the threats faced in urban environments.”

The contract calls for TAGS, as well as applique, bar armor and mine protection to be installed on M113 vehicles currently in service in Iraq. Production began in February and theater installation will end in August 2006.

The contract follows an earlier award from August 2005 for the delivery of 320 armor suites for installation on M113A3 vehicles, which began in December and completes in April 2006.

BAE Systems’ TAGS units have been configured for a wide range of vehicles, including Bradley, M1 Abrams, M113, HMMWV, and for the Stryker Common Ballistic Shield. TAGS units are particularly effective in close-combat urban environments.

Contracts

BAE SYSTEMS Awarded $227 Million Contract Modification To Reset Bradley Combat System

YORK, Pa. - BAE Systems has received a $227 million contract modification from the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) to reset 361 Bradley Operation Desert

Storm (ODS) vehicles returning from Iraq.

BAE Systems, in partnership with Red River Army Depot (RRAD), will return a total of 361 Bradley Combat Systems (262 Bradley IFV, 55 Bradley CFV and 44 Bradley BFIST) to a combat ready status. Disassembly and component overhaul work will be performed at RRAD and BAE Systems in Fayette County, Pa. Final assembly, integration and test will be conducted at BAE Systems' York, Pa. facility.

"Our proven partnership with Red River Army Depot allows us to reset Bradley Combat Systems to a combat ready condition and return them to soldiers in a short period of time," said Andy Hove, director of Bradley Combat Systems programs for BAE Systems.

The contract modification includes $40 million previously awarded in two parts in December 2005 and January 2006.

Work on this contract will begin immediately with deliveries scheduled to begin in July 2006 and continue through February 2007.

The Bradley Combat System continues to provide outstanding survivability, mobility and lethality to U.S. soldiers in all types of close-combat urban scenarios or in open-combat open terrain scenarios. The Bradley fulfills five critical mission roles including infantry, cavalry, fire support, battle command and engineer squad roles for the Army's heavy brigade combat teams.

Defence Industry

Russian Ministry of Home Affairs is to procure 48 Tiger vehicles from GAS

Deputy Home Minister of Russia, Michael Soukhodolskiy, told journalists on Friday, that Russian Ministry of Home Affairs is planning to procure 48 Tiger 8x8 armoured vehicles from Gorky Automotive Plant (GAS), Nizhniy Novgorod.

Deputy minister informed that 22 Tiger vehicles were procured last year. Maintenance trials showed certain defects, which have already been eliminated by the GAS plant.

In 2003 GAS finished main pre-production trials of the cross-country vehicle GAS-2975 Tiger, that cost 143 rubles. The performance capability is up to 500 cross-country vehicles a year.

Special Police Vehicle (SPV) GAS-233036 “Tiger” is developed as a personnel carrier and command post for anti-terrorist, convoy operations and must provide small arms and blast protection.

SPV Tiger armoured vehicle was given the 5th protection level. The equipment includes firing ports, two roof hatches, the crew department provides space to deploy radio station and reinforced interference suppressor.

The SPV Tiger vehicles also have turbo-diesel cooled supercharged air powerpack and mechanical six-speed gear box. Independent torsion suspension and powereful engine provides good on-road and cross-country performance.

Training And Simulators

Alion Awarded $48.5 Million Joint Warfare Simulation Contract

McLean, VA, -- Alion Science and Technology has been awarded a contract valued up to $48.5 million to provide Modeling and Simulation state of the art technologies to enhance joint experimentation at the US Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM).

Under the award, the Alion team will conduct research and development in critical technical areas for future experimentation and for today’s warfighter. These areas include individual and small unit infantry training, situational awareness capability, training technology for distributed and joint systems, sensor simulation technology, visual simulation technology, information management for M&S and simulation networking. Alion will continue their leadership role in the field, bringing state of the art technological enhancements and innovative thinking to improve modeling and simulation’s capability to support joint experimentation, training and current operations.

The award, issued by the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) in Orlando, FL, has a five year period of performance.

Joe Owen, Alion Senior Vice President, said that the work performed under this contract can help to better prepare US forces for evolving challenges. "Our military subject matter experts can provide the operational direction and our technical team the technology needed to improve the current training and simulations for joint operations. This award expands Alion current effort within JFCOM. We are looking forward to leading the development of these technologies and working with our team of partners," Owen said.

Mr. Jim Blank, the Joint Forces Command Experimentation Engineering Department spokesman, noted "This award brings together an already great modeling and simulation team into one contract and provides us greater flexibility to adapt to changing needs. We are able to address the warfighters’ future needs

today in an incredibly realistic environment."

The majority of the work for the contract will be completed in Suffolk, VA by Alion and their team, which includes Science Applications International Corporation, Lockheed Martin Simulation, Training & Support, L3 Communications - Titan Corporation, Koam Engineering Systems, Nakuru, Soar Technology, Geo Spatial Technologies, Inc. and Toyon Research Corporation.

Defence Industry

M1152 To Be Modified By AM General L.L.C.

AM General L.L.C. was awarded two contracts to the amount of more than $61 million.

Within several days - on March 16 and March 21, 2006 AM General L.L.C., South Bend, Ind., was awarded two contracts amounting to $56,229,980 and $5,870,025 respectively for modification of M1152 - 2-door High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles and 2 man chassis for the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles. Works will be performed in South Bend, Ind., and are expected to be completed by Dec. 31, 2007. Contract funds will not expire at the end of the current fiscal year. This was a sole source contract initiated on July 17, 2000. The Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command, Warren, Mich., is the contracting activity (DAAE07-01-C-S001).

Contracts

New Contract For Nordic Ammunition Co

Nordic Ammunition Co., Karlsborg, Sweden, was awarded on March 20, 2006, a $5,782,991 modification to a firm-fixed-price contract for Manufacture and Delivery of 5.56 mm M995 and 7.62 mm M993 Armor Piercing Cartridges.

Work will be performed in Bedford, Pa., and is expected to be completed by Oct. 27, 2010. Contract funds will not expire at the end of the current fiscal year. This was a sole source contract initiated on Oct. 27, 2005. The Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command, Picatinny, N.J., is the contracting activity (W15QKN-06-C-0009).

Contracts

DRS Test and Energy Management Inc. Awarded $20 Million Order For Bradley

On March 16, 2006, DRS Test and Energy Management Inc., Huntsville, Ala., was awarded a delivery order amounting to $19,922,265 as part of a $25,554,767 firm-fixed-price contract for stand alone digital electronic control assembly common support function module rehost kits and cables, restow kits, Bradley tow thermal processing system sets, and Bradley A3 without forward looking infrared radar for the Bradley A3 vehicles.

Work will be performed in Huntsville, Ala., and is expected to be completed by Nov. 29, 2006. Contract funds will not expire at the end of the current fiscal year. This was a sole source contract initiated on Nov. 29, 2005. The U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command, Rock Island, Ill., is the contracting activity (DAAE20-03-G-0001).

Contracts

Armor Holdings Awarded $27.2M to Support the Newest Version Up-Armored HMMWV

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Armor Holdings, Inc., a leading manufacturer and distributor of security products and vehicle armor systems serving military, law enforcement, homeland security and commercial markets, announced today the receipt of an order from AM General valued at $27.2 million to purchase armor components for the M1151 Up-Armored HMMWV program.

Armor Holdings stated that the work will supply specific armor components to AM General for inclusion in the vehicle manufacturing process, commonly referred to as the "A" kit. AM General also ordered additional armor components referred to as the "B" kit which are specifically designed for application in the field to the M1151 if armor protection is required. Production of the M1151 Up-Armored HMMWV armor systems will be performed during 2006 by the Armor Holdings Aerospace and Defense Group at its Fairfield, Ohio facilities.

Robert Schiller, President of Armor Holdings, said, "This order represents a continuation of our strong relationship with AM General for the HMMWV program. Our 2006 backlog continues to grow and we are pleased to be meeting current projected demand for armoring of the newest version of Up-Armored HMMWV manufactured by AM General. We are proud to be at the forefront of the development and production of the armor systems for these exceptional Up- Armored light tactical vehicles."

Contracts

DRS Receives $9M Order to Refurbish Military Trailers Deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom

PARSIPPANY, N.J. -- DRS Technologies, Inc. announced today that it received a new order, valued at approximately $9 million, to refurbish M1000 Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) trailers returning from deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Manufactured by DRS, the M1000 is uniquely engineered to transport U.S. Army tanks and other heavy equipment, including the U.S. Army's fleet of M1 Abrams Main Battle Tanks, over primary and secondary roads or rough, cross-country terrain. It is widely recognized as the world's premier tank and heavy equipment transporter.

The order was received from the U.S. Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) in Warren, Michigan. Work for this award will be accomplished by the company's DRS Systems & Electronics unit in West Plains, Missouri.

This most recent order is part of a previously awarded contract to refurbish more than 1,000 M1000 HET trailers over a five-year ordering period ending in October 2008.

"This key transport system continues to prove its reliability, durability and versatility under extremely harsh conditions and remains an integral part of the military's operations in Iraq," said Daniel A. Rodrigues, president of DRS's Sustainment Systems & Services Group. "The DRS-built M-1000 trailer provides the Army with the capability to move Abrams tanks and other cargo across the battle space, ensuring military readiness in ongoing operations."

The M1000 HET system can transport all types of tracked and wheeled vehicles, containers and large bulk cargo weighing as much as 80 tons on- or off-road. Over the past 12 years, more than 2,300 M1000 HET systems have been produced and deployed with the Army worldwide.

Contracts

General Dynamics Awarded $42 Million for Abrams Integrated Management Work

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. - The U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command has awarded General Dynamics Land Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics, two contract modifications associated with the Abrams Integrated Management (AIM) tank program.

The combined potential value of both contracts is $41.8 million if all options are exercised.

The first modification, valued at $25.9 million, covers the labor associated with the production of 92 M1A1 AIM tanks for the U.S. Army between July 2006 and July 2007. The second contract modification, for $15.9 million, is for long-lead materials required to begin delivery in July 2007 of up to 100 additional M1A1 AIM tanks.

AIM is a joint program to refurbish M1A1 Abrams main battle tanks. M1A1 Abrams tanks are completely disassembled and overhauled to a like-new, "zero-mile, zero-hour" condition. The refurbished M1A1 AIM tanks incur lower operational and support costs and report higher operational readiness rates. AIM is a joint program involving the U.S. Army Project Manager for the Heavy Brigade Combat Team; the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command; the Anniston Army Depot, Anniston, Ala.; and General Dynamics Land Systems.

Work will be performed by existing General Dynamics employees in Tallahassee, Fla.; Sterling Heights, Mich.; Lima, Ohio; and Eynon and Scranton, Pa.

Future Technologies

Lockheed Martin Successfully Concludes Phase I Tests Of Guided MLRS Unitary Rocket

DALLAS, TX, -- Lockheed Martin successfully conducted four separate flight tests of Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Unitary rocket recently at White Sands Missile Range, NM, concluding the first phase of the Production Qualification Testing requirement series for the contract.

Test objectives included demonstrating the capability of GMLRS Unitary rockets in point detonate and proximity modes at short and long range against tactically representative targets. These missions were the last in a series of GMLRS Unitary Phase I Production Qualification Tests (PQT) of the GMLRS Unitary Rocket.

“We are very pleased that the Guided MLRS Unitary system is performing so well in Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Mark Pincoski, U.S. Army Precision Guided Munitions and Rockets product manager. “The GMLRS system represents the state-of-the-art in U.S. Field Artillery precision strike capability, and everyone on the GMLRS

government and contractor team has worked very hard to put this system into the hands of our soldiers. The world's best Soldiers deserve the world's best weapons and equipment, and GMLRS Unitary is the best Field Artillery weapon system we have ever fielded. We remain focused on the needs of our Soldiers and are committed to providing them the best in rocket and missile fire support systems."

Phase II improvements to the GMLRS Unitary will include fuzing and software upgrades to enhance effectiveness and Insensitive Munitions (IM) upgrades to provide the Soldier added safety in a hostile environments.

"GMLRS Unitary was fielded ahead of schedule and is proving to be an invaluable asset to the Army in theater," said Al Duchesne, director - MLRS Rocket Programs at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. "The system continues to meet developmental expectation and is on track for Government operational testing and full fielding. GMLRS Unitary is proving to a must-have solution for the Soldier in today's asymmetric battlefield."

Guided MLRS Unitary integrates a 200-pound class unitary warhead into the GMLRS rocket, giving battlefield commanders the ability to attack targets up to 70 kilometers away with high precision. This low-cost, low-risk program will greatly reduce collateral damage by providing enhanced accuracy to ensure delivery of the warhead to the target.

Lockheed Martin received a $119 million contract to conduct System Development and Demonstration (SDD) for a GMLRS variant with a single warhead in October 2003. The SDD contract includes 86 rockets, 71 of which are flight articles, with the balance supporting test and other activities. The contract also provides test hardware to support 26 flight tests for an initial configuration and 39 flight tests of a follow-on configuration.

The SDD phase of this program was preceded by a successful system demonstration in 2002 of a Quick Reaction Unitary Rocket and a nine-month Component Advanced Development program. The Guided Unitary SDD program will continue through 2007.

Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., Lockheed Martin employs about 135,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacture, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services. The corporation reported 2005 sales of $37.2 billion.

Contracts

Chile Concludes Deal To Buy 118 Tanks from Germany

Chile has concluded a deal to buy 118 Leopard 2 tanks from Germany to replace 131 Leopard 1 tanks that it will retire in the coming months, the defense ministry said in a statement on March 24.

Chile's acquisitions of military hardware in recent years have stirred criticism among neighbors, especially Peru, who say Chile is upsetting the equilibrium of military power in the Southern Cone region of South America.

Chile has repeatedly said it is just replacing obsolete equipment and has no interest in sparking an arms race with neighbors.

Chile's recent deals to acquire military hardware include used F-16 aircraft and frigates from European countries, and Harpoon missiles from the United States.

The ministry did not say how much it paid for the tanks.

Ten percent of revenue from Chile's government copper miner Codelco, the biggest copper producer in the world, is designated for government military purchases.

Germany has been steadily selling off surplus Leopard 2 tanks as part of a reduction of its heavy armor. In the past three years it has sold tanks to Finland, Poland, Greece and Turkey.

Leopard tanks are manufactured by Krauss-Maffei Wegmann and are often refitted by that company before delivery.

Contracts

U.S. Navy Awards iRobot Additional $26 Million for Man Transportable Robotic System Robots

BURLINGTON, Mass., March 27, 2006 – iRobot Corp. announced a new contract delivery order from the U.S. Navy to build additional bomb disposal robots for shipment to the U.S. Forces.

Under the terms, iRobot will deliver an additional 213 iRobot PackBot® Man Transportable Robotic Systems (MTRS), plus spare parts to repair robots in the field. The new award of $26 million marks the third round of funding by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), bringing the total value of the orders placed to date to more than $43 million.

"The PackBot MTRS robots are helping to reduce casualties as our soldiers battle insurgents who are littering Iraq with thousands of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)," said Helen Greiner, chairman and co-founder, iRobot. "iRobot continues to develop innovative robot technologies that will offer soldiers options for more safely dealing with bombs and other threats."

The PackBot MTRS robots are customized for NAVSEA and are based on iRobot's combat-proven PackBot Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) robots. PackBot MTRS robots are equipped with advanced tools and sensors that enable EOD technicians to identify and disrupt bombs from a safe distance. The U.S. military's dual-sourced MTRS program has requirements for up to 1200 robots through 2012.

These PackBot MTRS robots will be deployed in Iraq and elsewhere. Currently more than 300 PackBot robots are deployed worldwide where they are used extensively to disarm IEDs. The PackBot robots have performed tens of thousands of missions in the region and are credited with saving scores of soldiers' lives.

Defence Industry

Renovation and Modification of Swedish Artillery System

Swedish Government submitted to the Riksdag Government Bill 2005/06:132, "Renovation and modification of the Haubits 77B artillery system".

To enable the Swedish Armed Forces to retain a future artillery capability that has good potential for both national and international use, the Government proposes that the Haubits (Howitzer) 77B artillery system should undergo renovation and modification.

The Government's proposal starts out from the recognition that the present artillery system has shortcomings in several respects, including protection of personnel. According to estimates, delivery of the artillery system will begin in 2009 and will allow an initial capability to be available in 2011.

The renovation and modification of Haubits 77B comprises the following steps:

- The gun will be mounted on a civilian off-road vehicle (dumper), which will create improved tactical and combat mobility.
- The gun unit will be upgraded so as to be able to fire precision ammunition, among other improvements.
- A splinter-proof cabin will be mounted on the dumper to protect the personnel from both attack and harmful sound pressure.
- The gun will be equipped with remote control capability by making the gun itself computer-controlled and by developing a new loading system, modular loading. This means that the personnel will never need to leave the splinter-proof cabin at any time in the course of combat.
- The gun units will be made more autonomous, making it possible to cut back on support systems in the military unit. Less personnel will subsequently be needed in the artillery units.

The Riksdag has prescribed an operational organisation with two artillery battalions. The Swedish Armed Forces have made the assessment that this corresponds to 24 gun units.

The cost estimates that the project is based on assume that Sweden will cooperate with a partner to share the costs with. If no partner joins in, the Government may reconsider implementation of the project.

Defence Industry

Sale of RUAG Ammotec USA Inc. to Umarex

RUAG Ammotec Deutschland GmbH has sold its US subsidiary to the Umarex group of companies.

This distributor specializes in the sale of high-quality airguns and airgun ammunition under the RWS brand, and is a market leader in this segment. RUAG Ammotec will continue to sell its products for the airgun pellet market - bearing the RWS label - via Umarex in North America. In the airgun segment, Umarex will use the RWS brand under a licence agreement. The two manufacturers expect the cooperation to generate significantly greater opportunities and synergies on the North American market.

Exhibitions

Russia's Special Weapons And Equipment At SOFEX 2006 Exhibition

The 6th International Special Operations Forces Exhibition, SOFEX 2006 will be held from 27th till 30th March, 2006 in Amman, the capital of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, at King Abdullah Marka air base. The event is fostered by the head of the state King Abdullah II and supported by the Jordanian Armed Forces Command.

It traditionally generates heightened interest among leading producers and customers of special weapons and equipment in many countries round the world. This year more than 270 companies and organisations from over 40 countries have been invited to attend SOFEX 2006.

Russia is a traditional participant to this exhibition. Besides Rosoboronexport State Corporation, the united Russian delegation includes: Bazalt State scientific production enterprise, Moscow; Vega Radio-engineering concern JSC, Moscow; TsNIITOCHMASH Federal state

unitary enterprise, Klimovsk, Moscow Region; Vyatskiye Polyany Machine-building plant, Vyatskiye Polyany; Sfera company, Nizhniy Tagil.

Above 150 different products will be showcased by full-scale samples, models, mockups, advertising and promotional materials from leading Russia's special weapons and equipment designers and manufacturers in a unique national exposition. The exhibition is also a good case to demonstrate other types of Russian-made armaments and military equipment intended for export, such as helicopters, armoured vehicles, air defence assets, multiple rocket systems, modern naval weapons adapted to needs of the Middle East countries.

The RPG-26 and RPG-27 type hand-held anti-tank grenade launchers, RShG-1 and RShG-2 assault grenades, new munitions for the RPG-7 hand-held anti-tank grenade launcher can substantially increase firepower of mechanised infantry, assault, reconnaissance and special operations units. These weapons are capable of defeating existing and prospective armoured targets including those fitted with explosive reactive armour. At present such munitions are in service with more than 40 countries round the world.

It should be noted that the well-known RShG-1 grenade will be displayed in complement with an expandable grenade launcher. The latter features the world's unique thermobaric ammunition developed by Russian arms designers who drew on combat experience gained in recent local conflicts. Its combat effects ensure reliable destruction of enemy manpower in any type of shelters with a high-temperature field and a powerful shock wave generated after its round's warhead explosion.

Visitors' interest will traditionally be drawn to highly efficient firing arms designed for special-operations and law-enforcement units. One will be able to see samples of the SR-1 self-loading pistol, SR-2 submachine gun, SR-3 compact assault rifle, PSS silent pistol, AS special silenced assault rifle, VSS sniper rifle, SPP-1M underwater pistol, APS underwater assault rifle, and special-purpose cartridges. These weapons embody design features most needed for anti-terrorist operations, such as limited maximum kill range, high grouping of both single-shot and automatic fire allowing reduction of collateral damage among civilian population, hostages and special unit operatives, as well as demolition of material assets.

In the national exposition one will also find the best-selling samples of individual protection aerosol sets – the Udar and Udar-1M aerosol spray-dosers designed to temporarily disable living creatures, such as humans, wild and domestic animals. The protection sets are simple and reliable in use, safe and convenient in operation.

Visitors will undoubtedly take notice of the 1U35 unified shooting trainer designed to master weapon handling skills in different firing positions without spending live ammunition.

The Russian exposition will show special-purpose anti-terror equipment including various types of explosive ordnance device disposal equipment, as well as facilities for their safe transportation and de-arming characterised by design simplicity and operational reliability.

Various types of non-lethal weapons will be of a certain interest too. Among them one will be able to see the SV-1301 and SV-1317 multi-purpose grenade-launching systems armed with tear-gas, blinding-deafening and shock-stunning rounds. These weapons are designed to produce psycho/physiological impact on armed terrorists who have seized means of transportation or buildings, to put them out of action for some time.

A sizeable place on Russian stands will be given to a new generation of individual protection means. This part of the exposition includes the Sfera bullet-proof armoured vests and Alfa helmets providing high degree of protection thanks to use of special steel, modern design and improved comfort.

Considering the global context where demand for modern and efficient means to counter terrorist threat is on the rise, Rosoboronexport State Corporation is able to satisfy to the maximum degree foreign customers' requests and requirements for special weapons and equipment, including their joint development, production and promotion to the world market.

Foreign visitors to the Russian exposition at SOFEX 2006 will be able to make certain one more time that the Russian Federation offers for export most modern high-technology military and dual-purpose products whose basic characteristics are rather not inferior, but in many cases superior, to their foreign analogues.

First Two AMOS-AMV Mortar Vehicles to the Finnish Defence Forces

The completion of the first two AMOS-AMV mortar vehicles was celebrated today at a roll-out ceremony in Patria's Weapon Systems premises in Vammala, Finland.

Patria Weapon Systems has manufactured the weapon and loading systems while BAE Systems Hagglunds has produced the armoured turret and integrated the fire control system. Final turret integration into Patria AMV 8x8 armoured wheeled vehicle has been carried out by Patria Weapon Systems.

Patria Hagglunds Oy, jointly owned by Patria and BAE Systems Hagglunds of Sweden, was awarded a contract in 2003 by the Finnish Defence Forces of 24

AMOS (Advanced MOrtar System) turret systems integrated on Patria AMV 8x8, the most advanced armoured modular vehicle in the market at present. Deliveries take place in 2006 - 2009. Total value of the order is over EUR 100 million.

AMOS representing the latest technology in mortar systems together with Patria AMV with over 100 vehicles delivered so far offers an outstanding solution for a wide range of fire support needs in many different environments and operations.

"We have been extremely happy with our cooperation with the Finnish Defence Forces in this Project. Also the Swedish Armed Forces have cooperated in the AMOS development work and we are looking forward to continuing the AMOS project with the Swedish customer in the near future", states Mr Jarmo Puputti, Executive Vice President of Patria's Weapon Systems Business Unit.

"This delivery confirms the 10 year long successful cooperation between Hagglunds and Patria Weapon Systems. Both Hagglunds and Patria have a new product with big potential to launch on the export market," states Mr Sven Kagevall, Managing Director of BAE Systems Hagglunds AB.

Contracts

DRS TECHNOLOGIES Awarded $139 Million Contract To Upgrade Fire Contol System Of U.S. Army Bradley Combat System

Parsippany, NJ, March 21 -- DRS Technologies, Inc. announced today that it has received a $139 million contract to provide Improved Bradley Acquisition Subsystems (IBAS) for the U.S. Army's Bradley Combat System program.

The Bradley Fighting Vehicles are among the most formidable ground force capabilities in U.S. Army inventory and continue to be an integral part of military operations in Iraq. The IBAS enables vehicle gunners to detect, identify and engage tactical targets at dramatically greater operational ranges, increasing ground force survivability and target lethality.

The contract was awarded to DRS by BAE Systems, the prime contractor for the development and production of the Bradley vehicles. DRS, as the prime contractor of the IBAS to BAE Systems, will produce, test and provide support services for over 400 systems for the Bradley A3, which include the Target Acquisition Subsystem (TAS) and Missile Control Subsystem (MCS). This order also will include DRS's new Mono Block Laser Range Finder, as well as the U.S. Army Block 1 B-Kit, a Second Generation Forward Looking Infrared (SG FLIR) system developed as part of the Army's Horizontal Technology Integration (HTI) initiative.

Work for this award will be accomplished by the company's DRS Optronics unit in Palm Bay, Florida. Product deliveries are expected to commence in July and conclude in June 2007.

"This award builds on our reputation as a proven, world-class fire control systems producer, highlights our customer's regard for our strong, long-term performance on this program and introduces DRS's new Mono Block Laser Range Finder," said Fred L. Marion, president of DRS's Surveillance & Reconnaissance Group. "The leading edge sighting system technologies that are being incorporated in the IBAS are critical to the Bradley A3 and provide increased target acquisition, greater stand-off ranges and improved survivability for our ground forces. This latest award underscores DRS's position as a major supplier to the Bradley program and a leader in fire control solutions for Army ground combat platforms."

The Bradley A3 is the Army's most advanced, integrated digital ground system, providing outstanding survivability, mobility and target lethality to soldiers in all types of close-combat urban scenarios or in open combat desert warfare.

The IBAS enhances lethality through automated ballistics solutions and target tracking software. Using Standard Advanced Dewar Assembly (SADA) II technology, the IBAS incorporates the Army's Block 1 B-Kit, in addition to direct view optics, dual-aided target tracking capability, an eye-safe laser range finder, a daylight television, and a two-axis stabilized pointing head mirror assembly. Other IBAS system improvements include enhanced shoot-on-the-move capability for the Bradley 25mm gun.

Defence Industry

Raytheon Completes Artillery Firing Test of Precision Guidance Kit Solution

TUCSON, Ariz., -- Raytheon Company successfully completed a gun firing test of its low-cost, XM1156 Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) solution at Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., March 16.

The test firing, shot from the Picatinny Ballistic Rail Gun System, met all test objectives.

PGK is a competitive U.S. Army program designed to demonstrate the ability to significantly improve the accuracy of existing ballistic and cargo 155 and 105 mm artillery rounds through the addition of a low-cost, GPS guided fuze kit, which integrates into the round's shallow fuze well without modification. The Raytheon PGK was also designed to meet Army program requirements through a low-cost airbrake solution having minimal impact on round stability. Raytheon's solution focuses on

meeting the PGK requirements at the lowest cost with the capability for incremental growth.

"The Spearhead 1D course correcting fuze (CCF) demonstration was a significant milestone for the team," said Ken Pedersen, Raytheon Missile Systems' Advanced Programs vice president. "A low-cost, networked, 1D CCF solution would provide the Army with improved 155/105 mm round accuracy, reduced collateral damage, and lower ammunition sustainment and replenishment costs."

Raytheon's Missile Systems business in Tucson, Ariz., will serve as prime systems integrator, airframe designer, and guidance and control authority, utilizing L3 KDI Precision Products, Inc., to produce the all-up "smart fuze" kit at its automated fuze factory in Cincinnati, Ohio. KDI's proven experience with manufacturing more than 215,000 MOFA (Multi-Option Fuze for Artillery) fuzes for the U.S. Army will help ensure a low production cost for PGK. The Spearhead flight tests will culminate in closed loop, GPS-guided, fully integrated round testing through April 2006 at "tactically significant" ranges.

Contracts

Mine-Resistant Iveco MLVs to be supplied to Norway

Last month Norway decided to buy up to 72 IVECO Panther vehicles, which will also be fielded by the Belgian Army.

First 25 vehicles of the initial order will be delivered in 2006 - 2007 and there is also an option to buy a further 47 vehicles over a two year period. The contract amounts to $9.64 million and a contract of return purchases has already been made. They say that the purchase comes as a reaction to the international operations experience, where the up-armored Mercedes "Gelendevagen" has proved to be inadequate, especially after the events at Afghanistan in February.