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The Swiss Army procures 220 DURO IIP Armored Personnel Carriers and 12 each DURO IIP and PIRANHA IIC for NBC Defense from General Dynamics

Kreuzlingen – On December 17, MOWAG GmbH – a company of General Dynamics European Land Systems – received an order from Armasuisse for the delivery of 220 DURO IIP „Armored Personnel Carriers“ (GMTF – Geschütztes Mannschaftstransportfahrzeug) and 12 DURO IIP “NBC Laboratory Vehicles”. In addition, the PIRANHA IIC, many variants of which are successfully used all over the world, was selected as a basis for 12 “NBC Reconnaissance Vehicles” that will also be purchased. The three projects, which were approved in the 2008 Swiss armament procurement program, comprise an order volume of approx. CHF 260 million (Euros 167 million) for MOWAG. The three types of vehicles will be delivered to the Swiss Army between 2010 and 2012.

GMTF protects the infantry

The Swiss Army needs a vehicle that provides troop protection, mobility and controllability for both military and non-military applications. The GMTF is a highly protected and highly mobile wheeled vehicle that can transport up to 11 soldiers; it is based on the mission-proven DURO IIP 6x6 multi-purpose vehicle. The GMTF supplements the PIRANHA II 8x8 Radschützenpanzer 93 and the BAE Hägglunds Schützenpanzer 2000 which are already in use with the Swiss Army.



Modern vehicles for NBC defense

The 12 new NBC Laboratory Vehicles being acquired are also based on the DURO IIP. They enable the identification of radioactive materials, biological and chemical warfare agents, as well as toxic industrial chemicals. In addition to their defense applications, the vehicles can also be used to support civilian authorities in disaster relief and anti-terrorism assignments. MOWAG will supply the armoured carrier vehicles to armasuisse, while the laboratory equipment will be integrated by Rheinmetall Landsysteme GmbH of Kassel. In addition, the 12 new PIRANHA IIC 8x8 NBC Reconnaissance Vehicles will be procured for real time detection of radioactive, biological or chemical agents. Thales Suisse (SA) of Zurich has overall responsibility for this project, with MOWAG supplying the PIRANHA IIC 8x8 vehicles that are prepared for the installation of the NBC equipment.

Further intensification of partnership

When asked to comment on the importance of these three orders for MOWAG GmbH, Lutz Kammann, vice president of wheeled vehicles for General Dynamics European Land Systems, said: “These three orders represent an extremely important milestone in our strategic partnership with armasuisse and the Swiss army”.

DURO IIP 6x6 – a well-proven basis for the GMTF

The GMTF Armored Personnel Carrier is part of the MOWAG DURO and EAGLE family of protected wheeled vehicles in the weight category of up to 13.5 tons. In the GMTF version, the DURO IIP 6x6 is 6.90 m long, 2.16 m wide and 2.67 m high. This vehicle, which is designed to transport 11 soldiers – commander, driver, gunner and 8 infantrymen – offers very high ballistic, mine and IED protection with its modular protection system. On the road, the GMTF reaches a top speed of 100 km/h and manages gradients of up to 60% and lateral inclines of up to 30%. The 245 hp Cummins turbocharged diesel engine, combined with the Allison 5-speed automatic transmission, the unique DeDion axle system with patented anti-roll bar, the tire pressure control system, as well as the permanent all-wheel drive, give the GMTF highest on-road and off-road mobility. All vehicles are equipped with an air-conditioning system and a NBC overpressure system for enhanced comfort and protection.

PIRANHA IIC 8x8 – a well-proven platform

The PIRANHA IIC 8x8 is 7.57 m long, 2.71 m wide and has a total weight of 22 tons. The vehicle reaches a top speed of 100 km/h on the road. The PIRANHA easily manages gradients of up to 60% and fording depths of up to 1.5 m. The 400 hp engine in combination with the 7-speed automatic transmission, the modern independent wheel suspension, the tire pressure control system and the en-

gaugeable/disengageable all-wheel drive give the PIRANHA a high level of mobility even in heavy terrain. Moreover, the high level of ballistic, mine and IED protection offers the highest possible safety level to the crew in a mission. The vehicle is equipped with all necessary equipment items (NBC overpressure system, autonomous power supply, air-conditioning system, etc.) that is needed for 24-hours operation of the integrated systems.

MOWAG GmbH of Kreuzlingen develops, designs and manufactures technologically advanced special vehicles for military use. Far more than 13'500 armored and non-armored wheeled vehicles of the EAGLE, DURO and PIRANHA types are in use all over the world. Since October 2003, MOWAG is a company of the General Dynamics European Land Systems Group, employing more than 800 highly qualified employees at its site in Kreuzlingen (www.mowag.ch).

General Dynamics European Land Systems (GD ELS), based in Vienna (A), is a business unit of General Dynamics Corporation (GD) with production facilities in Spain, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. With a staff of far more than 3'250, GD ELS develops and manufactures wheeled, tracked and amphibious vehicles, as well as weapon systems and ammunition, for customers all over the world (www.gdels.com).