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Rheinmetall Defence Polska – Rheinmetall strengthens its presence in Eastern Central Europe

Rheinmetall AG is reinforcing its presence in Eastern Central Europe. Specializing in solutions for security and mobility, the Düsseldorf-based tech group has just established Rheinmetall Defence Polska.

A subsidiary of Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH, Rheinmetall Defence Polska will serve as a partner to the local defence industry, providing the Polish armed forces with technical and logistical support as well as helping to develop logistic concepts. In addition, the new subsidiary will work closely with the company Zakłady Mechaniczne Bumar-Łabędy S.A. (ZMBL) in modernizing Poland's fleet of Leopard 2 A4 main battle tanks, supplying its Polish partner with optimum support. Furthermore – in line with the Group's one-face-to-the-customer philosophy – Rheinmetall Defence Polska serves as the Polish hub for all Rheinmetall Defence companies, acting as the central point of contact for the Polish government and military as well as Polish companies. This will assure optimum, efficient communication between Poland and the companies that make up Rheinmetall Defence.

Rheinmetall Defence Polska will initially be present at two locations. A liaison bureau will be set up in Warsaw in order to be close to government agencies and authorities. A second location will be established at Gliwice in Upper Silesia, in order to provide ZMBL with optimum support in modernizing Poland's Leopard 2 MBTs as well as to offer other Leopard 2 family-related services.

Otmar Schultheis has been appointed Managing Director of Rheinmetall Defence Polska. A former Bundeswehr Armour Corps officer, he has been with Rheinmetall for over thirty years, gaining extensive experience in sales and project management in numerous national and international projects. Dr Michael Kara, managing director of Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH and CFO of the Tactical Vehicles business unit, will head the regional hub.

The establishment of Rheinmetall Defence Polska reflects the important strategic partnership between Poland and Germany – a relationship that finds expression in the numerous political, economic and cultural bonds that bind the two neighbouring countries. Especially at a time of growing volatility, strategic partnerships of this kind in Europe are extremely important.

Rheinmetall has maintained close ties with various Polish defence contractors and the Polish authorities. Examples here include technical and logistical support for vehicles transferred from Germany to Poland under government-to-government contracts. Together with its partner company ZMBL, Rheinmetall recently won the order to modernize Poland's fleet of Leopard 2 A4 MBTs, which will be carried out in close cooperation with other Polish contractors such as PCO or ZM Tarnow, and will assure a very high degree of Polish input.

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