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## **A heavy weight champion for current operating environments: Boxer combines excellent battlefield survivability and combat effectiveness with outstanding operational versatility**

Wheeled armoured vehicle families continue to play a vital role in modern combat environments, these encompassing not only the traditional '*battlefield*' but also urban and asymmetric scenarios. They not only offer troops enhanced mobility options, but provide high levels of protection against ballistic threats, mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Recent operational experiences combined with ongoing development have shown that ARTEC's Boxer wheeled armoured vehicle family is one of the most advanced, most mobile, and best-protected available today. Having joined forces to form the ARTEC consortium, Rheinmetall MAN Military Vehicles (RMMV) manufactures the Boxer in cooperation with fellow German defence contractor Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) under a bi-national programme, in which Rheinmetall holds a 64% stake. GTK is an abbreviation of *Gepanzertes Transport-Kraftfahrzeug*, German for *armoured carrier vehicle*.

Since July 2011, Germany's ISAF contingent has deployed three variants of Boxer in Afghanistan: a personnel carrier capable of transporting a fully equipped infantry section, a command post vehicle, and a field ambulance. In approaching three years of operational use in Afghanistan Boxer was subjected to numerous IED and other assorted blast-type attacks by insurgents. Boxer's build-on module design concept and class-leading levels of protection helped ensure these attacks resulted in no crew fatalities.

The Boxer family concept is based around a uniform drive module and interchangeable, user/role-specific mission modules. Designed for maximum versatility, these build-on modules lend themselves to the development of a wide variety of mission-specific variants. Unique to Boxer, these interchangeable modules also offer users considerable cost saving opportunities, with a single drive module capable of adapting to perform a multitude of operationally dictated roles. Module variants developed to date include: armoured personnel carrier (APC), battlefield ambulance, combat engineer vehicle, logistics carrier, battle damage repair, command and control version, and crew/driving-training.

At Eurosatory 2014, Rheinmetall will be showcasing the Boxer IFV (Infantry Fighting Vehicle) variant, this equipped with the Rheinmetall LANCE 30mm two-man turret.

Further highlighting a core competence of Rheinmetall, interaction between the Boxer IFV, dismounted soldiers wearing the Gladius Future Soldier System, and other RMMV vehicles will be demonstrated. The IFV concept which mates a standard Boxer chassis to a modified mission module is a fully-functioning demonstrator and this has undergone testing at the Rheinmetall Defence proving ground, during which the validity of the concept was verified.

Most recently, RMMV has commenced preparations for a series of international customer presentations for the latest updated Boxer IFV, these including specific demonstrations of mobility in rough and adverse terrain, HVAC (heating ventilation and air condition) capabilities, and a live-fire event.

Future developmental possibilities for the Boxer are extensive and continue to evolve, with current proposals including an air defence platform armed with cannon and/ or surface-to-air missiles, a reconnaissance-optimised platform, an NBC variant, a recovery variant, materials handling crane and winch, or a wheeled tank armed with Rheinmetall's 120 mm L/55 smoothbore gun.

The Boxer IFV can be viewed on the Rheinmetall's stand (outdoor D 211) at Eurosatory 2014.

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