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## **Leopard 2 expertise from Rheinmetall**

The Leopard 2 main battle tank forms the backbone of the mechanized formations of 18 nations worldwide – including the Polish Army. Assuring maximum mobility even in the toughest terrain, the Leopard 2 combines excellent survivability and firepower with superb situational awareness and handling characteristics. Designed for high-intensity conventional combat operations, it is equally effective in asymmetric scenarios.

Rheinmetall has unsurpassed expertise in all facets of the Leopard 2 family. This derives from comprehensive maintenance and modernization programmes to advanced armament concepts, and from the functions and activities of an original equipment manufacturer to 360° technical and logistic support for the entire fleet of vehicles, to include service performed on location during deployed operations. Training and simulation solutions for Leopard 2 crews also feature prominently in Rheinmetall's portfolio of products and services. The Düsseldorf-based tech group for mobility and security is showcasing its Leopard 2 expertise at MSPO 2017.

### **The Leopard 2 PL – Rheinmetall modernization expertise in action**

Poland has contracted with Rheinmetall to carry out a complete modernization of 128 Leopard 2 MBTs. In an industrial consortium with Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa (PGZ) and ZM Bumar-Łabędy S.A., Rheinmetall now serves as a strategic partner of the Polish companies, contributing key technological know-how in areas such as electronics and advanced weaponry.

During the course of modernization, the 128 Leopard 2 A4 tanks – purchased by the Polish Army from surplus Bundeswehr stocks in 2002 – will be upgraded to the new Leopard 2 PL standard.

In the meantime, six Leopard 2 A4 tanks are undergoing modernization at Rheinmetall in Germany.

The prototype is now in the verification/repair and upgrade phase. Delivery is scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2018.

Following delivery, the tank will be tested and verified by the Polish Ministry of Defence, WITPIS and the Polish Army. Then, once the Polish armed forces have granted approval for serial production, another five tanks will follow, which Rheinmetall will repair and upgrade in Germany.

With these five MBTs, transfer of upgrade know-how from Rheinmetall to ZMBL will be completed. Polish subject matter experts will be trained on-site in Germany. Modernization of the next twelve tanks will be completed at the Bumar-Łabędy plant under Rheinmetall supervision.

From this point on, ZMBL will take responsibility for project management, repair and retrofitting the remaining 110 tanks by 2020.

In the course of the upgrade project, additional know-how will be transferred from Rheinmetall to ZMBL, with the focus on repair activities.

In addition to the basic specifications covered in the current contract, the Polish Army has issued new requirements, which Rheinmetall and ZMBL are currently verifying. The idea is to implement most of these modifications within the original timeframe of the contract.

Visitors to MSPO 2017 can inspect a demonstrator version of the Leopard 2 at the PGZ Group stand.

### **Family thinking: the Büffel 3 armoured recovery vehicle**

The Büffel 3 armoured recovery vehicle is a highly mobile, well-protected tracked armoured vehicle. Designed to recover main battle tanks, it can also carry out a wide range of maintenance tasks and support operations thanks to its winch and bulldozer blade. Fully integrated into the Leopard 2 supply chain, future-proof engineering and excellent growth potential characterize this cutting-edge vehicle.

Deployed in operations worldwide, the Büffel ('buffalo') is built on the same chassis as the Leopard 2 MBT, meaning that it delivers the same superb mobility and engine output. As a result, there is no need for the kind of complex, risk-fraught modification of the powerpack that would be necessary if the Bergepanzer 2 ARV were used to support the Leopard 2 fleet.

As the original equipment manufacturer of the Büffel 3, Rheinmetall is the only company worldwide that possesses the full set of technical drawings. Today the armed forces of eleven nations field the Büffel 3, benefitting from Rheinmetall's unsurpassed expertise in ARV development and design. Thanks to the armoured recovery vehicle subgroup of Leopard 2 user nations (LEOBEN ARV AG T/NU), all participants profit from this wealth of operational experience.

### **Training and simulation**

Rheinmetall is also modernizing Poland's Leopard 2 A4 simulators. This part of the contract is being carried out in close cooperation with OBRUM.

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