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## **Rheinmetall: a globally trusted partner for land systems**

Mechanized forces consisting of main battle tanks and infantry fighting vehicles continue to form the steel core of modern high-mobility warfare, blending hard-hitting firepower with outstanding operational flexibility.

Two combat vehicles that have proven indispensable in recent decades are the Leopard main battle tank and the Marder infantry fighting vehicle. They formed the backbone of NATO's mobile defence strategy in the Cold War. Confounding the sceptics, numerous Leopard 2 user nations have successfully deployed the tank well beyond the borders of Europe, for example in Afghanistan. Moreover, the Germany's tried-and-tested Marder continues to give the Bundeswehr the edge in the Hindu Kush, combining high mobility, massive firepower and superb protection.

Combining its proven competence in land systems with its expertise as a systems integrator, Rheinmetall is able to modify legacy systems to make them more than a match for current challenges and threats. Furthermore Rheinmetall offers lifecycle support for land systems. Visitors to FIDAE 2014 can learn more at the Rheinmetall stand.

### **Lifecycle management**

In South America, too, Rheinmetall has a strong track record in the field of lifecycle support. The Düsseldorf, Germany-based system supplier has cooperated for years with the Chilean armed forces and local defence contractors to ensure the combat effectiveness of systems such as the Leopard 1 V and Leopard 2 A4 main battle tanks, the Marder 1 A3 infantry fighting vehicle, the ARV 2 armoured recovery vehicle, AEV Dachs ("badger") armoured engineering vehicle and the Biber ("beaver") bridge-laying tank. Here, Chile benefits from Rheinmetall's unrivalled expertise and decades of experience as the original manufacturer of these vehicles.

The range of services provided include support in repairing all vehicles with the active assistance of Rheinmetall customer service personnel at all material maintenance levels; training Chilean technicians on location and in Germany; supplying spare parts, subassemblies and special tools; repair of defective subassemblies; obsolescence management; and support for necessary upgrades.

## **Rheinmetall retrofit programmes: added punch and protection**

With the Leopard 2 and Marder likely to remain in military inventories for at least another twenty years, investing in mission-oriented performance upgrades makes good sense. New technologies for enhancing the survivability, lethality, C4I capabilities and reconnaissance and vision systems can significantly improve the vehicle's overall combat performance. Sustainment, especially for operations in hot climates, can be substantially enhanced as well.

Add-on armour, spall liners and anti-mine seats decoupled from the floor of the vehicle, designed and retrofitted by Rheinmetall Chempro provide the crew with reliable protection from RPG attacks, APFDS-T rounds, antitank guided missiles with a tandem shaped charge, and landmines. All of these components can be quickly retrofitted into existing systems without impairing the vehicle's mobility.

Rheinmetall also supplies the unique 360° smoke/obscurant system, ROSY, which stands for "Rapid Obscuring System" and offers excellent protection from TV-, EO-, IR-, IIR-, LASER- and SACLOS-guided weapons. Unlike conventional smoke/obscurant systems, ROSY not only produces an instantaneous, large-scale, multispectral interruption of the line of sight in just 0.6 seconds, but also generates a dynamic screen of smoke/obscurant that provides a moving vehicle with sustained protection from multiple attacks.

### **About Rheinmetall**

As Europe's largest supplier of systems and equipment for ground forces, Rheinmetall offers a full range of tactical vehicles as well as a unique portfolio of C4I, fire control and reconnaissance systems, weapons and ammunition, and force protection technologies. The Group's core competencies also encompass service and maintenance as well as a wide spectrum of simulation and training systems, including highly advanced major combat training centres.

Deriving from a single source, these capabilities are crucial to the success of upgrade programmes, assuring optimum interplay of the respective components. Rheinmetall maintains an extensive network of international partnerships.

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