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Rheinmetall Supports Australian Industry at Land Forces 2016

Rheinmetall has underscored its commitment to Australian Industry with the participation of local companies on the company's stand at Land Forces 2016 alongside world leading company products including Boxer CRV¹ and the 35mm Oerlikon Millennium Gun.

Rheinmetall invited four companies to participate in Land Forces 2016 by establishing an active Australian industry presence on the company's stand. These companies are Adelaide-based Supashock; Melbourne-based Tectonica Australia; Melbourne-based Thomas Warburton; and Sydney-based Axalta Coating Systems.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia and New Zealand Managing Director Andrew Fletcher said the company recognised the importance of creating an enduring Australian industrial capability across every offering to the Commonwealth.

"Australian industry content is an imperative for Rheinmetall and this is reflected in our focus on partnerships with local companies as our presence in the Australian market continues to grow," Mr Fletcher said.

Rheinmetall has agreements in place with Australian suppliers for work on the Land 1213B program valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars, while its activities around Land 400 Phase 2 has involved engagement with over 350 Australian companies during the bidding process. In areas such as munitions and the development of protection systems, Rheinmetall is also building partnerships with local companies with a strong presence in these markets and high quality internal expertise.

"On these and other programs, Rheinmetall is driven by the goal of fundamentally enriching the Australian economy through transfer of knowledge and technology," Mr Fletcher said.

"This allows us to create sustainable, long term high technology jobs, with a strong potential to export the systems we produce back into the global market."

The four Australian industry partners represented on the stand include:

- **Supashock:** an innovative South Australian company that has developed active shock absorbing technology and is working with Rheinmetall on its application to

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

build further capability in its range of logistic military vehicles. This has seen a significant investment by Supashock and its owner Oscar Fiorinotto into the development of technical applications for the RMMV HX 40M vehicle. Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles Australia and New Zealand has supplied a test vehicle to undertake research and design work for capability development supplying relevant technical vehicle data to the Supashock team.

“Rheinmetall is excited to be part of this drive for innovation and is keen to support projects involving Supashock that will assist this innovative Australian company towards finding new markets and creating Australian jobs,” Mr Fletcher said.

- **Axalta:** produces the entire suite of paints for the fleet of more than 2500 vehicles manufactured by RMMV Australia and New Zealand for the Land 1213B program at its Australian operations in Sydney. This includes hardeners, thinners, primers and the colours required for the Australian Army camouflage pattern. For such a highly specialised project, Axalta also developed customised product solutions including special application techniques designed to improve cycle times and coating productivity.

- **Tectonica Australia:** a Melbourne-based defence systems integrator which has developed and manufactured a sophisticated Local Situational Awareness System (LSAS) for Rheinmetall’s Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV). Rheinmetall would provide funding and support to Tectonica to develop and manufacture a next generation LSAS that enhances the situational awareness of the Boxer CRV.

“Tectonica’s technology will dramatically increase the situational awareness of the Boxer CRV crew and we see potential application not only to the Boxer vehicle but also to our wider family of military vehicles now in-service around the world,” Mr Fletcher said.

- **Thomas Warburton:** an industry specialist and authority in fasteners since the company was established in Melbourne in 1858. It manufactures these products at operations across eastern Australia including Coopers Plains in Queensland and Campbelltown in New South Wales. The company has over 40,000 product lines on the shelf at any one time and is a key supplier within RMMV’s Land 1213B Australian supply chain for logistics vehicles to be supplied to the Australian Army.

“Each of these companies brings important skills, products and services to the Rheinmetall offering for the Australian Defence Force and we look forward to working with them on existing and future programs,” Mr Fletcher said.

About Rheinmetall

Rheinmetall sets the global standard for excellence in a wide array of disciplines and offers an extensive array of military hardware that delivers mobility, lethality, survivability of troops, reconnaissance capability and networking of national and international systems.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia and New Zealand (RDANZ) is a subsidiary of Rheinmetall AG, with offices in Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane.

For more information about Rheinmetall Defence visit: www.rheinmetall-defence.com

For more information about the Boxer CRV visit: www.boxercrv.com.au

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