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The Lynx – Rheinmetall's new family of modular combat vehicles: the perfect blend of firepower, protection, C4I, manoeuvrability and operational versatility

The Lynx is an advanced family of modular tracked combat vehicles designed for maximum survivability, mobility, lethality and capacity, while exploiting proven technologies to deliver a compelling value proposition for Rheinmetall's global customers. Agile, hard-hitting and highly protected, this cutting edge tracked armoured vehicle family is destined to dominate the modern battlefield, lending itself to operations from peace enforcement to high-intensity combat.

Cutting edge capabilities

Four core capabilities characterize the Lynx infantry fighting vehicle, which made its world debut at Eurosatory 2016: firepower, protection, situational awareness and mobility.

Firepower: The Lynx IFV variant features a Rheinmetall LANCE turret armed with a stabilized, externally powered, airburst-capable automatic cannon (either 30mm or 35mm). This means the Lynx can effectively engage targets with high precision at ranges of up to 3,000 metres – even on the move. Furthermore, the vehicle is equipped with an antitank guided missile launcher and a secondary weapon station linked to the main optics (main sensor slaved armament). Not only does this give the Lynx a hunter-killer capability, it also provides it with a killer-killer capability, since the commander and gunner can observe and engage targets independently of each other.

Protection: With the diesel engine mounted in the front and a modular armour concept, the vehicle design itself offers a high degree of protection. The vehicle's ballistic armour shields the Lynx from antitank weapons, medium-calibre ammunition, artillery shrapnel, IEDs and bomblets. In addition, a spall liner in the vehicle interior provides additional protection for the entire crew. Mine and IED protection packages, decoupled seats and the optional hard kill Active Defence System (ADS) significantly boost the vehicle's survivability.

Situational awareness: Both members of the turret crew have access to the Stabilized Electro Optical Sight System/SEOSS, in two different versions: the 360° independent commander's sight and main gun-aligned gunner's sight. Both variants of the SEOSS feature common components, i.e. a digital TV and 3rd generation IR cameras, with an integrated laser rangefinder and fire control computer. In the fighting compartment, displays provide the crew with a seamless 360° panoramic view thanks to Rheinmetall's Situational Awareness System (SAS), which features automatic target detection and tracking, enhancing the target detection process and minimizing crew reaction times.

Emerging threats can be swiftly engaged with the Lynx's array of different weapon systems. Laser warning sensors (LWS) and Rheinmetall's Acoustic Shooter Locating System (ASLS) are connected to the sensor suite, fire control computer and combat management system.

The manned LANCE turret enables the vehicle commander to run the show from the open hatch. But the Lynx can also be equipped with a remote control turret instead. The roof section of the Lynx can be comparably designed, enabling the infantry section to observe and engage targets from open hatches.

Mobility: The Lynx features an excellent power-to-weight ratio, providing excellent off-road capabilities, e.g. 60° gradient and 30° slope, a 2.5-metre ditch crossing capability, fording up to a depth of 1.50 metres, and the ability to climb over one-metre-high obstacles. Its rubber or lightweight steel tracks permit it to travel at high speed on hard surfaces.

One vehicle family – one logistics system – one supplier: Rheinmetall

Uniquely versatile, the new Lynx IFV comes in two versions: the KF31 and KF41 (KF stands for 'Kettenfahrzeug', which means tracked vehicle in German). Weighing 38 tonnes, Lynx KF31 was unveiled at Eurosatory, equipped with a 35mm manned turret and capacity for a crew of three plus six dismounts. The number of dismounts can be increased to eight, especially in the slightly larger Lynx KF41, which would also be the perfect platform for a main battle tank, armed with a 120mm gun in the 45 tonne class.

Both vehicle classes – Lynx KF31 and Lynx KF41 – can be configured for other roles including command post, armoured reconnaissance, large calibre gun, recovery, engineering, ambulance and other versions.

A high degree of commonality in parts and components is another prominent feature of the Lynx family of vehicles. This simplifies logistic support and has a positive impact on training. Furthermore, customized service support is available worldwide – ranging from training and logistics to in-theatre repairs and technology transfer.

The Lynx family of vehicles highlights once again Rheinmetall's role as a high-tech enterprise for security and mobility. Visitors to IDEX 2017 can obtain more information about the Lynx at the Rheinmetall stand.

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