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## **Rheinmetall to supply Royal Air Force with training systems for Europe's Airbus A400M military cargo plane**

Airbus has contracted with Rheinmetall to supply a training system to the Royal Air Force for the A400M project. The "Cargo Hold Trainer Enhanced (CHT-E)" is a top modern rear crew and third user group training aid. The CHT-E will be operational in February 2016.

The CHT-E is a full sized realistic cargo hold interior with high-fidelity furnishings, fully functioning loadmaster controls and systems and a fully reproduced floor with all associated operable equipment. It also includes an integral but unobtrusive Instructor Operator Station (IOS) for discreet supervision and command and control of training exercises. The CHT-E provides the perfect platform for initial training as well as for personnel undergoing refresher courses or advanced skills training to achieve competency in strategic lift and airdrop roles.

The main aims and functions of the CHT-E are to provide practical and tangible training tasking in a realistic environment for all ground operations and certain flight disciplines without the need to use real aircraft hours. In particular, training objectives for cargo hold configurations and role changes, load preparation, loading and offloading and the execution of standard procedures on the ground and in-flight as well as the enhancement of multi-crew cooperation and crew resource management skills are all ideally suited to the CHT-E.

Located at the Airbus Military International Training Centre (ITC) in Seville, Spain, the first CHT-E has been ready for training since 12 September 2013. The system is Level 4 qualified, which marks the highest stage of expansion.

Besides the CHT-E, Rheinmetall has also supplied training aids for the loadmaster working station (LMWST). In November 2012 the first LMWST went into operation at the ITC in Seville, followed by a second system in September 2013 at the French A400M National Training Centre (NTC) in Orléans. An additional LMWST will be located at the Royal Air Force National Training Centre (NTC) in Brize Norton in the UK. Delivery is planned for the third quarter of 2014. Furthermore, the German Air Force will get a CHT-E Level 4 in mid 2015. This training system will be located at Air Transportation Wing 62 in Wunstorf.

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