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Europe's new heavy weight champion: Boxer combines excellent battlefield survivability and combat effectiveness with tremendous operational versatility

The Boxer is one of the most advanced combat vehicles in the European military inventory. Since July 2011 the German ISAF contingent has deployed two different versions of this highly mobile, superbly protected system in Afghanistan: a troop carrier capable of transporting a fully equipped infantry section, and a command vehicle.

Having joined forces to form the Artec consortium, Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles manufactures the Boxer in cooperation with Krauss-Maffei Wegmann under a bi-national programme.

Designed for maximum mobility, this wheeled armoured vehicle's build-on modules lend themselves to a wide variety of mission-specific variants. The vehicle family consists of a uniform chassis and interchangeable, user-specific mission modules. Among the variants developed thus far are a section transporter, a field ambulance, a combat engineer section vehicle, a command vehicle (on display in the Rheinmetall pavilion at Eurosatory 2012), a driving school version, a logistics vehicle and a battle damage repair vehicle.

Nor does this list in any way exhaust the possibilities of this versatile family of vehicles. As recently as Eurosatory 2010, Rheinmetall presented a concept study for a prototype Boxer infantry fighting vehicle mounted with a Lance medium-calibre turret. This concept study proved to be the basis of a fully functional combat vehicle. Rheinmetall successfully combined a Lance turret with a Boxer vehicle module and modified build-on module, which has since undergone testing at the Rheinmetall Defence proving ground in Unterlüß, verifying the concept's validity.

In a dynamic driving and live fire demonstration in front of a high-profile delegation, the Boxer and Lance provided compelling evidence of their combat effectiveness. The conclusion drawn from this impressive presentation: the combination of a highly protected, highly mobile and mission-proven vehicle platform with the world's most

advanced medium-calibre turret has clear battlefield potential. Moreover, in addition to the decisive parameters of protection, mobility, situational awareness, C4I capabilities and lethality, this configuration offers the major advantage of a spacious fighting compartment.

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