

February 9, 2018

## Rheinmetall Defence Australia Media Brief

# **AUSTRALIAN STEEL FOR A MILITARY VEHICLE INDUSTRY**

## **Rheinmetall signs teaming agreement with BlueScope**

BlueScope and Rheinmetall Defence Australia today signed a teaming agreement that will see Australia's biggest flat steel producer working with Rheinmetall to be in a position to potentially deliver thousands of tonnes of feedstock for the local production of high performance armour steel for a new national military vehicle industry.

The teaming agreement was signed before BlueScope employees at the company's Port Kembla steelworks near Wollongong today as part of a company briefing about Rheinmetall's bid for Land 400 Phase 2 and the BOXER 8x8 Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle.

BlueScope's Port Kembla steelworks is already working alongside Rheinmetall and Illawarra steel processing company Bisalloy Steel to be in a position to potentially deliver multiple grades of armoured steel for processing and supply to local and export military vehicle programs including Land 400 Phase 2.

Testing carried out by Bisalloy, BlueScope and Rheinmetall is part of a certification and qualification process to meet the stringent performance standards of armoured steel required by Rheinmetall, considered to be the toughest in the world. To date, only two steel companies globally have qualified to deliver this steel, each in the northern hemisphere.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia Managing Director Gary Stewart said the company was proud to deliver military vehicles that protected Australian soldiers with high performance steel designed, developed and manufactured by two great Australian companies.

"Australian steel underpins our plans to establish a new national military vehicle industry delivering to the Australian Defence force and export customers," Mr Stewart said.

"BlueScope Steel is the nation's premiere steel producer and Bisalloy Armour steel is a leading product for defence applications in Australia and export markets."

BlueScope is a flat steel producer for the domestic Australian, New Zealand and US markets, and is a leading international supplier of steel products and solutions, principally focused on the global building and construction industry. The company has more than 100 facilities across 17 countries and over 14,000 employees.

BISALLOY Armour steel is a leading product for defence applications in Australia and abroad and is specified for hulls in Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC), Light Armoured Vehicles (LAV), Collins Class submarines and the Bushmaster Infantry Mobility Vehicles in Australia, along with many APCs and LAVs worldwide.

Currently the largest supplier of military vehicles to the Australian Defence Force, Rheinmetall is delivering more than 2500 logistics trucks to the Australian Army under the LAND 121 Phase 3B program.

Rheinmetall has just placed an order with Bisalloy for the procurement for approximately 15 tonnes of armoured steel. This material will be shipped to Germany for mechanical, blast and ballistic testing and represents the next step in the qualification process of Australian armoured steel for use in the next generation of Australian military vehicles and in global Rheinmetall programs through the company's the Global Supply Chain.

Rheinmetall will transfer technology, research and development opportunities to Australia and work with Australian SMEs to deliver this capability to the ADF. The company has already announced a dozen companies within its Land 400 team from NSW, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia.

These companies have been selected to deliver a range of products and services to support the manufacture of the BOXER CRV in Australia. These companies include Melbourne-based Cablex, Burnie-based Direct Edge, Brisbane-based G&O Kert, Melbourne/Brisbane-based Hilton Manufacturing, Perth-based Hoffman Engineering, Melbourne-based Nezkot Precision Tooling and Engineering, Adelaide-based Plasteel and Adelaide-based Redarc.

Rheinmetall has pledged full support for a sovereign military vehicle capability for Australia, based in Queensland, at its future Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE). The MILVEHCOE will be the global manufacturing base for the BOXER CRV, the company's new LYNX Infantry Fighting Vehicle and range of LANCE turrets under its Land 400 offering to the Commonwealth of Australia.

Rheinmetall is transferring critical know-how to local SMEs to support the sustainment of the BOXER CRV throughout the life of the Land 400 program. Local SME partners are also included in the Rheinmetall Global Supply Chain, enabling each to export their industry leading technologies globally.

A network of trusted companies across Australia is a fundamental part of Rheinmetall's offer to the Commonwealth. Each company will deliver a range of products and services to support the manufacture of the BOXER CRV.

### **About Rheinmetall**

Rheinmetall 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. Rheinmetall Defence Australia and New Zealand is a subsidiary of Rheinmetall AG, with offices in Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane.

- For more information about Rheinmetall Defence visit: [www.rheinmetall-defence.com](http://www.rheinmetall-defence.com)
- For more information about BOXER CRV visit: [www.boxercrv.com.au](http://www.boxercrv.com.au)
- To follow BOXER CRV on twitter visit: [@boxercrv](https://twitter.com/boxercrv)

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

Richard Sproull  
Rheinmetall Defence Australia  
M: 0418585517  
E: richard.sproull@rheinmetall.com