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State-of-the-art protection systems at sea and on land

Rapid technological advances mean that the threat of effective and intelligent weapon systems is smarter and deadlier than ever. Rheinmetall has specialized for many years in developing and producing high-quality components and innovative systems for protecting people, vehicles, aircraft, ships and installations and offers a wide range of high-effective active and passive protection solutions coupled with soft-kill systems. Visitors to the African Aerospace & Defence (AAD) 2012 can view the company's Multi Ammunition Softkill System (MASS) and the Rapid Obscurant System (ROSY).

Multi Ammunition Softkill System (MASS)

Guided missiles and other projectiles pose a constant threat to civilian shipping and naval vessels alike. Rheinmetall's MASS naval countermeasure system protects ships from attacks with modern, sensor-guided anti-ship missiles on the high seas and littoral zones as well as from asymmetric, terrorist-type threats by firing decoy rounds which diverts incoming missiles from their intended target.

The system has proven highly effective in various international trials. The MASS' innovative, programmable omnispectral rounds – 32 per launcher – assure protection in all relevant wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum (radar, infrared, laser, electro-optic, ultraviolet).

MASS can be installed on board any type of ship, and operate either in standalone mode or as an integral part of the ship's networked C4I and weapon engagement systems. Moreover, MASS offers a whole host of tactical, operational and logistical advantages, and is specifically designed to meet the changing requirements of modern navies, with abundant scope for future technological growth.

The procurement statistics bear this out. Since its market launch in 2002, eleven nations have contracted a total of 186 MASS launcher systems for no fewer than 22 different types of vessels. The system is thus ideally suited for the combat performance upgrade of South Africa's Valour-class corvettes, slated to get underway in 2013 with its first of class SAS Amatola.

Rapid Obscuring System (ROSY)

Rheinmetall's 40mm ROSY countermeasure system is designed for naval and land applications.

The land version ROSY_L system offers light military and civilian vehicles 360° protection from unexpected attacks, by countering conventional weapons, weapons

with optical devices and laser distance measurement (TV-, EO-, IR-, IIR-, laser- and SACLOS-guided weapons). Unlike conventional smoke protection systems, ROSY not only produces an instantaneous, large-area, multispectral interruption of the line of sight in a fraction of a second, but also generates a dynamic smoke screen, capable of providing vehicles on the move with sustained protection from multiple attacks.

The naval version ROSY_N is optimized to protect small vessels such as fast attack craft, patrol vessels and rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIB). ROSY_N creates a 1,000 square-metre multispectral smoke screen in just 0.4 seconds and can counter multiple threats without reloading. This helps to protect sailors, coast guards and special operations forces units operating in coastal waters and on rivers to defend themselves from sudden flat trajectory fire, such as small arms fire, RPGs and missiles.

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