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Australian-First Technology to Increase Protection for Troops

Rheinmetall Defence and Melbourne-based defence systems integrator Tectonica Australia are pleased to announce the development of an Australian-first technology designed to increase awareness and protection for Australian troops in combat.

Tectonica has developed the Local Situational Awareness System (LSAS) called Altera for Rheinmetall's Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV)¹ following eight months of design and product development.

Today's launch will enable project partner Rheinmetall Defence to utilise the technology for its Land 400 Phase 2 offer to the Commonwealth of Australia. The LSAS technology has been fitted to the Boxer CRV displayed at Land Forces 2016 in Adelaide, Australia.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia and New Zealand Managing Director Andrew Fletcher said the company was delighted to demonstrate the capability of the Tectonica team and Altera at Land Forces.

"Tectonica is a proven leader in the Australian Defence industry that employs highly skilled engineers and manufacturing workers, invests significantly in research and development and exports its products globally," Mr Fletcher said.

"Tectonica's partnership with Rheinmetall commenced with the joint funding of the LSAS project and today's significant milestone will enable visitors to the Rheinmetall stand to better understand the capability it brings to a world class vehicle such as Boxer CRV."

The battle proven Boxer 8x8 provides a unique mix of survivability, mobility and lethality that allows the vehicle to operate effectively across the full spectrum of combat operations.

If selected for LAND 400 the Boxer CRV will provide the Australian Army with a combat proven, low risk capability that can be rapidly transitioned into service and easily supported through life. Tectonica will manufacture the ALTERA and Rheinmetall will offer it for export through its global supply chain, ensuring ongoing local support for the Australian Defence Force (ADF) whilst securing Australian jobs.

Tectonica Managing Director David Levy said LSAS brings together a number of critical vehicle functions into a single system by applying the principles of open architecture.

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

“We are pleased to have this opportunity to provide a vital situational awareness capability to the ADF in partnership with a world leader in armoured vehicles,” Mr Levy said.

Altera combines a driver camera system, a panoramic viewing system, a video recorder and a means for the driver and passengers to view what is happening on the gunner’s and commander’s displays. This creates a much higher level of situational awareness than conventional vehicle camera systems and offers many other operational and training benefits.

Crews can record reconnaissance missions and conduct after action reviews. Instructors can supervise trainee crews and safety officers can monitor gunnery training from the comfort and safety of the passenger compartment. The imagery can also be made available to the BMS.

Mr Fletcher said Rheinmetall was committed to the creation of an enduring Australian capability beyond the minimum LAND 400 Australian Industry Capability (AIC) requirements and the application of Australian technology for global requirements.

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

Tectonica has developed fully integrated systems for armoured vehicles, ground stations and soldiers. In partnership with local and international organisations, Tectonica delivers a comprehensive range of Defence and Security solutions in the areas of protected navigation, portable power, C4IEW and crew survivability.

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 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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