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Rheinmetall: Optronics for optimum effectiveness

High-performance optics and optronics help to detect, recognize and identify targets more quickly. Especially at night and in conditions of reduced visibility, they give troops a crucial capabilities edge. At African Aerospace & Defence (AAD) 2012 Rheinmetall's Electro-Optics business unit is presenting a selection of its diverse array of products in this field.

On display at AAD are Rheinmetall's tried-and-tested laser light modules, including the Vario-Ray (LLM-VR) and the LLM01. Both devices are currently being tested and evaluated as attachments to the R4 Assault Rifle Upgrade for the South African National Defence Force. In Germany, the Vario-Ray has passed the evaluation phase and is now being procured for the German Army soldier modernization programme "Gladius". Further points of interest include the Dismounted Soldier Identification Device/DSID) and the Multi-Ray "40mm" fire control unit.

The new Multi-Ray is substantially more compact and lighter than its FeLVis predecessor, and is suitable for low and medium velocity 40mm ammunition as well as for recoilless anti-tank rifles such as the Carl Gustav. It features a laser rangefinder, detects several environmental parameters and calculates the necessary lead angle. In addition, it is equipped with a laser target marker, an infrared (IR)-laser target marker invisible to the human eye, an electronically focusable IR illuminator and an optional identification friend/foe interrogator. The Multi-Ray thus includes nearly all the functions of the Vario-Ray laser light module. Another innovation is the adaptable energy concept of the Multi-Ray. It is designed to work on any kind of NATO standardized "power rails" in accordance with Mil STD 1913 as soon they enter the market. Furthermore, the Multi-Ray features an integrated airburst round programming unit which programs the rounds via an infrared laser beam as they leave the barrel.

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

The Rheinmetall products on display at AAD 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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