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Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles' logistic truck family: Highly mobile – highly protected – multi-mission-capable – theatre-proven

No logistics, no tactics! Now more than ever, today's fast-moving armies need to be sure that their supplies keep rolling. Contemporary asymmetric conflicts lack clearly defined front lines, confronting commanders and manufacturers of modern transport, command and multi-mission vehicles with new requirements regarding mobility, functionality and survivability. The systems of the HX and SX families, made by Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles (RMMV), rank among the most durable, reliable, versatile and cost-effective in their class.

The Australian Defence Force is procuring RMMV's HX family under the Land121 Phase 3B programme. Rheinmetall transferred the first 12 trucks to Australia in April. Ultimately, over 2,500 vehicles in multiple configurations will form the logistic backbone of the Australian military. At LFC 2016, the FTTD variant of the HX is on display at the Capability, Acquisition, Sustainment Group (CASG) stand, the procurement arm of the Australian Department of Defence.

A match for modern mission scenarios

All HX vehicles are "military off the shelf" (MOTS) products specially developed for military applications. Their main priority is high mobility and reliability even in the harshest terrains.

Many other militarized vehicles are based on commercial construction vehicles. By contrast, the HX family combines tried-and-tested components from major commercial vehicle series with a toughened low-torsion ladder frame and other technologies designed to meet the specific needs of the military. This includes armour, self-protection systems, extreme fording capabilities, multi-fuel engines that are fully F34 compatible and blackout lighting. Right from the start, these trucks are designed not merely for greater durability and better off-road mobility, but also to operate in a wide range of climate zones. Moreover, they can be equipped with protective modules and/or weapon stations for self-protection.

Another specific characteristic of the HX family is high commonality and interoperability. This results in total ease of use as well as streamlined logistics and maintenance, since many of the components and assemblies are common to all the vehicles and fully interchangeable. In the UK, the net effect has been to reduce a previous logistic vehicle parts inventory stock from 30,000 line items to around 7,000.

Operation of the vehicles is largely identical. The same applies to maintenance and repair of the vehicles, engines and drivetrains. This produces considerable synergies when it comes to training crews and maintenance staff as well as substantially simplifying logistics for the entire fleet of vehicles.

The multi-fuel capability and excellent supply arrangements (all maintenance-significant spare parts are NATO-codified) are further important features of the HX family.

Additional protection

Depending on customer requirements, all of the HX vehicles can be equipped with a modular armoured cabin (MAC) or a fully integrated armoured cabin (IAC) to meet the highest STANAG or Mil-Standard specifications with regard to ballistic and mine protection. Installation of the MAC takes only six to eight hours, and can be performed by two trained technicians with the help of a lifting device. Furthermore, the vehicles can be equipped with sophisticated command and control technology, a remote control weapon station and Rheinmetall's hard-kill "Active Defence System".

Deployed around the world for decades and theatre-proven

Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles has a long history in developing and supplying military vehicles systems to armed forces worldwide.

The military-off-the-shelf concept of the HX family remains as compelling as ever, and these vehicles now form the logistic backbone of numerous armies around the globe.

Today, the HX family already forms the core of a fleet of high-mobility, globally deployable transport vehicles that can be specially hardened for maximum force protection. Around 10,000 of these vehicles are already in service worldwide, which – particularly in multinational operations – offers major advantages with regard to interoperability and logistics. Among others, current user nations include the United Kingdom, Denmark and New Zealand. Australia, Sweden and Norway have also placed large orders with RMMV, the joint venture at the heart of the Vehicle Systems division. The HX family features variants ranging from 4x4 to 10x10. Cargo carriers, tanker trucks, recovery vehicles, system platforms, folding road and bridge-laying systems – anything is possible. The HX therefore meets all of the requirements for the Bundeswehr's CAT I successor.

Vehicle Systems: Rheinmetall's centre of excellence for military mobility

Formed at the beginning of 2016, the Vehicle Systems division is one of the world's most versatile suppliers of tactical mobility solutions, with a portfolio ranging from trucks to wheeled armoured systems and heavy tracked fighting vehicles.

The Vehicle Systems Division's two management companies – Rheinmetall Landsysteme (RLS) and RMMV – present a common front, while still maintaining their own corporate seats and locations. The ownership structure of RMMV, in which MAN Truck & Bus AG holds a 49% stake, remains unchanged.

At the beginning of 2010, Rheinmetall and MAN Nutzfahrzeuge joined forces to found RMMV. Drawing on their respective core competencies in automotive engineering and military technology, these two long-established companies have created a globally operating supplier of wheeled military vehicles. RMMV produces a complete

range of protected and unprotected transport, command and mission-specific vehicles for the world's armed forces. Moreover, RMMV supplies not only systems but also service from a single source. From 1st to 4th level support, everything is possible, including on-site repair and maintenance in-theatre.

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