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Rheinmetall and Auterion are working together on drone technology and developing standard operating system for military industries

Rheinmetall, a leading system supplier for defence technology and Auterion, the leading supplier of drone operating systems, will be working closely together to develop standardised software-based components for unmanned drone systems. The two companies signed an agreement, thereby establishing a long-term co-operation.

The two partners are combining their expertise in order to create a military industry standard for controlling and operating unmanned aerial, land and naval drone systems. The co-operation includes joint product development and sales activities for unmanned platforms. The resulting homogeneous operating system is expected to provide military users with a significant advantage.

As a drone manufacturer, Rheinmetall is drawing on the operational experience gained from the Luna NG and Aladin systems and incorporating it into its work with the customer. Various drone systems from the Düsseldorf-based technology group have already been in service for many years with the German Armed Forces / Bundeswehr and have been deployed in Ukraine for several months.

Dr Timo Haas, Chief Digital Officer at Rheinmetall AG, explains: "We see over two hundred different aerial unmanned systems in Ukraine. This makes military training very costly and time-consuming, and system interoperability is not guaranteed. Co-operation with Auterion and the development of a homogeneous operating system will enable the efficient and scalable deployment of unmanned systems. With our approach, there will be no need for system-dependent user training or system-specific integration into an overall system network in the future".

Lorenz Meier, CEO of Auterion: "In the future, drones will be used in large quantities and, like computers and smartphones, they need a common operating system to make this happen. AuterionOS allows the customer to combine all drones on a common basis and to integrate different manufacturers into a common architecture. Our software stack has already been tried and tested in operation and thus enables software-defined defence".

About Auterion

Auterion is the world's leading provider of operating systems and apps for aerial, land and naval drones. The company offers solutions for military and civilian applications in various sectors. Auterion is headed by CEO Lorenz Meier, has its headquarters in Arlington, Virginia and operates R&D sites in Munich and Zurich.

► Key facts

- Joint long-term co-operation agreement between Rheinmetall and Auterion signed
- Partners combine expertise for military industry standard
- Joint product development and sales activities for unmanned platforms
- Significant advantages for military users

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About Rheinmetall

Based in Düsseldorf, Rheinmetall AG is an internationally operating technology corporation. Founded in 1889, the company is a leading systems supplier for the defence industry and, at the same time, a driver of forward-looking technological and industrial innovations in civil markets. With around 30,000 employees at 174 sites worldwide, the company, listed on the DAX40 since March 2023, generated sales of €7.2bn in the 2023 business year.