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General Dynamics European Land Systems Awarded a Contract for 198 EAGLE IV 4x4 Vehicles for Germany

VIENNA – General Dynamics European Land Systems (GDELS) has entered a contract with the German Bundesamt für Wehrtechnik und Beschaffung (BWB) for the delivery of 198 EAGLE IV protected Command and Function Vehicles. In addition to the agreement of July 16th for the delivery of a first batch of 25 EAGLE IV this contract includes the delivery of a further 173 vehicles and the development of the logistic and service support organization with a total value of 105,7 Million Euros (approx. US\$ 141 Million).

This sales success in Germany represents the largest order ever awarded for the new EAGLE IV. The 198 now ordered EAGLE IV vehicles will be jointly manufactured in Kreuzlingen, Switzerland, and at Kaiserslautern, Germany. Deliveries will commence in 2008 and will extend to 2010.

Within the framework of the “GFF Klasse 2” program – protected Command and Function vehicles – unprotected carrier vehicles of the Bundeswehr will be replaced by the EAGLE IV to enhance the safety of the German soldiers wherever they may serve. Due to its high deployability, agility and tactical mobility, the EAGLE IV is suitable for the entire mission spectrum for this class of vehicles. The EAGLE IV can be used for various missions by applying modular add-on kits. Furthermore, the substantial payload capability – which is significant, despite the high level of crew protection – supports the growth potential required to fulfill future requirements. For self-protection, all vehicles shall be equipped with a remotely controlled weapon station of the KMW FLW 100/200 type.

In addition to its crew-protection and mobility advantages, the EAGLE IV also enjoys low operation and training costs. Lifecycle costs of the vehicle fleet will be further minimized by the high degree of logistic commonality among the EAGLE IV and the DURO IIIP tactical truck, which has already been successfully introduced in the German Bundeswehr as the RLS “YAK.” The vehicles share many essential components, such as the engine, transmission, axles, wheel drives, differentials and brakes, helping reduce costs. The German Bundeswehr will share the cost advantage of a common EAGLE IV and DURO IIIP fleet previously enjoyed also by Denmark.

When asked to address the significance of this contract for General Dynamics European Land Systems Lutz Kampmann, vice president of Wheeled Vehicles, stated: „This order is a further important milestone for the international success of our EAGLE IV as well as for the continuous development of our relationship with Germany as an important key customer. It also proves the confidence of the German Bundeswehr in our products, particularly, in the DURO IIIP vehicles that have been purchased since 2003, which have proven themselves – among other places – in peace missions in Afghanistan”.

The in-house baseline development of the EAGLE IV was completed with the roll-out of the first prototype at the end of 2003. Just two years later, the first sales success was landed with 90 vehicles for the Danish Army. At the beginning of 2006, the BWB purchased two EAGLE IV demonstrator vehicles for intensive comparative tests. In these demanding tests, the EAGLE IV proved its superior mobility, a high level of protection for the crew, a large usable volume, and a high payload.

Following the important success of the EAGLE IV in Germany, GDELS hopes to get further orders from EU/NATO countries in the near future, since this multi-purpose vehicle fulfills the rising need for highly protected transport capacity for international peace missions.

Facts about the EAGLE IV 4x4

The EAGLE IV sets the standard for protected wheeled vehicles in the weight class of up to 9 t. The EAGLE IV has a length of 5.40 m, a height of 2.4 m, a width of 2.16 m, and it accommodates up to 5 persons. It reaches a top speed of 110 km/h on the road and manages gradients of up to 60%. The 245 hp Cummins turbocharged diesel engine, in connection with an Allison 5-speed automatic transmission, the unique DeDion axle system with the patented roll stabilizer, the tire pressure control system and the permanent all-wheel drive give the EAGLE IV superior on-road and off-road mobility. Thanks to the modular protection system, the EAGLE IV offers a very high level of protection against ballistic threats, mines, and IEDs. Furthermore, the vehicle is equipped with an NBC overpressure system.

General Dynamics European Land Systems (GDELS), headquartered in Vienna, Austria, is a business unit of General Dynamics Corporation (NYSE:GD), and conducts its business through four European operating sites located in Spain, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. With more than 3,250 highly skilled technical employees, General Dynamics European Land Systems' companies design, manufacture and deliver land combat systems, including wheeled, tracked, and amphibious vehicles, armaments and munitions, to global customers (www.gdels.com).

Pictures:

Exterior view, EAGLE IV 4x4

Interior view, EAGLE IV 4x4