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Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles at CANSEC 2012:

RMMV's HX 77 – versatile, highly mobile, operationally 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, robustness, functionality, survivability and the ability to carry active and passive self-defence systems. The systems of the HX family, made by Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles (RMMV), rank among the most cost effective in their class. The HX 77 is thus an ideal platform for the Medium Support Vehicle System Standard Military Pattern (MSVS SMP) which the Canadian armed forces are considering acquiring within the next few years.

The HX 77 is equipped with the MAN D20 water-cooled 6-cylinder in-line common rail engine with turbocharger and direct fuel injection. With cubic capacity of 10,518 cm³, its output comes to 324 kW (440 hp). It also meets the Euro 4 emission standards.

The IAC meets NATO STANAG 4569 criteria, providing the crew with excellent protection from ballistic threats, landmines and IEDs.

The vehicle features a military payload of 15 tons. The load handling system, combined with a container handling unit (CHU), means that it can carry militarized load-flats as well as standard 20 ft. ISO containers in use worldwide. The result is a truck system that fits seamlessly into modern military logistics.

At CANSEC 2012 RMMV is displaying a HX 77 high mobility truck variant proposed for the MSVS SMP tender.

Deployed around the world for decades

Unlike many other comparable vehicles, the HX family is largely based on off-the-shelf (OTS) components. It combines tried-and-tested components from major commercial vehicle series – such as the low-torsion ladder frame from MAN's civilian TG line of vehicles – with technology specially designed to meet the needs of the military, such as advanced leaf spring suspension, extreme fording capabilities and multi-fuel engines. Right from the start, these trucks are designed not merely for greater durability, payload capacity and on- and off-road mobility, but also to operate

at temperatures ranging from -32 to +49° C. Moreover, they can be equipped with protective modules and/or weapon stations for self-defence.

As a MOTS product family, RMMV's HX vehicles not only feature outstanding mobility, protection and reliability, they also deliver maximum modularity and interoperability.

This results in total ease of use as well as streamlined logistics and maintenance, since many components and assemblies of the vehicle family are centrally produced and fully interchangeable. In the UK, the net effect has been to reduce a previous logistic vehicle parts inventory stock of 30,000 line items to less than 7,000.

Operation of the vehicles is largely identical. The same applies to maintenance and repair of the vehicles, engines and drive trains. This produces considerable synergy effects when it comes to training crews and mechanics 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, which Germany's Rheinmetall Group – one of the oldest and most trusted names in the global defence industry – is presenting at the CANSEC exhibition 2012 in Ottawa, along with a wide array of other products and technologies designed for today's expeditionary-focused armed forces.

Operationally theatre-proven in Iraq and Afghanistan

The military-off-the-shelf concept of the HX family remains as compelling as ever. In 2007 the British armed forces began receiving the first of over 7,000 vehicles of the HX family, including 4x4, 6x6 and 8x8 versions. The vehicle on show is in service at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS).

These transport, tanker and recovery vehicles are replacing the old Leyland and Bedford trucks as well as the Foden recovery vehicles, which the SX 45 vehicle family is superseding.

Her Majesty's Armed Forces have been deploying HX and SX vehicle families in Afghanistan (and previously in Iraq) since early 2008. The response from all levels has been extremely positive.

The British are equally enthusiastic about the HX 77 8x8 Enhanced Pallet Loading System (EPLS), which the UK procured in response to an Urgent Operational Requirement. Unlike the previously deployed Leyland and Foden Demountable Rack Offload & Pickup System (DROPS), this protected vehicle can handle traditional flatracks or lift a 20-foot ISO container weighing up to 15 tons in just minutes thanks to its Container Handling Unit (CHU).

As the commander of a British logistics brigade puts it, "The EPLS represents a significant advance in our capabilities, combining unsurpassed protection for our supply troops with the high mobility that's vital in modern military operations."

With regard to the Canadian MSVS programme, RMMV Canada will be submitting its proposal in the coming weeks for an HX 77 high mobility truck in the required

variants as well as an MSVS purpose-built trailer designed and made in Canada by LINK/ Raydan Division in Alberta.

RMMV – outstanding systems and service from a single source

As one of the world's leading suppliers of defence technology, Rheinmetall supplies the modern military with a comprehensive portfolio of modular products.

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.

In an age when new security challenges can literally arise overnight, this assures maximum flexibility and peace of mind.

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