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Puma – the world’s most advanced infantry fighting vehicle

In June 2015 the German Bundeswehr took formal delivery of the world’s most advanced infantry fighting vehicle. The first Puma IFVs have been in service with mechanized elements of the German Army for over a year now. Training and fielding are in full swing. As per contract, all 350 vehicles will be delivered by 2020.

The Puma combines high strategic and tactical mobility with maximum crew protection and massive firepower, bringing these military imperatives into a state of equilibrium never achieved before.

Its network-enabled warfare capabilities (including the Future Soldier System and Battlefield Management System) make the Puma a key element in future operational scenarios.

Right from the start, the Puma was designed for maximum growth potential. Among other things, this is evident in the systematic use of open interfaces, enabling electronic connection of new assemblies in future as well as integration of alternative protection modules in response to emerging threats. As a result, everything is in place to ensure that the world’s most advanced IFV can continue to evolve for decades to come, making it more than a match for future challenges.

The training resources for the Puma are on the cutting edge, too. For instance, by plugging in additional equipment, each individual vehicle can be transformed into a combat simulator that can be used as an autonomous training platform. Moreover, a globally deployable, containerized evaluation and control cell enables simultaneous training with up to four vehicles, preparing crews for a multitude of different combat scenarios.

Measuring approximately nine cubic metres, the vehicle’s protected fighting compartment permits integration of various mission kits: to name but a few, Puma-based reconnaissance, medevac and armoured recovery vehicles are all equally feasible.

The Puma is the outcome of an exemplary partnership between German defence giants Krauss-Maffei Wegmann and Rheinmetall. Projekt System & Management GmbH (PSM), a joint venture in which both groups hold a 50% stake, is the prime contractor for the Puma project, including logistical support.

Visitors to Land Forces 2016 can get more information at the Rheinmetall booth.

For more information, please contact:

Mathias Kraus
PSM Projekt System &
Management GmbH
Head of Sales
Tel.: +49 (0)561 5107 110
Fax: +49 (0)561 5107 199
mathias.kraus@psm-spz.de

Oliver Hoffmann
Rheinmetall Defence
Head of Public Relations
Tel.: +49 (0)211 473 4748
Fax: +49 (0)211 473 4157
oliver.hoffmann@rheinmetall.com

Dr. Kurt Braatz
Krauss-Maffei Wegmann
GmbH & Co. KG
Head of Corporate
Communications
Tel.: +49 (0)89 8140 4675
Fax: +49 (0)89 8140 4977
kurt.braatz@kmweg.de