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Persistent Surveillance System (PSS) from Rheinmetall: wide-area perimeter protection from above

Reliable protection of commercial, strategic and military assets from attack requires persistent surveillance, 24/7, to provide sufficient time for security forces to react. Rheinmetall's Persistent Surveillance System (PSS) is a unique and cost-effective solution that allows operators to enhance situational awareness and cut response times. Tried and tested in military and homeland security missions, the PSS has proved to be an invaluable tool for detecting and identifying potential threats and targets.

Developed and produced by Rheinmetall, PSS helps to protect critical military and civilian infrastructure. This multi-sensor surveillance system enables wide-area observation, detection, identification and monitoring at forward operating bases, international borders or for watching over strategic assets such as oil refineries and power plants.

The PSS is a modular and scalable system that can easily be configured to meet specific needs, with future growth potential when customer requirements change. It comprises two separately available systems: the Persistent Surveillance Aerostat (PSA) and the Persistent Surveillance Tower (PST). The PSA consists of a stabilized electro-optical sensor system attached to an aerostat and tethered at altitudes of up to 300 metres, providing extended range surveillance capabilities of up to 20 km. The PST has a stabilized electro-optical sensor system and optional ground radars installed on a trailer-mounted mast that can be raised up to 32 metres in height. It provides surveillance capabilities at ranges of up to 10 km in all weather conditions. Using the SC2PS application, all PSTs and PSAs can be operated from a single container-sized control station. SC2PS adds metadata to the sensor imagery such as sensor field of view, target range and target coordinates, which are displayed in real time on the operator's monitors. Digital geo-referenced reports with video and snapshots can be rapidly created and forwarded in real time to local or higher-echelon headquarters for immediate action. In addition, PSS can interface directly with other surveillance system such as CCTV, UAVs, and perimeter fence monitoring systems.

The PSS is in service with the Canadian Army, while a commercial version for the energy and homeland security markets is already in service with a Middle Eastern customer.

Visitors to CANSEC 2014 can find out more about the PSS at the Rheinmetall stand.

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