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Tank swap: Rheinmetall supplying the Slovak Republic with Leopard 2 A4 MBTs

Under the German government's "Ringtausch" equipment exchange programme, Rheinmetall will soon be supplying the Slovak Republic with main battle tanks and other military hardware. In turn, the Slovak military will be transferring military equipment to Ukraine. This has now been contractually agreed in Brussels between representatives of both countries and Rheinmetall.

The Slovak armed forces will be receiving 15 Leopard 2A4 main battle tanks. The order includes ammunition as well as a service package encompassing training and spare parts. The first vehicle is due to be shipped in December 2022, with delivery to be complete by the end of 2023.



The "Ringtausch" is a procedure developed by the German government in cooperation with Germany's neighbours and NATO allies to support Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression. Specifically, NATO member states are providing Ukraine with Soviet-era heavy equipment in exchange for readily available Western military systems.

Working in close cooperation with the German Ministry of Defence and the Slovak authorities and armed forces, Rheinmetall swiftly negotiated the necessary contracts. These were signed on 15th November 2022 in Brussels by Martin Sklenár, Defence Policy Director of the Slovak Ministry of Defence; Vice Admiral Carsten Stawitzki, National Armaments Director in the German Ministry of Defence; as well as Dr. Björn Bernhard, CEO of Rheinmetall's Business Unit Tactical Vehicles and Eduardo Veen Martinez, Executive Vice President Rheinmetall Business Unit Tactical Vehicles.

Work on the vehicles has already begun. The property of Rheinmetall, the vehicles now being made available are overhauled Leopard 2A4 MBTs formerly in the inventories of various user states.

► Key facts

- On behalf of the German government, Rheinmetall is supplying the Slovak Republic with Leopard 2 A4 MBTs
- Delivery between December 2022 and late 2023
- Order includes ammunition, training and logistic support
- Fast-paced negotiations with German MoD and Slovak military

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