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## Rheinmetall and MBDA win contract for high-energy laser system

Schrobenhausen / Düsseldorf – Germany’s Federal Office for Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support (BAAINBw) has awarded a consortium, or ARGE, consisting of MBDA Deutschland GmbH and Rheinmetall Waffe Munition GmbH a contract to fabricate, integrate and support testing of a laser weapon demonstrator in the maritime environment. The order value is in the low double-digit million euro range.

Work will be shared out on a roughly equal basis. MBDA Deutschland is responsible for tracking, the operator’s console and linking the laser weapon demonstrator to the command-and-control system. Rheinmetall is in charge of the laser weapon station, the beam guiding system, cooling, and integration of the laser weapon system into the project container of the laser *source* demonstrator.

The laser weapon demonstrator is to be fabricated, tested and integrated by the end of the 2021. Trials onboard the German Navy frigate F-124 *Sachsen* are to take place in 2022.

As Doris Laarmann, head of laser business development at MBDA Deutschland, notes, “The contract is an important step on the path to an operational high-energy laser system. Our two companies will apply their respective strengths to make this project a success on behalf of the German Navy. Once it’s installed, the demonstrator will also be used to test important aspects such as the interaction and function of the sensor suite, combat management system and effector as well as rules of engagement.”

Alexander Graf, head of Rheinmetall Waffe Munition’s laser weapons programme, and Dr Markus Jung, who leads the company’s laser weapon development effort, both agree, adding that “The contract marks a systematic extension of the functional prototype laser weapon successfully tested in recent years, with the experience gained now dovetailing into one of the most ambitious projects in the field of laser weapon development in Europe.”

A breakthrough development in the history of defence technology, lasers engage targets at the speed of light, operating with great precision and producing very little collateral damage. A demonstrator system featuring these capabilities will soon be put to the test under highly realistic operating conditions onboard a German frigate.

### Rheinmetall – high-tech leader in security and mobility

A publicly traded company headquartered in Düsseldorf, Rheinmetall AG is a globally active technology group dedicated to the twin future imperatives of security and mobility. In 2019 Rheinmetall’s 30,000 employees generated sales of around €6.25 billion. The company is present around the globe, with offices and production facilities at over 120 locations.

## ► Key facts



- ARGE consortium consisting of MBDA and Rheinmetall tasked with fabricating, integrating and supporting testing a laser weapon demonstrator in the maritime environment
- A milestone on the path to a fully capable high-energy laser system
- Tests planned through to the end of 2021
- Trials to take place onboard the German frigate *Sachsen* in 2022

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## ► Social Media

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As one of Europe's top suppliers of defence and security technology, Rheinmetall is synonymous with longstanding experience and pioneering excellence in armoured vehicles, weapons and ammunition as well as air defence and electronics. Its comprehensive range of products and services encompasses a vast range of military capabilities, including reconnaissance, command and control, tactical mobility, kinetics and force protection.

Throughout its 130-year history, Rheinmetall has enjoyed a global reputation as a centre of excellence for weapons and ammunition. Moreover, the company has been active in the field of laser weapon systems for many years. In the world of laser weapon stations and laser sources, during the past five years Rheinmetall has laid the foundation for a future 100kW laser weapon system, demonstrating its fundamental feasibility.