

August 15, 2017

## Rheinmetall Defence Australia Media Brief

### **Rheinmetall Commits to Investing in the Generation of Australian Products and Technology for Land 400 and Export Markets.**

Rheinmetall Defence Australia today announced it will establish an \$80 million Technology and Product Development Fund as part of the Australian Industry Capability program for the Commonwealth of Australia LAND 400 Phase 2 program.

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 and is currently bidding the BOXER CRV for the supply of 225 vehicles to the Australian Army under LAND 400 Phase 2 tender now under evaluation by the Commonwealth.

BOXER CRV recently completed Risk Mitigation Trials under the direction of the Commonwealth including blast testing to prove the level of protection the vehicle can provide. The vehicle provides Australian soldiers with the best protection and lethality as well as a modular design that reduces life cycle costs.

The Rheinmetall Technology and Product Development Fund forms a critical part of the company's Australian Industry Capability package submitted to the Commonwealth on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August.

Gary Stewart, Managing Director of Rheinmetall Defence Australia, said: "This technology fund provides the missing link between fundamental research and product development that will underpin an enduring sovereign military vehicle capability in Australia."

"The fund will invest in the development of a range of new technologies and products for the Australian and global markets, ensuring the sustainability of the industry in Australia, while also generating advanced manufacturing jobs and enriching the Australian economy," Mr Stewart said.

With an initial investment period of five years, Rheinmetall will use the fund for fundamental research in future technologies, and ongoing product development.

In relation to fundamental research, Rheinmetall is establishing programs with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and selected academic institutions to conduct research that can be applied to underpin future capabilities. The initial areas of research include:

- Lightweight high performance materials for automotive and military applications, in partnership with the CSIRO and Swinburne University of Technology;
- Advanced and hybrid manufacturing, in partnership with CSIRO and Swinburne University of Technology;
- Autonomous systems, in partnership with the Queensland University of Technology; and
- Advanced sensing, in partnership with the University of South Australia.

Mr. Stewart said: "The Technology Fund and partnerships will create a clear pathway for science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates to enter an industry focused on military vehicles, turret systems and automotive technologies. It will also allow a clear commercialization pathway for local companies to both the Rheinmetall Defence and Rheinmetall Automotive global supply chains."

The second objective of the Rheinmetall Technology and Product Development Fund will be to contribute directly to the ongoing product development for Australian based vehicle and turret systems. This will allow Australian innovation, systems and ideas to be developed, prototyped and tested in the Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE).

With the concentration of development and test facilities on the one campus, the MILVEHCOE will enable Australian companies and research organizations to collaborate, innovate, and develop new capabilities for the Australian Defence Force and export programs. This will allow Australian companies to continue to develop new intellectual property and systems with immediate access into Rheinmetall's global supply chain and customer programs.

### **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 (RDANZ) 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 about BOXER CRV: [www.boxercrv.com.au](http://www.boxercrv.com.au)
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