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Rheinmetall: Sensors and optronics for optimum effectiveness and comprehensive protection

High-performance sensors and fire control systems make it possible quickly to detect, identify and discriminate between potential threats, engaging them where necessary. At Eurosatory 2012 Rheinmetall's Electro-Optics division is presenting a selection of its diverse array of products in this field.

For the first time at Eurosatory, the Rheinmetall Electro-Optics division is presenting its cost-efficient Vingtaqs SLR observation system. Besides Rheinmetall's own sensors, it can also accommodate third-party devices. It is able to collect and transmit target data even at long ranges.

Its big brother, the Vingtaqs II, which combines electro-optical reconnaissance with a battlefield radar, is on show as well, mounted on the AMPV 4x4 vehicle as a mobile reconnaissance solution.

Rheinmetall is also displaying its FOI 2000 forward observer instrument for fast, precise and reliable target detection, identification, location and fire correction. It can be integrated into vehicles or deployed in dismounted mode. The armed forces of Sweden and Norway already use this device.

Visitors can also have a look at the Group's trusty laser pointers, laser target marker and laser light modules, including the Vario-Ray (LLM-VR), and the LLM01, which is in service with numerous armed forces and law enforcement agencies. The Group's ZEFF identification friend-foe system, known as the Dismounted Soldier Identification Device/DSID, rounds out the division's array of products on display, together with its Multi-Ray fire control unit.

The new Multi-Ray is substantially more compact and lighter than its FeLVis forerunner, and is suitable for low and medium velocity 40mm ammunition. It features a laser rangefinder, is able to detect if the weapon is at an incline, and also calculates the necessary lead. In addition, it is equipped with a laser pointer, an IR laser pointer invisible to the human eye, an electronically focusable IR illuminator and an optional identification friend/foe device. The Multi-Ray thus performs nearly all the functions of the Vario-Ray laser light module. A further innovation: the Multi-Ray's integrated energy source, which is built into NATO-standard "power rails" in accordance with MIL-STD 1913.

Apart from the Saphir 9.6 aiming device and a fire control unit, the Vingmate aiming and fire control system features a combined tripod and gun cradle. It is thus suitable for various 40mm automatic grenade launchers such as the MK19 and GMG but also for heavy .50 cal. machine guns like the BMG, or even 20mm automatic cannon such as the GAM B01. Both, Multi-Ray and Vingmate are designed to permit programming of airburst rounds via an infrared laser beam as they leave the barrel. Along with the Vingmate fire control system, at Eurosatory 2012 Rheinmetall will be displaying the VingSim, its accompanying training device.

The new Fire Control Unit Vingfire specifically designed for weapons like the Carl Gustaf will be as well on display.

The Vingpos Mortar fire control system is specially designed for mortars. Its positioning and navigation features make it easier for the crew to precisely determine their own position, in turn enabling exact laying and engagement.

At its Eurosatory pavilion Rheinmetall also will be presenting various night observation devices, including GN night vision goggles and the KN 200/250 night vision sight. These make it possible to detect potential threats in the dark and in conditions of poor visibility and adopt appropriate countermeasures. As a result, they are particularly well suited to border control and security operations.

The Rheinmetall products on display at Eurosatory 2012 underscore once again the versatility of a globally leading systems supplier and longstanding partner of the world's armed forces and security services.

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