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Rheinmetall at African Aerospace & Defence 2014: a versatile and trusted partner for comprehensive security

Every two years, the South African government invites the world to African Aerospace & Defence (AAD). As an important partner of the South African Department of Defence and its procurement agency Armscor, Rheinmetall will be showcasing a sampling of its products and projects at this leading trade fair held at Waterkloof Air Force Base in Pretoria.

This year's AAD is closely connected with the South African Defence Review 2014. As the regional superpower of Sub-Saharan Africa, the Republic of South Africa has determined four main goals in the field of security policy: defend and protect South Africa, safeguard South Africa, promote peace and security and development of other ordered tasks. Thus, the South African Defence Force will be modernized and appropriately equipped.

Rheinmetall has for many years been a partner of South Africa's armed forces and defence industry. A globally leading supplier of military systems and equipment, Rheinmetall portfolio covers every capability category and the complete sensor-to-shooter sequence. One of Rheinmetall's core competencies is its ability to seamlessly join diverse systems together into a single network.

Weapons and ammunition competence

A global player, Rheinmetall Denel Munition has unique expertise in artillery, mortar and infantry systems as well as plant design, ranging from development and engineering to production. Its stated goals are to supply the South African National Defence Force, or SANDF, with state-of-the-art effectors; to operate highly efficient, innovative production plants; and to take the lead in setting the technological pace. Besides South Africa, Rheinmetall Denel Munition primarily serves customers in Asia, the Middle East and South America. Rheinmetall and its South African subsidiary are thus able to supply their respective core markets with the Group's complete, comprehensive array of products.

Rheinmetall Denel Munition will be on hand at AAD with an extensive range of hardware, including a broad assortment of ammunition for indirect fire applications such as the ballistically matched 155mm Assegai, the 105mm, the latest generation of 60mm patrol mortar bombs, the extended range of 40mm ammunition and weapon systems or the 76/62mm IM PFF (insensitive munition).

Rheinmetall's new VingPos Mortar Weapon System (MWS) is debuting at AAD 2014. Developed for the Norwegian Armed Forces, the VingPos MWS provides organic, indirect fire support to the manoeuvre unit commander.

Assured mobility

Whether the task at hand is operational or logistical, conventional or unconventional, reliable wheeled vehicles form the backbone of modern, highly mobile military units. Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles (RMMV) covers the complete spectrum here – from lightweight patrol vehicles and its robust, versatile family of tried-and-tested TG, HX and SX trucks, right through to cutting-edge modular combat vehicles like the Boxer.

If required, all of these vehicles can be either equipped with a modular armoured cabin (MAC) or a fully integrated armour cabin (IAC) to meet the highest STANAG or Mil-Standard specifications with regard to ballistic and mine protection. Installation of the MAC takes only six to eight hours, and can be performed by two trained technicians with the help of a forklift. The IAC cab can be equipped with sophisticated command and control technology, remote control weapon stations as well as Rheinmetall's hard-kill "Active Defence System".

Moreover, RMMV supplies not only systems but also service from a single source. From 1st to 4th level support, everything is possible, including on-site repair and maintenance in-theatre.

At stand S1 (Outdoor Hangar 3) RMMV is displaying several different configurations from its pure military logistical HX series of vehicles. These include the HX60 (4x4), the HX58 (6x6) and the HX77 (8x8). All HX vehicles are "military off the shelf" (MOTS) products specially developed for military applications. Their main priority is extreme mobility and reliability even in the harshest terrain. As such they are the logistical backbone of numerous armies in Afghanistan, where thousands of them are put to the test on a daily basis.

Air defence

Modern air defence systems have to be able to ward off attacks by fixed wing and rotary aircraft, cruise missiles and unmanned aerial systems. Rheinmetall has the necessary effectors for this, including the Skyshield and Skyguard air defence systems. Based on the company's battle-tested Skyguard systems, Skyshield is characterized by a compact design and excellent combat effectiveness – around the clock and in all weathers; it is also impervious to electronic countermeasures.

Skyshield can use Oerlikon GDF 007 twin guns as its effectors. Coupling high precision with a high rate of fire – 2 x 550 per minute – the GDF 007 is designed to fire conventional 35mm rounds as well as Rheinmetall's proprietary Ahead ammunition, which features a programmable ejection point of its sub-projectile payload. It is also possible to upgrade the combat effectiveness of older GDF 005 or Mk V gun systems.

At ADD Rheinmetall is displaying its SkyChamp Enhanced Mission Simulator, the training system for the Skyshield and the Skyguard air defence systems. Also on show are cutaway models of the company's Ahead ammunition.

Naval applications

Visitors to AAD can also view the company's Rapid Obscurant System Naval (ROSY-N). The 40mm 360° ROSY-N countermeasure system protects small craft such as fast attack boats and rigid hull inflatable boats. It enables sailors, coast guards and special forces operating in coastal waters and on rivers to defend themselves from sudden flat trajectory fire.

Optics and optronics

High-performance optics and optronics help to detect, recognize and identify targets more quickly. Especially at night and in conditions of reduced visibility, they give troops a crucial capabilities edge.

On display at AAD is Rheinmetall's high-performance Vingtaqs II long-range reconnaissance and surveillance system. Along with such features as electro-optical sensors for day and night operation and rangefinding, the Vingtaqs II is equipped with a battlefield radar system. Largely automated, the system is ideal for ground surveillance operations, including optical identification of targets.

Visitors can also view the company's tried-and-tested laser light modules, including the Vario Ray (LLM-VR) and the LLM01. Both devices are currently being tested and evaluated as attachments to the R4 Assault Rifle Upgrade for the South African National Defence Force. In Germany, the Vario-Ray has passed the evaluation phase and is now being procured for the German Army's "Future Soldier- Extended System/Gladius" programme.

Rheinmetall's participation in AAD 2014 underscores once again the company's versatility as a globe-spanning source of defence technology and a reliable partner of armed forces in Africa and around the world.

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