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Rheinmetall MLG 27 – a versatile effector for contemporary operations

Responding effectively to the modern asymmetric threats facing a country's national infrastructure and armed forces requires fast, full situational awareness and instantaneous firepower. The MLG 27 on display at the Rheinmetall stand at DSEI 2013 in London offers a unique NATO-qualified answer to these requirements, assuring a swift response and effective neutralization of targets at sea, on land and in the air.

MLG 27 is designed to provide point-defence protection for both sea- and land-based units. In its naval variant, this state-of-the-art 27mm weapon system is designed for layered ship self-defence and can engage air and surface targets, including high-speed, highly manoeuvrable watercraft and targets on shore. The MLG 27 provides reliable self-defence capabilities for counterterrorism, combating piracy and stopping smugglers. Short for "Marineleichtgeschütz 27mm" ("light naval gun"), the MLG27 is produced at the Rheinmetall Weapons and Munitions (RWM) Mauser plant in Oberndorf, a cradle of the German arms industry.

Key characteristics

The MLG 27 is an autonomous weapon system, controlled remotely from its dedicated operations console. The system is equipped with a laser range finder, day/night vision capability and a modern automatic tracking system with multiple tracking modes (manual, semiautomatic and automatic). Integrating the MLG 27 into an overall combat management system (CMS) or linking it directly to other fire control system sensors (radar, EW, IR and TV) is straightforward, further enhancing the effectiveness of this globally leading gun system. Moreover, the lightweight MLG 27 can be installed on nearly any naval surface vessel without deck penetration.

The BK27 revolver cannon used in the MLG27 is in service with the German Air Force and Navy as well as the armed forces of several other NATO and non-NATO countries. Worldwide more than 3,000 cannons have been sold to date. Its effective range is typically between 100m and 4,000m.

The revolver gun's high rate of fire (up to 1,700 rounds per minute) and high-precision optics make the MLG 27 an extremely effective naval gun system. Furthermore, Rheinmetall supplies a wide array of modern medium-calibre ammunition, including Frangible Armour Piercing Discarding Sabot (FAPDS) with a maximum effective range of 4,000m at a flat trajectory, Frangible Armour Piercing (FAP), target practice (TP) and PELE (Penetrator with Enhanced Lateral Effects).

These advantages make the MLG27 an ideal medium-calibre effector, providing even small vessels like patrol boats with tremendous firepower.

Rheinmetall also supplies state-of-the-art training and simulation systems for the MLG 27 for crew and tactical training.

Protection on land too

On land the MLG27 can deliver stationary on-the-ground protection or, integrated into a lightweight self-contained mobile unit, can be rapidly deployed without being visibly threatening when passing through populated urban areas. The specifications and performance of the MLG27 let it operate effectively in many strategic and tactical situations where a larger calibre gun would not be suitable.

When combined with the latest technology, its design architecture enables the MLG27 to offer continuous round-the-clock support to land-based units and protection of critical national infrastructure.

The MLG 27mm can also be temporarily deployed to places where important sensitive events are taking place.

In service around the world

The MLG 27 is already in service with many of the world's navies. Its effectiveness and reliability at sea with the German Navy is a proven fact. The last of twelve MLG27 for four new F125-class frigates and the new combat supply ship "Bonn" have now been delivered to the German Navy. Furthermore, a customer in East Asia has just procured the MLG 27 for a training vessel, which has already been delivered and integrated.

RWM has supplied 150 MLG 27 light naval gun systems to navies all over the world. The system has seen service in the Gulf region, the Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Asia-Pacific region, the Horn of Africa and the Baltic Sea. A leading German supplier of advanced defence technology, Rheinmetall is ready and willing to cooperate with local contractors and shipyards to install its systems onto customer platforms.

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