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Rheinmetall Defence Australia Media Brief

Rheinmetall shortlists Queensland and Victoria for MILVEHCOE

Rheinmetall Defence Australia today announced it had shortlisted Queensland and Victoria as potential locations for its Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence after receiving a first and final round of bids from state governments to secure the project.

Rheinmetall is seeking to establish a sovereign industrial capability for military vehicles in Australia to underpin an enduring strategic relationship between the Commonwealth of Australia, the Australian Army and defence industry. This capability forms part of the company's Land 400 Phase 2 offer to the Commonwealth of Australia and is currently under consideration.

Currently the largest supplier of military vehicles to the Australian Defence Force, Rheinmetall will establish a military vehicle centre of excellence (MILVEHCOE) for the continuous design, build and support for up to 10,000 military vehicles in the Asia Pacific region, drawing on a supply network across Australia to deliver products and services locally and into Rheinmetall's Global Supply Chain.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia Managing Director Andrew Fletcher said Queensland and Victoria were attractive locations due to proximity to relevant Australian Army operations and industry supplier networks.

"Both states have a powerful argument before Rheinmetall as a primary location for the MILVEHCOE and we look forward to continued discussions with each state government," Mr Fletcher said.

"It should be emphasised that MILVEHCOE will be a centre of competence that draws on skills, services, products and capability from every state and territory in Australia."

Discussions with all states have been conducted under terms of strict confidentiality. Rheinmetall will not be releasing any information relating to these discussions under any circumstances.

The MILVEHCOE will see Rheinmetall establish a regional headquarters for diverse military technology in Australia and transfer critical technologies and skills in military vehicle design, medium calibre weapons and ammunition, fire control systems, passive and active defence systems, electro-optic and surveillance systems, simulation and training systems, systems engineering and integration and advanced manufacturing.

MILVEHCOE will create more than 250 long term jobs well beyond the life of the Land 400 Phase 2 acquisition phase. It will establish and foster an enduring, vibrant industrial network for military vehicles, simulation, weapons and munitions.

The proposal was shared in private briefings with more than 400 Australian companies in every corner of Australia during last year's industry showcase for the Land 400 Phase 2 program arranged by the Commonwealth. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

"Rheinmetall is committed to transferring military vehicles intellectual property, technologies and skills to Australia," Mr Fletcher said.

"The company will also create industrial innovation hubs to enrich the economy and adjacent industries and enable Rheinmetall to mentor Australian companies to compete and export globally."

Rheinmetall is delivering more than 2500 logistics trucks to the Australian Army under the LAND 121 Phase 3B program; and is currently bidding for the supply of the armoured combat reconnaissance vehicle under the Commonwealth of Australia's Land 400 Phase 2 program. LAND 400 Phase 2 project is currently in tender evaluation, and subject to final Commonwealth government approval.

Rheinmetall has already established an Australian industry network around its BOXER CRV and Global Supply Chain programs that include the following local companies:

- AW Bell: complex mechanical components for an international turret program
- Cablex: electro-mechanical components, cables and harnesses for international BOXER programs
- CAS: domestic and global freight and shipping services
- NIOA: explosives ordnance capability partner
- Tectonica: situational awareness system for BOXER

About Rheinmetall

Rheinmetall has been a proven and trusted partner of the Australian and New Zealand defence forces for more than 60 years. The company sets the global standard for excellence in a wide array of disciplines and offers an extensive array of military hardware that delivers mobility, lethality, survivability of troops, reconnaissance capability and networking of national and international systems.

For more information about Rheinmetall Defence please visit: www.rheinmetall-defence.com

For more about BOXER CRV: www.boxercrv.com.au

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