

## ► ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS

10 January 2025

### Digitalisation: Rheinmetall acquires majority share in blackned GmbH

Rheinmetall Electronics GmbH, based in Bremen, has acquired another 11% of the shares in the Bavarian software developer blackned GmbH by means of a share purchase agreement. With this acquisition, Rheinmetall intends to control 51% and thus the majority of blackned. The Bremen-based Rheinmetall subsidiary has so far held a 40% stake in blackned.

The transaction is still subject to various conditions precedent and also requires approval by the German Federal Cartel Office.

Founded in 2009 and based in Heimertingen in Bavaria, blackned specialises in software for the digitalisation of armed forces. The company currently has around 200 employees and is growing rapidly. By increasing its shares in blackned, Rheinmetall is underlining the importance of digitalisation with modern IT architectures for the defence contractor.

In December, Rheinmetall and blackned jointly secured a major order as part of the digitalisation of the Bundeswehr. The two companies are to work together in order to integrate the IT systems of all vehicle and platform systems of the land forces as part of the D-LBO project. Rheinmetall will account for around €730m of the contract volume, with blackned contributing around €470m. The new technology is to be integrated into more than 10,000 combat and support vehicles of the Bundeswehr by mid-2030.

Armin Papperger, Chairman of the Executive Board of Rheinmetall AG: "The digitalisation of the armed forces is advancing, also internationally. We want to play a leading role here and are involved in corresponding projects, for example in Australia, the United Kingdom and Hungary. The fact that we are on the right track with digitalisation and by offering convincing solutions is demonstrated by our joint success in the major D-LBO project for the Bundeswehr."



### ► Key facts

- Majority share acquired: Rheinmetall increases its shares in blackned GmbH from 40% to 51%.
- Transaction subject to approval
- Key role for both companies in the digitalisation of the armed forces

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