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First Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles for LAND 121 3B exhibited at Land Forces 2014

The first reference vehicles for the logistics truck program Land 121 3B are in Australia for a range of verification and testing activities.

The HX77 8x8 with an integrated load handling system can be viewed at Rheinmetall’s stand. This vehicle, in service in New Zealand, is similar to the vehicles Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles will commence delivering to the Commonwealth of Australia in 2016 with a final delivery expected in 2020. In addition to the integrated load handling system, the HX77 8x8 will carry modules for heavy stores, liquid fuel and water and operate as heavy tippers and integrated bulk fuel tankers. The HX77 8x8 will have protected and unprotected cabins.

RMMVA secured the Land 121 Phase 3B contract in 2013 to supply the Commonwealth of Australia with more than 2,500 medium and heavy military logistical trucks and nearly 3,000 modules.

HX Family at Land Forces 2014:

Highly mobile – multi-mission capable – battle-proven

No logistics, no operational capability: now more than ever, today’s fast-moving armies need to be sure that their supplies keep rolling. Contemporary asymmetric conflicts lack clearly defined front lines, confronting commanders and manufacturers of modern transport, command and multi-mission vehicles with new requirements regarding mobility, functionality and survivability. The systems of the HX family, made by Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles (RMMV), rank among the highest performing and most cost-effective in their class.

HX77 8x8

The HX77 8x8 is equipped with the MAN D20 water-cooled 6-cylinder in-line common rail engine with turbocharger and direct fuel injection. The engine’s cubic capacity of 10,518 cm³ brings its output to 324 kW (440 hp) in the EURO 5 configuration. The vehicle has a gross vehicle weight of 38 tonnes with a military payload of 15 tonnes in the ILHS configuration. The integrated load handling system allows the transport of military flat racks, fuel and water modules as well as standard 20 ft. ISO containers. The result is a vehicle system that fits seamlessly into modern military intermodal operations.
On display at the Rheinmetall stand is a version of the HX77 8x8 with integrated load handling system (ILHS), which is similar to ones being procured by the Commonwealth of Australia.

**A match for modern mission scenarios**

All HX vehicles are “military off the shelf” (MOTS) products specially developed for military applications. Their main priority is high mobility and reliability even in the harshest terrain.

Many other militarised vehicles are based on commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) components. In comparison, the HX family combines tried-and-tested components from the MAN heavy vehicle series which is strengthened by a reinforced low-torsion ladder frame and with other technologies especially designed to meet the needs of the military. This includes armour, self-protection systems, deep fording capabilities, multi-fuel engines and black out lighting. Right from the start, these trucks are designed not merely for greater durability on and off-road mobility, but also to operate at temperatures ranging from -32 to +49° C. Moreover, they can be equipped with protective modules and/or weapon stations for self-protection.

As a MOTS product family, RMMV’s HX vehicles not only feature outstanding mobility, protection and reliability, they also deliver maximum communality and interoperability.

This results in ease of use as well as streamlined logistics and maintenance, since many components and assemblies of the vehicle family are common and fully interchangeable.

The multi-fuel capability and excellent supply arrangements (all maintenance-significant spare parts are NATO-codified) are further important features of the HX family.

**RMMV – commitment to Australia**

RMMV Australia is committed to Australia and has made significant investments in its locations and expansion of workforce. In June 2014, RMMV Australia opened its Melbourne office from where the LAND 121 Phase 3B program is run. RMMV Australia has employed nearly 70 staff in the last year; many from the automotive and defence sector.

RMMV Australia has established major subcontracts with companies in Newcastle, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra after a competitive tender process.

RMMVA Managing Director Peter Hardisty said the company was committed to ensuring Australian industry had every opportunity to compete on merit for all supply contracts identified for local procurement.

“Each of the successful companies has demonstrated expertise and many years of experience supplying premium products for the Australian military or the Australian civilian market.”
The successful companies are:

- Newcastle-based Varley Group will supply more than 550 stores and maintenance modules. Varley has been a recognised supplier of military products since the establishment of its Defence & Aerospace Division in the early 1990s.

- Sydney-based RPC Technologies will provide a specialist interface unit to transport, launch and recover the ADF’s current and future heavy floating bridge systems including the bridge themselves and the support boats. RPC Defence has proven experience in the manufacture of assemblies as a tier one supplier and has been providing through life support to Defence Bridging Systems for over 25 years.

- Canberra-based Sea Box International will design, develop and manage the production supply over 2,100 heavy flat racks for RMMVA’s high mobility military vehicle fleet. The Australian work share includes the design and development of the equipment in order to meet specific Australian requirements.

- Brisbane-based company Holmwood Highgate will design and manufacture a total of 276 integrated tankers, bulk water and fuel modules. Holmwood Highgate designs and manufactures a complete range of tankers for use in the petroleum, bitumen and chemical industries.

**RMMV – outstanding systems and service from a single source**

Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles, partly owned by Germany’s Rheinmetall Group one of the oldest and most trusted names in the global defence industry, is presenting at the Land Forces 2014 in Brisbane, along with a wide array of other products and technologies designed for today’s expeditionary focussed armed forces.

As one of the world’s leading suppliers of defence technology systems, Rheinmetall supplies military forces with a comprehensive portfolio of readily available modular products.

RMMV produces a complete range of protected and unprotected transport, command and mission-specific vehicles for the world’s armed forces. 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.

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