

German-American Cooperation for a New Armored Vehicle Family

Washington. Europe's leading manufacturer of highly protected wheeled and tracked vehicles, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW), and the United States prime technology developer, L-3 Communications Corporation, announced today a teaming on the world's first scalable armored vehicle platform F2US. The vehicle is being displayed at the exhibition of the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA) in Washington, D.C. In view of the increasingly rapid changes in military environments, it is the intent of both partners to jointly develop and market a US version (F2US) of KMW's new F2 vehicle family specifically to meet the challenging requirements of the US forces for a future tactical armored vehicle.

A scalable vehicle architecture and system design of the F2US allows production of a family of variants in weight classes from 10 to 24 tons. The basic F2 vehicle powered by two independent engines was developed by KMW and will be equipped in the US version with high technology subsystems from L-3 Communications.

The F2US vehicle family is scalable in size and can easily be configured to meet different mission requirements due to its modular design. Two independent drive trains for the front and rear axles permit an undivided compartment space with greater versatility. The F2US family of vehicles offers the same capabilities in all versions, because the main components and subsystems are identical for the 4x4 patrol vehicle version with a crew of 3, as well as the 6x6 vehicle version with space for up to 11 crew members. This permits simple swapping of components, and reduces the logistic footprint for the entire family of vehicles to a minimum. In addition, the use of commercial off-the-shelf components guarantees fast availability of the components all around the globe.



The world's first scalable armored vehicle platform F2US. Picture: KMW

The F2US vehicle is equipped with the latest proven protection technology to withstand modern ballistic, mine and IED threats. In addition, the F2 family has a very low silhouette as well as an extraordinarily low infrared and radar signature. The propulsion is achieved at more than 20 kW per tonne of vehicle weight. A mobility concept derived from the proven, reliable and unique mobility of KMW's FENNEK scout car permits the F2US to negotiate gradients of 60 percent and side slopes of up to 30 percent without difficulty at a range of over 1000 kilometers. The vehicles are air-transportable, so they can be moved quickly and easily to distant deployment areas.

Tranche 2 Aircraft deliveries to Partner Nations Begins



Eurofighter Typhoon climbing vertical. Picture: Eurofighter

Hallbergmoos. The handover of BS040 to the Royal Air Force today marks the beginning of Tranche 2 aircraft deliveries to the four partner air forces. The other three air forces will start receiving their aircraft in near term. Tranche 2 consists of 251 aircraft for the air forces of Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom plus 72 aircraft for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Germany will receive 79 aircraft, Italy a total of 47, Spain will take 34 aircraft and the United Kingdom shall receive 91 Eurofighter Typhoon in Tranche 2.

Eurofighter Typhoon is the world's most advanced new generation multi-role/swing-role combat aircraft available on the market and has been ordered by six nations (Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom, Austria and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). With 707 aircraft under contract, it is Europe's largest military collaborative programme and delivers leading-edge technology, strengthening Europe's aerospace industry in the global competition. More than 100,000 jobs in 400 companies are secured by the programme. Eurofighter Jagdflugzeug GmbH manages the programme on behalf of the Eurofighter Partner Companies Alenia Finmeccanica, BAE Systems, EADS CASA and EADS Deutschland, Europe's foremost aerospace companies with a total turnover of 60.7 billion Euro (2006).

Success for ATLAS ELEKTRONIK at the NATO Harbour Protection Trials

Bremen/Eckernförde. For ATLAS ELEKTRONIK, the NATO Harbour Protection Trials turned out to be extremely successful. ATLAS took part in the event at Eckernförde with two autonomous underwater vehicles of the types "SeaOtter Mk II" and "SeaWolf", both of which passed their test runs under the eyes of a critical assessment team very successfully and without any errors. "SeaOtter Mk II" is able to carry a large number of different sensor packages. Within the scope of the NATO event, the vehicle successfully performed missions lasting several hours. Its navigational accuracy at the end of the missions lay between 1.3 and 3.6 metres.

The second unit under test, the "SeaWolf", was originally developed as a remotely-controlled unmanned underwater vehicle for operations against sedimented mines and was then advanced by ATLAS to become a fully-fledged autonomous platform offering high performance. It is especially well suited for the surveillance and inspection of confined spaces, e.g. harbours. With its capability of "hovering", i.e.



SeaOtter Mk II. Picture: ATLAS ELEKTRONIK

remaining stationary in the water, it is able to inspect particularly critical areas in great detail. The "SeaWolf" has a highly-precise navigation system, is programmed accordingly before operations, and then travels along the predefined path autonomously.

In Eckernförde, the "SeaWolf" also completed its two planned missions with flying colours.

The participation of ATLAS in a technology demonstrator for combatting asymmetric threats also proved to be extremely successful. For the "LEXXWAR" system, ATLAS is providing a console with special software to generate a tactical situation display similar to that of the combat management system on the new F125 frigate for the German Navy. As part of the presentations, LEXXWAR was also able to process the data transferred from the "SeaWolf" via an optical fibre cable.