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LANCE – turret competence by Rheinmetall: Added punch for modern warriors

Tracked and wheeled infantry fighting vehicles and armoured personnel carriers continue to play a vital role on the modern battlefield. They give the infantry added mobility and offer protection against ballistic threats, mines and IEDs. Moreover, when adequately armed, they are able to weigh in immediately with vital fire support: after all, force protection is only half the battle. Rheinmetall's innovative Lance turret system meets the needs of modern warriors. At DSEI 2015, visitors can inspect a Lance turret simulator at the Rheinmetall stand.

The Lance turret system

Rheinmetall's Lance turret system features a highly modular design, ensuring maximum flexibility and future growth potential. The degree of protection (comprehensive protection in accordance with STANAG 4569 is standard) and the number of crew (two-man or unmanned with fully remote control) is entirely up to the customer. The company's electro-optical SEOSS Sector and SEOSS Panoramic sights provide the crew with a full hunter-killer capability.

Its main armament is normally a Rheinmetall MK30-2/ABM 30mm automatic cannon, though similar weapons of this type may also be used. Up to 200 rounds of two different types of ammunition can be loaded without leaving the safety of the fighting compartment. A 7.62 x 51mm or .50 cal. machinegun serves as secondary armament. The Lance turret system also comes with a 40mm, 66mm or 76mm smoke/obscurant grenade launcher. Potential add-ons include a laser warning system, identification friend or foe technology, an integrated C4I system, Rheinmetall's close-range reconnaissance Situational Awareness System (SAS) or an antitank guided missile system. Its open architecture is another important advantage, ensuring future growth potential and the option of subsequent retrofitting with updated technology. All of this ultimately translates into lower lifecycle costs.

In 2009 Spain's Infanteria de Marina opted to purchase the Lance turret system.

The MK30-2/ABM automatic cannon

The standard armament for Rheinmetall turret systems is the MK30-2/ABM automatic cannon. An open bolt, gas-operated weapon with mutually independent breach movement and ammunition feeding, this 30mm x 173 system is based on the globally acclaimed Mauser MK30-2 used in infantry fighting vehicles operated by the armed forces of Spain, Portugal and Austria.

Made in Oberndorf, a cradle of the modern German arms industry, the MK30-2/ABM features a high rate of fire – up to 600 rounds per minute – as well as Rheinmetall's state-of-the-art ABM airburst ammunition technology. At ranges of up to 3,000 metres, it is extremely effective against land, air and sea targets. Easy to operate and highly reliable, this weapon system combines a long maximum effective range with

excellent accuracy, making it the best-possible main armament for modern infantry fighting vehicles.

The German Bundeswehr has selected the MK30-2/ABM as the standard armament for its new Puma tracked infantry fighting vehicle.

Lethality, mobility, survivability – and seating for nine

Lethality, mobility, survivability – the three parameters governing the combat effectiveness of modern IFVs – come together in a harmonious whole in the GTK Boxer, with an enough room left over for an entire infantry section.

Rheinmetall has successfully combined the Lance turret system, a series Boxer module and a modified series mission module into one system. In dynamic driving and live fire demonstrations in front of high-profile delegations, this Boxer IFV provided compelling evidence of its combat effectiveness. The combination of a highly protected, highly mobile, mission-proven vehicle platform with the world's most advanced manned medium-calibre turret has clear battlefield potential. Moreover, in addition to the decisive parameters of protection, mobility, situational awareness, C4I capabilities and lethality, this configuration offers the major advantage of a spacious fighting compartment.

Rheinmetall's turret expertise for the British Army

Rheinmetall has extensive, longstanding experience in developing and manufacturing turret systems, prompting an important order in connection with a key programme of the British Ministry of Defence. Lockheed Martin UK has contracted with Rheinmetall's Defence arm to manufacture the turret structures for the British Army's new Scout SV Reconnaissance vehicle. The order, issued in London, is worth a total of €130 million and covers production of up to 245 units. Rheinmetall also participated significantly in the preceding technical demonstration phase.

The Scout SV Base Turret System is a sterling example of European defence cooperation. A member of the Scout SV team since 2010, in its capacity as subcontractor Rheinmetall has been in charge first of designing and engineering, and now of producing, the turret structure and weapon mount (TSWM) for the Scout SV Base Turret System, a state-of-the-art 40mm medium-calibre turret solution. The first production unit is scheduled for completion in July 2016.

Once again, the Düsseldorf, Germany-based Group is playing a pivotal role in a highly significant army technology programme in Europe, underscoring its comprehensive competence and ability to act in partnership with two international defence giants – General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin.

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