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Rheinmetall Denel Munition: outstanding combat effectiveness, long range and full compatibility with existing systems

Rheinmetall has for many years been a partner of South Africa's armed forces and defence industry. Founded in 2008, Rheinmetall Denel Munition (Pty) Ltd. is a subsidiary of Rheinmetall Waffe Munition GmbH (51%) in Germany and the South African company Denel (Pty) Ltd.

A global player, Rheinmetall Denel Munition has unique expertise in artillery, mortar and infantry systems as well as plant design, ranging from development and engineering to production. Its stated goals are to supply the South African National Defence Force, or SANDF, with state-of-the-art effectors; to operate highly efficient, innovative production plants; and to take the lead in setting the technological pace. Besides South Africa, Rheinmetall Denel Munition primarily serves customers in Asia, the Middle East and South America. Rheinmetall and its South African subsidiary are thus able to supply their respective core markets with the Group's complete, comprehensive array of products.

At Outdoor Stand 3SE/3SW1, Rheinmetall Denel Munition will be on hand at AAD with an extensive range of hardware, including a broad assortment of ammunition for indirect fire applications such as the extended range of 40 x 51mm grenades, the 76/62mm IM PFF (insensitive munition), the ballistically matched 155mm Assegai or the 105mm and the latest generation of 60mm patrol mortar bombs.

155mm Assegai Artillery Ammunition

Rheinmetall has developed a full suite of 155mm Artillery Ammunition comprising Insensitive Munition (IM) High Explosive (HE), Conventional HE, screening smoke, Illumination, Infrared Illumination and many other projectiles. The ammunition suite is called the Assegai Artillery Ammunition family and is designed according to the Joint Ballistics Memorandum of Understanding (JBMoU). The Assegai family is also designed to be fired to a range of 40km from a 52 caliber artillery weapon. The Assegai family has also been designed to accept either a boat tail or a base bleed unit.

The Assegai projectile family is in the process of being qualified according to the STANAG principles.

105 mm

Rheinmetall's new 105mm M1130 base-bleed (BB) and M1131 boat tail (BT) projectiles are insensitive high explosive rounds, developed under the aegis of the Advanced Cannon Artillery Ammunition Programme (ACA2P). Their effectiveness against semi-hard targets is roughly equivalent to that of a 155mm high explosive round.

Trials in South Africa have revealed that, in combination with Denel Land Systems' 105mm long-range Light Experimental Ordnance (LEO), the M1130 can attain a range of 33 km when propelled by a five-segment RDM XM24A42 propelling charge. By comparison, when fired from a 105mm M119A2 light gun with a conventional seven-zone M67 propelling charge, the ammunition attained a maximum range of just 13.8 km.

New 60mm patrol mortar ammunition

As indirect fire weapons, mortars play an indispensable role on the modern battlefield, providing light, highly mobile units in particular with organic firepower.

At AAD 2012 Rheinmetall is displaying its new family of 60mm ammunition. This latest generation of enhanced-range, enhanced-performance mortar ordnance is designed to meet all current and foreseeable future mission requirements.

This innovative ammunition family is optimized for insensitivity, fulfilling or surpassing all STANAG 4439 requirements. It encompasses service and practice cartridges, including insensitive high explosive (IHE), high explosive (HE), three different types of smoke/obscurant (WP, RP multispectral and TTC) as well as two illumination variants (visible light and infrared).

The new 60mm ammunition is especially well suited for special forces-type mortars with barrel lengths of 640 and 650 mm. It can also be fired from previously fielded standard weapons with barrel lengths of 895 and 1,000 mm. This is also true of long-range systems such as the M6 launcher made by Denel Land Systems. Fired from a mortar with an 895mm barrel, the maximum effective range is approximately 4,000 metres. Moreover, Rheinmetall's new 60mm ammunition family is compatible with all standard weapons systems in this calibre.

The propelling charge system is identical in all variants, and – depending on customer specifications – can be made with either EI or ECL powder in a combustible case. The loading system and firing tables can also be adapted to match customer requirements. The obturation characteristics of the rounds have been improved as well, contributing to the longer maximum effective range. Moreover, the entire ammunition family meets the STANAG requirements for safety and environmental protection.

40mm Grenades

Rheinmetall Denel Munition (RDM) is a manufacturer and global supplier of a comprehensive range of 40mm grenades, comprising both Low Velocity (40x46mm), Medium Velocity (40x51mm) and High Velocity (40x53mm) lethal, less lethal and pyrotechnic natures. The newly introduced Medium Velocity range offers users improved range (up to 800mm), accuracy (flatter trajectory) and terminal effects (25% increase in payload size) from shoulder fired multiple grenade launchers. A completely revised range of Low Velocity Less Lethal products comprising state of the art Impulse, Irritant Chemical and Aerial Sonic natures is set for release shortly, whilst the High Velocity lethal range will be complemented during 2013 with a self destruct fuze option.

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