

9 April 2013

Rheinmetall: Creating Network-Enabled Warfighters

The pressing need for “boots on the ground” in contemporary conflicts has given new importance to the infantry. Canada, Germany and other NATO nations are actively cooperating in projects to significantly enhance the combat effectiveness of infantry units and to embed individual riflemen in network-enabled operations.

Canada’s Integrated Soldier System Project (ISSP) and its German counterpart, Future Soldier System IdZ-2 (now called "Gladius", named after the trusty Roman “pedites” sword) have both made great strides in this direction. The German Bundeswehr fields this innovative soldier system in the next few years. The procurement programme began in 2012 with an initial order of thirty systems, enough to equip 300 troops. As planned, the Bundeswehr is currently taking delivery of those thirty systems which will be deployed in Afghanistan in mid-2013. Just recently Rheinmetall has been awarded an order to supply a further sixty systems. This follow-up order is worth €84 million, and encompasses equipment for 60 infantry sections with a total of 600 soldiers.

Rheinmetall has also joined forces with SAAB to implement the Canadian ISSP project. At LAAD 2013, visitors can take a closer look at the solution offered for this program.

The ISSP will enable soldiers to perform functions such as detect, locate, and identify targets, engage threat targets, conduct patrols, determine locations and bearing, and several other combat, logistical, and sustainability functions

Infantry Fighting Soldier System

The joint Rheinmetall Canada/Saab proposal is based on the IFSS and is a fully digital, modular system for real-time voice and data transmission. The system’s open architecture is based on commercial standards. Communication is via Ethernet and TCP/IP protocol. It can be easily integrated into the soldier’s vest and equipment. Low weight and intelligent energy management enable prolonged operation.

It seamlessly connects individual soldiers on the ground with friendly battle management and command and control systems (BMC4I networks) as well as sensors and weapons systems, markedly enhancing overall operational effectiveness.

The system leads to major improvements in all capabilities categories:

Command and Control

- The highly intuitive dismounted C2 application can be adapted to the user's specific role.
- Enhanced navigation and orientation capabilities.
- Voice and data transmission at squad/section and platoon level;

Mobility

- Modular combat kit with optimum ergonomic features.
- Compatible with most infantry fighting vehicles and troop carriers.

Survivability and Protection

- Does not impair individual situational awareness.

Sustainability

- Modularity and reduced weight.
- High-performance power management.
- Interface to vehicle power system is possible.

Lethality

- Targets can be engaged day or night.

Outstanding characteristics

The IFSS offers a number of other outstanding features. For example, it is compatible with most military radios, including a voice over IP capability. Freehand, georeferenced production of sketches is possible, as is the creation or depiction of mission overlays on the display. The IFSS features digitized command and reporting formulas, assures excellent situational awareness, supports several display sizes and can be easily adapted for dismounted C2 applications.

A commander's dismounted C2 application enables mission planning, entry of operational orders into the system, and post-mission playback. User-defined and standard communication protocols permit connection to multiple sensors.

For more information, please contact:

Oliver Hoffmann
Head of Public Relations
Rheinmetall AG
Tel.: +49-(0)211-473 4748
oliver.hoffmann@rheinmetall.com