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## **Rheinmetall's MASS – the world's number-one state of the art naval countermeasure system**

Rapid technological advances are making intelligent weapon systems smarter and more effective than ever. Rheinmetall has specialized for many years in developing and producing high-quality components and innovative systems for protecting people, vehicles, aircraft, ships and installations, and offers a wide range of highly effective active, passive and softkill protection solutions. A prominent example for naval applications is the tried-and-tested Multi Ammunition Softkill System, or MASS. Rheinmetall supplied the MASS for the Royal Canadian Navy Halifax-class frigate upgrade program. To date, more than 200 MASS systems have been supplied to 14 nations on five continents, including 34 to Canada.

MASS is the world's number-one state-of-the-art naval countermeasure system, protecting ships from most modern anti-ship-missiles as well as asymmetric threats in the littoral environment. To complete the defense of the full spectrum of naval Anti Air Warfare threats, MASS provides new capabilities as millimetre wave (MMW)-Decoy capability, MMW-Sensor SME100+ for MMW anti-ship missile detection as well as the off-board corner reflector. Those capabilities are realized in cooperation with different industrial partners.

Rheinmetall also continues to offer the MASS variant MASS\_ISS (ISS stands for "Integrated Sensor Suite"). It features integrated radar ESM systems and laser warning systems. Threat analysis conducted by Rheinmetall and a number of its customers shows that the threat to seagoing vessels in littoral waters from small weapons such as guided missiles (i.e. asymmetric threats) is basically undetectable using current shipboard sensor systems. In order to bridge this capability gap, Rheinmetall is cooperating with the Israeli company Elta to integrate its NavGuard technology into MASS. NavGuard is a radar-based projectile warning system capable of detecting even small incoming threats. MASS has already undergone successful live-fire testing in combination with NavGuard.

In 2014, New Zealand has joined the growing list of MASS users. New Zealand has decided to equip two of its MEKO-class frigates (jointly procured with Australia) with MASS. In this project, Rheinmetall is acting as subcontractor to Lockheed Martin Canada Ltd. (LMC). LMC has contracted with Rheinmetall Waffe Munition (RMW) to supply two MASS systems in twin-launcher configuration (MASS\_2L), including a long-range capability, plus two naval laser warning systems (NLWS). The fact that MASS is being integrated together with NLWS technology is a reminder of the ever-growing asymmetric threats which navies around the world have to contend with

today in modern combat operations. The MASS systems are being manufactured at Rheinmetall's Buck Fronau plant in Bavaria. Rheinmetall is procuring the naval laser warning systems from SAAB Grintek Defence Pty. of South Africa. The subsystems produced in South Africa will be supplied to LMC together with the MASS systems for integration into the ships.

Moreover, New Zealand is not just another MASS user nation, but – following in Canada's wake – also constitutes another "Five Eyes" customer.

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