

25 March 2014

## **Rheinmetall 60mm and 81mm mortar ammunition: effective indirect fire support for the infantry**

Experience gained in military operations worldwide shows that infantry units, special operations forces and other troops that fight on foot require a highly effective organic indirect fire capability, even when taking part in combined operations. As a partner of the men in “boots on the ground”, Rheinmetall offers advanced mortar systems, ammunition and fire control units. At FIDAE 2014 in Santiago de Chile Rheinmetall is displaying its innovative 60mm and 81mm mortar ammunition.

Rheinmetall's family of 60mm mortar ammunition embraces service and practice ammunition, including insensitive high explosive (IHE), high explosive (HE), RP smoke/obscurant (multispectral), and illumination rounds (visible and infrared). The IHE ammunition is optimized for insensitivity, meeting or exceeding all STANAG 4439 criteria. In terms of effectiveness, the Group's optimized IHE PFF 60mm ammunition is comparable to 81mm ammunition – even though weapon and ammunition both weigh less.

The new 60mm ammunition lends itself especially well to commando-type mortars with barrel lengths of 640 up to 1400 millimetres. It can also be fired from long-range systems such as the M6 launcher made by Denel Land Systems of South Africa. When fired from an 895-millimetre-long barrel, the maximum effective range is approximately 4,000 metres. Furthermore, the new 60mm mortar family is compatible with all standard weapon systems in this calibre featuring a maximum operating pressure of at least 73MPa.

In all variants, the propelling charge is identical and, depending on customer requirements, can contain Extruded Impregnated (EI) powder from Rheinmetall Nitrochemie in a combustible case. Loading systems and ballistic tables can likewise be modified to meet customer requirements. The obturation characteristics of the mortar shells contribute to a longer maximum effective range also.

Needless to say, Rheinmetall also continues to supply a full family of ammunition for the widely used 81mm mortar. These rounds exceed the insensitive munitions criteria contained in NATO STANAG 4170. Non-toxic RP smoke/obscurant offers reliable protection from detection in the visible and IR spectrum, while Rheinmetall's IR illumination rounds reliably light up the battlefield in the IR spectrum, producing only a negligible signature (500 – 1000 cd).

### **For more information, please contact:**

**Oliver Hoffmann**  
**Head of Public Relations**  
**Rheinmetall AG**  
**Tel.: +49-(0)211-473 4748**  
**[oliver.hoffmann@rheinmetall.com](mailto:oliver.hoffmann@rheinmetall.com)**