

10 September 2013

Rheinmetall: high mobility, survivability and firepower for small tactical vehicles

Security and mobility are two forces that are sure to shape the future. Together, they form Rheinmetall's twin raison d'être. At DSEI 2013, the Düsseldorf-based Group makes this perfectly clear: on show at its stand is the section vehicle variant of the high-mobility Armoured Multi Purpose Vehicle, or AMPV, which features excellent crew protection, coupled with compelling firepower.

The AMPV is the product of an industrial partnership. Experience gained during ISAF operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere flowed into the development of this high-mobility protected combat vehicle. In the meantime, it has been extensively tested and is now ready for series production.

With an empty weight of 7.3 tons, the AMPV can carry a payload of over two tons. Thanks to its powerful 272 hp/200 kw diesel engine, it can attain speeds of up to 110 km/h. Automatic transmission, automatic differential lock management, a robust chassis with individual wheel suspension and a tyre pressure control system all add to the vehicle's superb mobility even in difficult terrain.

Inside the superbly protected, self-supporting, steel passenger compartment, there is enough room for five fully equipped soldiers. If the threat situation warrants it, the passenger compartment can be reinforced with add-on armour modules. State-of-the-art armoured glass combines excellent visibility with maximum protection. Furthermore, the high-performance heating and air conditioning system and NBC filtration/ventilation give the AMPV vital battlefield sustainment capabilities.

Moreover, additional components are available that substantially boost the vehicle's protection level. Rheinmetall's "Rapid Obscurant System Rosy" offers one possibility, specifically Rosy_L (the 'L' stands for land), which the Bundeswehr plans to procure soon. Unlike conventional smoke/obscurant systems, Rosy_L not only produces an instantaneous, extensive, multispectral interruption of the line of sight, but also a dynamic wall of smoke capable of concealing a moving vehicle for several minutes.

The system's multi-mission capability assures 360° protection against multiple attacks. Effective screening in the visual and infrared spectrum, including integrated IR jamming and decoying effects, reliably thwarting all TV-, EO-, IR-, IIR-, laser- and SACLOS-guided weapons.

ROSY_L comprises a basic system with a control device and one to four ROSY launchers per vehicle. By means of a one-click adapter, the system can be quickly mounted to the vehicle without tools, and just as quickly removed and stowed.

Designed for maximum modularity, ROSY_L can be linked to the sensor suite of the vehicle's computer system. The different ammunition types can be individually selected and triggered for maximum concealment and screening effectiveness.

But force protection is only half the battle. In order to detect, recognize, identify and engage emerging targets faster and with the right level of intensity, high-performance sensors and effectors are vital too. And there is no reason why even relatively small command and multi-mission vehicles cannot be equipped with them.

For example, the AMPV at Rheinmetall's DSEI stand in London is outfitted with the high-performance Vingtaqs II surveillance system. Along with such features as electro-optical sensors for day and night operation and rangefinding, the Vingtaqs II is equipped with a battlefield radar. Largely automated, the system is especially well suited for ground surveillance coupled with optical identification of targets.

A Super Lite weapon station from the Protector family has been integrated into the AMPV on display at DSEI, which also features a solar shield to protect the vehicle from insolation and thermal stress, keeping the crew comfortable and combat ready.

The AMPV on display at DSEI epitomizes Rheinmetall's status as a leading source of systems and equipment dedicated to security and mobility.

For more information, please contact:

Oliver Hoffmann

Head of Public Relations

Rheinmetall AG

Tel.: +49-(0)211-473 4748

oliver.hoffmann@rheinmetall.com