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Bundeswehr orders a further 48 heavy tractor trailers from Rheinmetall – contract worth €41 million

The German Bundeswehr has contracted with Rheinmetall to supply it with additional heavy tractor trailers with a 70-tonne payload. Delivery of a further 24 unprotected heavy tractor trailers – dubbed the SaZgM 70t mil in German military parlance – is to take place in 2021, with a further 24 to follow in 2022. In total, the order is worth €41 million. The tractor trailers are primarily used for transporting heavy armoured vehicles such as the Leopard 2 main battle tank.

In 2018 the Bundeswehr concluded a framework contract with Rheinmetall for the delivery of 137 SaZgM 70t mil trucks. This contract runs for seven years, with a potential total value of €122 million with valued added tax. A total of 32 vehicles were delivered in 2019 and 2020.

The Rheinmetall HX81 SaZgM is powered by an eight-cylinder, 680 hp diesel engine. This enables the high-mobility all-wheel drive truck to attain a top speed of 89 km/h, and to handle inclines of 60 percent. Its permissible gross train weight comes to around 130 tonnes. The HX81 SaZgM features the same driver's cab as the Rheinmetall UTF, the Bundeswehr's family of unprotected trucks. If required, the cab can be exchanged for a protected version. The vehicle also comes with a two-winch system made by the Rotzler company, in which each winch has a tractive force of twenty tonnes.

The HX81 expands the German military's family of heavy transport vehicles. Thus, the unprotected HX81 complements the protected heavy-duty Mammut ('Mammoth'), which was also supplied by RMMV. Given Germany's obligation to provide the rapid reaction NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force in 2023 (VJTF 2023), being able to transport heavy combat vehicles is a key capability.

► Key facts

- Delivery to take place in 2021 and 2022; order value totals €41 million
- Latest call-off from the framework agreement signed in 2018 for up to 137 SaZgM tractor trailers worth a total of up to €122 million
- Funding comes from an economic recovery and crisis management programme
- Substantially increases the Bundeswehr's organic logistic capacity

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