

6 September 2016

## **Rheinmetall Defence Appoints Technical Director for Land 400**

Rheinmetall Defence today announced the appointment of Dean Gagnon as Technical Director at Rheinmetall Defence Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Gagnon will drive the coordination of Rheinmetall's technical program for Land 400 Phase 2. He will report to Rheinmetall Defence Australia and New Zealand Managing Director, Andrew Fletcher.

Rheinmetall Defence has offered the Commonwealth the latest version of the Boxer 8X8 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle<sup>1</sup> fitted with the in-service Lance turret and a growth path that includes a 35mm main gun and the Northrop Grumman command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) architecture.

"Dean will play a fundamental role in overseeing the manufacturing of some of the highest technology military systems should Boxer CRV be selected for the Land 400 Phase 2," Mr Fletcher said.

This role would require the manufacture of high end sub-systems, the manufacture and assembly of turrets, the design of vehicle variants and the production of vehicles.

"Dean's expertise will enable Rheinmetall to deliver some of the best technology systems that we hope to provide to the Australian Army. Each has the potential to enrich the Australian economy and create employment and export opportunities into the global market," Mr Fletcher said.

Mr Gagnon has significant experience in various roles in the automotive industry including senior leadership roles in certification and engineering at Mercedes-Benz Australia Pacific.

Prior to this appointment, Mr Gagnon was the Systems Engineering Manager for the Australian Army's fleet of Mercedes-Benz G-Wagon, which are used for tactical training, disaster relief and securing Australia's coastline. He also served as an Army Officer in the ASLAV and Tank Programs at the former Defence Materiel Organisation (now the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group).

"I look forward to the opportunities that this role presents and getting back into the military space after working several years in the automotive industry," Mr Gagnon said.

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<sup>1</sup> A joint Development of Rheinmetall and Krauss-Maffei Wegmann.

Rheinmetall Defence will establish an Australian Industry Capability program for Land 400 Phase 2 that strengthens existing industrial capability in Australia and creates high technology enduring 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.

### **About Rheinmetall**

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

Rheinmetall Defence Australia and New Zealand 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](http://www.rheinmetall-defence.com)

For more information about the Boxer CRV visit: [www.boxercrv.com.au](http://www.boxercrv.com.au)

### **For more information, please contact:**

**Oliver Hoffmann**  
**Head of Public Relations**  
**Rheinmetall AG**  
**Tel.: +49-(0)211-473 4748**  
**[oliver.hoffmann@rheinmetall.com](mailto:oliver.hoffmann@rheinmetall.com)**

**Richard Sproull**  
**Rheinmetall Defence Australia**  
**Tel.: 0418585517**