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Rheinmetall Defence Australia Media Brief

RHEINMETALL BRIEFS THOMAS GLOBAL SYSTEMS ON PLANS FOR A NATIONAL MILITARY VEHICLE INDUSTRY

Rheinmetall Defence Australia today briefed aerospace and defence technology group Thomas Global Systems about the company's plans to establish a new military vehicle industry for Australia.

Rheinmetall has conducted a series of briefings for SMEs in NSW, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia, who are partners in a number of the company's major Australian military vehicle, munitions and technology programs.

NSW partners including Regents Park-based Thomas Global Systems, Albury-based Milspec Manufacturing and Wollongong-based Bisalloy Steel are among companies that will work with Rheinmetall to shape a sovereign military vehicle capability in Australia that will service the needs of the Australian Defence Force and export to programs in other regions.

Participants in today's briefing included Thomas Global Systems Chairman William Hutchinson and Chief Executive Officer Angus Hutchinson. A number of the company's local suppliers and partners also participated, as well as a delegation from the German Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Rheinmetall will establish a Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence as the global home of the BOXER Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle, the LANCE turret and the LYNX Infantry Fighting Vehicle as part of its offer to the Commonwealth of Australia's Land 400 program. Rheinmetall is currently delivering 2500 trucks and 3000 modules to the Australian Army under the LAND 121 program.

The company is focused on creating an enduring sovereign capability for defence products and services in Australia that exports to defence programs around the world, generates long term jobs and drives innovation through research and development with local universities, industry and the ADF.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia Managing Director Gary Stewart said the company had analysed the strengths of the Australian industry and research communities through engagement with more than 500 SME during roadshows in all states and territories.

"We have been impressed with the depth of capability that exists in a wide range of technical and manufacturing disciplines," Mr Stewart said. "And, through this engagement, we believe we have a rare opportunity to create a lasting, national industry in military vehicles and turret systems."

Mr Stewart congratulated Thomas Global Systems on its success exporting Australian technology and innovation around the globe.

"Thomas Global Systems is an exemplar when it comes to being a major Australian exporter of innovative defence products to customers in highly competitive markets," Mr Stewart said.

"We thank them for hosting today's briefing at their Regents Park facilities and look forward to working with them to establish a national military vehicle capability in Australia."

Rheinmetall is focused on delivering six key elements as part of its commitment to establishing a sustainable national industry. These are:

1. Create a regional hub that rallies academic, industry and government partners to ongoing design and manufacture of modern systems for the Australian Defence Force.
2. Export these world class systems and technologies, providing long term, fulfilling benefits for Australia and Australians
3. Provide regional employment – to ensure all Australian communities can prosper from this national industry
4. Mentor small and medium companies – a real powerhouse of new ideas and innovation – and assist them to become part of a globally competitive industrial network for military vehicles and turret systems
5. Undertake continuous product development so that the LANCE, LYNX and BOXER CRV systems remain both at the forefront of capability for Australia and globally attractive; and
6. Invest in technology research to ensure Rheinmetall continues to find and commercialise new ideas.

Rheinmetall will transfer technology and research/development opportunities to Australia and work with Australian SME 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 for the manufacture of the BOXER CRV.

They include Wollongong-based Bisalloy, Brisbane-based Hilton Manufacturing, Melbourne-based Cablex, Burnie-based Direct Edge, Brisbane-based G&O Kert, Melbourne-based Hilton Manufacturing, Perth-based Hofmann Engineering, Melbourne-based Nezkot Precision Tooling and Engineering, Adelaide-based Plasteel and Adelaide-based Redarc.

Rheinmetall will also establish an \$80 million Technology and Product Development Fund as part of the first phase of the LAND 400 program. The company has announced research partnerships with the Queensland University of Technology, CSIRO, Swinburne University and the University of South Australia.

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

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