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Rheinmetall's Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle at Land Forces 2016

At Land Forces 2016 Rheinmetall will be presenting one of three Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicles which will participate in the Risk Mitigation Activities (RMA) of the Australian Army in the following months.

Rheinmetall is pleased to have been chosen by the Commonwealth of Australia back in July to take part in the RMA of the LAND 400 Phase 2 program.

Rheinmetall Defence has offered the Commonwealth the latest version of the Boxer¹ 8x8 vehicle that is fitted with the in-service Lance turret featuring a growth path that includes a 35 mm main gun and the Northrop Grumman command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) architecture.

Ben Hudson, Head of Rheinmetall's Vehicle Systems Division, said: "We are delighted to have been selected in Australia for the next phase of this important program. Boxer is combat proven and offers the highest levels of survivability and mobility, that when combined with the in-service Lance turret, will deliver the capabilities that allow Army to fight, survive and win on the battlefields of today and tomorrow".

Rheinmetall Defence will establish an Australian Industry Capability program for Land 400 that strengthens existing industrial capability in Australia and creates lasting high technology jobs for hundreds of Australians by localising design and manufacturing expertise in electro-optics, weapon systems, fire control and sensor systems, turret manufacturing, variant design and manufacture, integration, armour systems, simulation, training and fleet sustainment.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia Managing Director, Andrew Fletcher, said: "We look forward to demonstrating Boxer's capabilities to the Commonwealth through the RMA process and working closely with Australian industry and our partners, Supacat, Northrop Grumman and Tectonica to establish a world class combat vehicle design, manufacturing and sustainment capability for the Australian Defence Force and the region."

The battle-proven Boxer 8x8 provides a unique mix of mobility, capacity and survivability that allows the vehicle to operate effectively across the full spectrum of combat operations, while the vehicle's inherent adaptability allows it to evolve as requirements and threats change.

Thanks to its composite add-on armour, the Boxer is one of the world's best-protected 8x8 tactical vehicles. This wheeled armoured vehicle assures excellent protection against landmines, improvised explosive devices and ballistic fire, coupled with outstanding mobility both on and off road, even on the toughest terrain.

Powered by a 530 kW (720 HP) MTU turbo diesel engine, the Boxer – weighing up to 36.5 tonnes with a full combat load – achieves a top speed of up to 103 km/h.

Featuring separate drive and mission modules, the Boxer design concept assures maximum flexibility and versatility. In the section/squad APC configuration, Boxer serves as a 'mother ship' for up to ten troops.

Operational experience in Afghanistan makes it clear that the Boxer significantly enhances battlefield sustainment and mobility of an infantry section or squad. The positive performance of the Boxer in deployed operations was a powerful factor in the German government's decision to place a new order. In December 2015 the German Bundeswehr contracted with Rheinmetall and Krauss-Maffei Wegmann to supply additional 131 Boxer armoured fighting vehicles. The Bundeswehr's initial order in 2006 encompassed 272 Boxer vehicles in the following variants: command and control, medevac and driver training vehicles as well as APCs capable of transporting a complete infantry section/squad.

The Netherlands is also a partner in the cross-border Boxer programme, having ordered a total of 200 vehicles.

On 22 August 2016 the Lithuanian armed forces placed an order for 88 Boxers. These will be configured as infantry fighting vehicles armed with a turret-mounted 30mm automatic cannon. Worth a total of around €390 million, this important export order is set to run from 2017 to 2021. Along with Germany and the Netherlands, this will make Lithuania the third NATO nation to field the battle-tested, superbly protected, high-mobility combat vehicle.

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¹ A joint Development of Rheinmetall and Krauss-Maffei Wegmann.