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**Rheinmetall supplies new virtual maintenance trainer for the German Air Force technical training centre in Fassberg**

The German Bundeswehr is currently augmenting its helicopter training programme with simulation technology from Rheinmetall. In August 2014 the Simulation & Training business unit of Rheinmetall Defence Electronics supplied a new virtual maintenance trainer from its Asterion product line for the NH90 TTH helicopter, earmarked for the airforce technical training centre (TAufbZLw) in Fassberg.

With this order, the first of three existing NH 90 helicopter trainers have now been upgraded to new IOC+ configuration status, and programmed with Asterion training software. The first of a planned total of 16 training modules, this simulator enables the Bundeswehr to train aspiring aircraft technicians in the electrical system of this complex helicopter without having to use the expensive original weapons system, as was previously the case. This new training device not only saves valuable resources, it saves time by shortening classes thanks to greater availability of the training device.

Thanks to its system infrastructure, this new Asterion product enables a modularly designed training system, meaning that it can go into operation as soon as the first module is delivered.

Rheinmetall and its subsidiary benntec system technology have developed an innovative new system for recording and collecting original data of the weapons system for Asterion, which is not only more cost-effective than previous methods, but also leads to faster development of individual components and subcomponents of the desired weapons system.

Completion of the last of the 16 planned training modules is slated for 2015.

Visitors to I/ITSEC 2014 can learn more about the Asterion Cockpit Trainer at the Rheinmetall booth 2213.

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