

Europe Has To Take Up Its Responsibility

Interview with Christoffer Jonker, Director International Affairs and Operations, Ministry of Defence, The Netherlands. The interview was conducted by Dr. Peter Bossdorf.

What do The Netherlands expect from the recent European CSDP initiatives PESCO, CARD and EDF?

Jonker: The Netherlands is fully committed to take European defence cooperation to the next level. Given the security situation and the inefficiencies and duplications in the capability programmes of all EU member states, there is an absolute necessity to do so. The Netherlands expects CARD, PESCO and EDF to be of added value in relation to this ambition.

As for the lessons learned, the following can be stated: now that the architecture is in place, it is time to implement and yield concrete results, showing a Europe that protects. In this context the Netherlands believes that the EU needs:

- More focus/prioritising in the operationalisation of the defined EU level of ambition, taking into account the EU's unique strengths and that of its strategic partners, especially NATO.
- A coherent "translation" of priorities into capability development initiatives, to ensure focus and to generate the needed output when it comes to PESCO and EDIDP/EDF projects.
- A more output oriented approach: introducing concrete deliverables and timelines by means of specific FAC conclusions could be a modus operandi to be applied more broadly in the EU context. This is especially relevant in relation to the issue of capability development and in achieving more interoperability between EU armed forces, which are essential when it comes to Europe's capacity to act.

Furthermore The Netherlands believes that a strong role for the Council (including defence ministers) and linking internal and external security are essential in making CSDP more effective. The Council should be leading efforts to enable a more effective CSDP and the HR and Commission should facilitate a truly integrated approach. These efforts should also be reflected in the future agenda and format of the meetings of the Council and its preparatory and decision making procedures.

Do we need more European „strategic autonomy“ or should the focus be primarily be on strengthening the European pillar of a continuing Transatlantic Alliance?

Jonker: Given the geopolitical situation The Netherlands does believe that Europe needs the capacity to decide and act with partners wherever possible, but also on its own when and where necessary. In short: Europe has to take up its responsibility to secure and defend its citizens.

Thereby the Netherlands is convinced that addressing today's challenges requires collective responses, and organisations like the EU, NATO and the UN have unique strengths. Combining strengths and comparative advantages is especially necessary knowing that nations have a single set of forces and limited defence budgets.

In our view NATO is and should remain the primary actor when it comes to deterrence and collective defence.

The EU's combined civil-military toolbox and the EU's integrated approach in which focus on the internal-external security

nexus and the deployment of a broad range of instruments are essential, are to be seen as EU strengths that should be developed further. In this context The Netherlands

believes that the focus should be on the operationalisation of the Stabilisation and Support to Capacity Building scenario within the EU level of ambition.

What are the PESCO initiatives The Netherlands are currently involved in?

Jonker: The Netherlands currently participates in 9 out of 34 PESCO projects as a project member. These projects are the following:

1. Military Mobility
2. Maritime (semi-) Autonomous Systems for Mine Countermeasures (MAS MCM)
3. Network of Logistic Hubs in Europe and Support to Operations
4. European Secure Software-defined Radio (ESSOR)
5. Cyber Rapid Response Teams and Mutual Assistance in Cyber Security
6. European Medical Command
7. European Union Training Mission Competence Centre (EU TM CC)
8. Co-basing
9. Integrated Unmanned Ground System (UGS).



Of course, The Netherlands was and is also fully involved in the initiatives concerning the “architecture” of PESCO (e.g. PESCO governance, PESCO commitments, sequencing, third party participation etc).

What are the perspectives PESCO and EDF offer for the Dutch defence industry?

Jonker: Both PESCO and EDF, especially EDF which is focussed on industry, potentially offer significant opportunities for Dutch defence industry (and not just Dutch defence industry) and partnerships with companies abroad. Thereby a footnote is that third party participation in EDF is limited and that third party participation in PESCO is still being negotiated. In general, The Netherlands believes that working together with third parties is crucial. In our view an outward oriented PESCO is needed to make it work. In general working together with strategic partners is in our view necessary to make Europe stronger,

realism thus being an important reason to look for strategic partnerships.

Related to the EDF, The Netherlands has recently set up a coordinating body (Interdepartmental Coordinating Group on European Defence Cooperation – ICG EDC) in order to coordinate the national efforts regarding EDF. In the ICG EDC the ministries of Defence, of Economic Affairs and Climate, of Foreign Affairs, of Finance and of General Affairs participate, as well as a representative of the NIDV foundation (representing the Dutch defence and security-related industry). Working closely together with all stakeholders, nationally and internationally, is paramount to make the EDF a success.

To what extent has the changed security-political situation in Europe influenced things in your country?

Jonker: In December last year The Netherlands formulated its national plan on the

Defence Investment Pledge and informed the Dutch Parliament. In the plan it is stated that the Netherlands has reversed the declining trend of the national defence budget, leading to substantial growth in absolute terms. Between 2013 and 2017, additional budget was added in a series of annual steps, leading to a structural rise of the defence budget of €929 million in 2017. Planned cuts have been halted and several areas of shortfall have been addressed. In 2018 new measures were taken to expand the defence budget further, with up to €1.5 billion per year. Because of these investments, the Dutch defence budget has grown more than 25% since 2013. Furthermore a Military Investment Fund for the purchase and maintenance (including midlife update) of major equipment has been set up. This fund allows for making long term commitments, thereby making the investment budget more robust and future-proof.

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Technology

DARPA's OFFensive Swarm-Enabled Tactics

(df) DARPA seeks offers for the fourth swarm sprint in its OFFensive Swarm-Enabled Tactics (OFFSET) programme. OFFSET envisions swarms of 250 collaborative autonomous systems providing critical capabilities to ground units in urban areas where challenges such as tall buildings, tight spaces, and limited sight lines constrain essential communications, sensing, manoeuvrability, and autonomous operations.

"The swarm sprints aim to encourage rapid innovation and continuous incorporation of breakthrough technologies. Each of the



five core sprints emphasises one of the key OFFSET thrust areas – swarm tactics, swarm autonomy, human-swarm teaming, virtual environment, and physical testbed – to ultimately enable cross-cutting breakthroughs in swarm systems capabilities," DARPA announced. "The fourth swarm

sprint consists of two topics areas: developing synthetic technologies in the OFFSET virtual environments and identifying applications of artificial intelligence (AI) to discover and learn novel swarm tactics."

Timothy Chung, programme manager in DARPA's Tactical Technology Office (TTO), added: "With OFFSET, we are expanding the tactics available to warfighters, leveraging advances in autonomous systems to address complex challenges in urban environments. Exploring and developing swarm technologies in virtual environments today can yield insights and impact for real-world breakthrough capabilities tomorrow."

www.darpa.mil

Upgrade of 101 Leopard 2 A6

(gwh) Germany has signed a contract with KMW to upgrade 101 Leopard 2 A6 main battle tanks. Under the terms of this contract, worth over €300 million, the A6M A2 and A6 main battle tanks are to be upgraded to a design level similar to that of the latest A7V version.

Important features of the A7V include the adaptation of the weapon system for firing the programmable HE ammunition, a third-generation thermal imaging device for the gunner and improved thermal imaging device for the commander, a digital on-board



(Photo: R. Hilmes)

communication system SOTAS-IP, passive additional armour on the hull front, changes to the transmission and side reduction gear to improve acceleration, crew compartment cooling system and power generation system, relocation of the NBC protection system to the rear of the turret

to make room for a cooling unit for the driver, and the Spectus day and night vision system for the driver at the front and rear. In this configuration, the Leopard 2 achieves a combat weight of 62.56 tons.

The first 20 Leopard 2 A7 were delivered from 2014 and are in use in the PzBtl 203 and in the Panzertruppschule. In 2017, a contract was signed for the conversion of 104 Leopard 2 to the A7V version, which are to be delivered from this year until 2023. With the new order, the number of Leopard 2 A7V will increase to 225 by 2026.

www.kmweg.de

C-CBRNE For Australia

(df) Australia has selected Babcock Australasia for a five-year A\$26 million contract with the Australian Government to provide Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (C-CBRNE) support. The C-CBRNE capability provides technologies to prevent and defeat chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive threats used against Australia's national interests.

Within this contract Babcock will work with the Australian Department of Defence

to streamline sustainment and acquisition processes for C-CBRNE using Babcock's asset management systems. "We look forward to continuing to partner with Defence in future programmes, such as the replacement engineering fleet, lethality programme, integrated land target systems and deployable infrastructure," said Graeme Naylor, Managing Director of Land for Babcock Australasia.

As the prime vendor, Babcock will reform existing functions and processes in order to achieve savings and efficiencies in the



(Photo: Babcock)

management of the existing commercially available C-CBRNE capability, and in the acquisition of new C-CBRNE capabilities, including for Project Land 3025 Phase 2 Deployable Special Operations Engineer capability.

www.babcock.com.au

Leguan Assault Bridges For Norway

(jk) The Norwegian procurement authority NDMA and Krauss-Maffei Wegmann have signed a contract for the procurement of six Leguan bridge layers on Leopard 2 chassis. The contract is worth €49 million. In addition to the chassis, a training simulator and a peripheral package are also part of the procurement project. Delivery will start in summer 2022.

The Leguan bridge system from Krauss-Maffei Wegmann carries MLC80 class vehicles and thus offers sufficient capacity not only for systems in use, but also for future systems of allied forces, such as those



(Photo: KMW)

expected within the framework of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF).

The Leguan bridge layer can lay one bridge of 26 metres or two bridges of 14 metres in length. Overlapping is possible to overcome larger obstacle widths. The new system – based on the chassis of the Leopard 2 – is consistently adapted to to-

day's requirements for global deployment and enables the laying and installation of bridges under armoured protection. With day and night vision optics and laser range finder the equipment fulfils one of the requirements for time-independent use of the system.

The vehicle is equipped with ballistic frontal protection and high-level mine protection. The overall protection benefits from a pressure-tight bulkhead wall with door, which separates the crew area in the hull bow from the hydraulic area in the technical room. A mounted machine gun is used for self-defence.

www.kmweg.de

First Boxer Heads To Australia

(gwh) The first Boxer for the Australian Land 400 Phase 2 programme has left Rheinmetall's production site in Kassel. In Australia, the final equipment of the vehicle includes



(Photo: Rheinmetall)

the communication and computer equipment of the Australian armed forces, a remote-controlled weapon station and the camouflage paint in the colours of the Australian Army.

In August 2018, Australia ordered a total of 211 Boxers worth €2.1 billion from Rheinmetall. 133 of these will be equipped as combat reconnaissance vehicles with Rheinmetall's Lance turret system, which has a 30 mm cannon and is suitable for firing airburst ammunition.

The first 25 vehicles are to be built in Germany. The remaining 186 Boxer are produced and assembled in Australia involving 40 Australian companies. To this end, Rheinmetall has set up its own Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) in Brisbane, Queensland, which is mainly responsible for sequence control and coordination, but also for parts of production and final equipment. The Boxer production is scheduled for completion in 2026.

www.rheinmetall-defence.com

MMP Ready For Winter

(gwh) The MMP (Missile Moyenne Portée) anti-tank missile system from the French manufacturer MBDA Systems was tested

in extreme weather conditions. At temperatures from -15 to -30 degrees C at the Swedish firing range in Vidsel near the Arctic Circle, the missile system was succes-

fully tested. This campaign complements the technical and operational assessment of the system by the French Army and DGA.

www.mbda-systems.com

Ambulance Vehicle In The JLTV Class

(gwh) Oshkosh Defense presented the newly developed ambulance version of the L-ATV. This vehicle enables medical forces to keep pace and at the same time provides protection for medical personnel and injured soldiers on the battlefield.

In addition to its ability to follow the JLTV on the battlefield, the L-ATV ambulance has the flexibility and payload capacity that physicians need to transport rescue

equipment so that they can perform their life-saving tasks safely and efficiently on the move.

With the powerful drive train of the L-ATV Ambulance and the intelligent TAK-4i independent suspension system, the vehicle can drive off-road at JLTV speeds, while the significantly improved ride quality allows physicians and paramedics to provide medical assistance in transporting the wounded to combat supporting hospitals.

The rear cabin area of the L-ATV ambulance



(Photo: Oshkosh)

can accommodate four recumbent or up to eight seated patients, or a combination of both.

www.oshkosh-defense.com

Protected 4x4-Patsas For Special Forces

(gwh) At the Special Operation Forces Innovation Network Seminar SOFINS 2019 in Camp de Souge near Bordeaux, Arquus presented three vehicles that meet the requirements of special forces. Arquus has developed a range of vehicles for special Forces, focusing on autonomy, robustness, versatility and firepower. These vehicles include the Sabre, the Trapper and the Bastion.

Building on the success and experience of the VLRA (Véhicule Léger de Reconnaissance et d'Appui), the Bastion Patsas has

been developed as a robust vehicle for off-road mobility. The Patsas is a light, open armoured vehicle specially developed for special units. Its chassis, derived from the VRLA 4x4, combines tactical mobility, robustness and easy maintenance.

The armoured hull of the Patsas provides excellent protection for the crew and propulsion against ballistic threats, mines and IEDs. In the standard version, the vehicle offers space for five people including full equipment. The vehicle in the 12-ton class is suitable for air transport, for example with the C-130 Hercules. The Patsas was presented at the DSEI 2010 defence exhib-



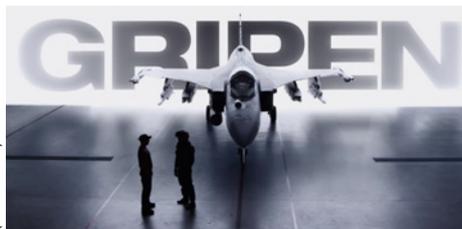
(Photo: Arquus)

ition for the first time. It was developed for the French Special Forces and is currently used by many African and Middle Eastern states in peace, reconnaissance and combat operations.

www.arquus-defense.com

Update On Gripen Programme For Brazil

(df) "The last year has been successful for the Brazilian Gripen programme. Among other things, we have installed both the Wide Area Display (WAD) and the engine on the first Gripen E for Brazil. This year, the first aircraft for Brazil will be delivered to start the flight test campaign in Linköping, Sweden", said Mikael Franzén, Head of Business Unit Gripen Brazil, within Saab business area Aeronautics, at a briefing during the LAAD International Defence & Security



(Photo: Saab)

Exhibition in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. There Franzén also outlined the close co-operation between Brazil and Sweden.

"The Swedish and the Brazilian Gripen fighters will have the same configuration for the displays, harmonising the programmes. This means great savings to the aircraft

maintenance and in future software development. This is really a good example of the successful collaboration between Saab and the Brazilian defence industry."

In the scope of the transfer of technology programme 165 Brazilian engineers have been trained in Sweden so far. According to Saab most of them are now working at the Gripen Design and Development Network (GDDN) in the state of São Paulo. At GDDN, Gripen F, the two-seated version of Gripen, is being developed.

www.saab.com

AMPS Airborne Self-Protection System For Helicopters

(gwh) Hensoldt and Airbus Helicopters have signed a long-term framework agreement for the supply of airborne missile protection systems (AMPS). The contract has an initial term of ten years without an agreed minimum purchase quantity. The first – recently placed – order comprises the delivery of 20 AMPS complete systems for the H145M military helicopter, starting this year.

AMPS is a modular system that the customer can configure according to his requirements. Hensoldt currently offers AMPS in two standard configurations for different applications. Standard components include MILDS (Missile Launch Detection Sys-

tem), the performance-enhanced MILDS Block 2 and the ACDU (Advanced Control and Display Unit).

MILDS consists of four to six passive imaging sensors that detect approaching missiles via their exhaust gas jet and display the approach direction and maximum warning time as an alarm.

In addition, the framework agreement provides for a step-by-step expansion with additional equipment and thus also creates the framework conditions for the expansion of the systems and functionalities. As the system can theoretically be used on all Airbus Helicopters platforms, considerable synergy effects can be achieved.

Hensoldt's AMPS already flies on the Airbus Helicopters platforms H225M and



(Photo: Airbus Helicopters)

H135M. Furthermore, the initial AMPS-M project was successfully carried out on the H145M. After the performance of the system was proven during further demo campaigns, the first H145M platforms of other end customers were successfully equipped with the AMPS.

www.airbushelicopters.com

www.hensoldt.net

Norwegian Task Force Supplier HNoMS MAUD At Home

(hum) At the end of March HNoMS MAUD, the Royal Norwegian Navy's logistical support vessel, arrived at the Haakonsværn naval base Haakonsværn (near Bergen, Norway) after a voyage of almost 15,000 nautical miles. The ship has been built in the shipyard of Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME). After several months of testing and acclimatisation of the crew she left Busan, South Korea, in February. After stops in San Diego and Curacao, the ship returned home. Now the scaffolding of the equipment, installation of which had been planned in Norway, begins – among other things the armament (4x Sea Protector of Kongsberg). Her entry into service is expected in 2020.

The data of the HNoMS MAUD are: Length 183 m, width 26 m, draught 8.6 m, dis-

placement 27,500 t, maximum speed approx. 18 kn, crew 43, embarkations up to 116, three RAS (supply) stations (each 1x alongside, 1 tail station), hangar with capacity for 2 NH90 helicopters, landing deck suitable for CH53.

With the construction of the MAUD the Norwegian Navy went an unusual way for a NATO partner - similar to the Royal Navy with the larger and faster TIDE class replenishment ship (201 m x 28.6 m, 39,000 t, 26 kn). Based on the AEGIR 18R design of BMT (an international multidisciplinary engineering company for science and technology and services in the fields of defence, energy, the environment and maritime transport created in



(Photo: Marius Vågenes Villanger/Forsvaret)

1985 from the merger of the British Ship Research Association and the National Maritime Institute (UK)), DSME manufactured the ships comparatively cheaply. The cost MAUD was NOK 1.32 billion (€140 million), while the total cost (BMT Design AEGIR 26) was GBP 550 million (currently €645 million). Taking into account the equipment installed in the UK, the cost is GBP 715 million (currently €837 million).

South African BIRO Project

(hum) The BIRO project of the South African Navy took shape in Cape Town with the traditional keel laying ceremony. The intention to build coastal patrol vessels ((MM) IPV – (Multi Mission) Inshore Patrol Vessel) dates back to 2007. In the end, the Dutch Damen Group was able to prevail against strong competition.

The R1.5 billion project (€91 billion) was approved in October 2017. Construc-

tion number one, Hull number P1571, is scheduled to be completed in 2021 and commissioned in June of the same year. Construction numbers two and three are expected to be delivered in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

The units of the BIRO project have an overall length of 62.2 m at 11 m width. Maximum speed 20 knots. Crew of 40 plus embarkation possibilities for 22. Armament has not been planned for the time being.

After completion of the strategic defence package (including four MEKO frigates and three submarines), the need for smaller units was defined, partly to relieve the larger units and partly to replace obsolete ones. This involves a cost-effective and targeted approach to crime in the extensive coastal waters (2,500 km of coastline!) and the extended maritime economic zone of South Africa, where smuggling and illegal fishing are notoriously commonplace.

Further Development Of RAM MK49

(gwh) The U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command has commissioned RAM-System, Germany – the joint venture of MBDA and Diehl - to adapt the MK49 guided missile launch systems of the Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) System to the requirements of the German Navy. The contract is €82.4 million.

RAM is a small, light, infrared naval missile defence system which, together with the Mk 49 Guided Missile Launching System (GMLS) and support facilities, forms the

RAM Mk 31 Guided Missile Weapon System (GMWS). It was developed to provide missile defence for multiple ship platforms.



missile defence for multiple ship platforms.

The RAM MK 31 guided missile weapon system is an international cooperative development

ment, production and service programme between the US and German governments. The participating governments work within the framework of a series of agreements which define the business principles for programme implementation as well as contract and financial contracts.

The contract now concluded also includes the associated on-board hardware and spare parts. The work will take place in Germany and the USA and should be completed by December 2023.

www.diehl-defence.com

www.mbda-systems.com

Finnish Defence Forces Get ESSOR Waveform

(df) The Finnish Defence Forces have awarded a contract for porting the ESSOR waveform to the Bittium Tough SDR tactical radios. Under the terms of this contract Bittium will port the European ESSOR (European Secure Software-defined Radio) programme's OC1 (Operational Capability 1) phase wideband waveform to the Bittium Tough SDR radios. The porting of the waveform to the national software-defined radios will enable compatibility between radios used in European coalition operations, in accordance with the goals of the ESSOR programme.

The ESSOR OC1 phase has continued the ESSOR programme, that started in 2009, with the aim of enhancing the operational capabilities of the ESSOR High Data Rate Waveform (HDR WF) meant for joint operations of different national troops. The Bittium Tough SDR products can flexibly use the most suitable and best performing waveform, such as the ESSOR HDR Waveform, Bittium TAC WIN Waveform and Bittium Narrowband Waveform. Using several waveforms, even simultaneously, improves compatibility and enables operations on different levels and missions. The value of the purchase order is approximately €1.1 million and the corresponding



work will be delivered by the end of the year 2019. The purchase order also includes options for the years 2020 - 2021. The total value of the options is approximately €2.5 million.

www.bittium.com

NATO Codification System For France

(df) The French Ministry of Defence has awarded the contract for the development and integration of a custom codification solution to ESG. The focus of this future service provision will be the N-CORE NG codification software (NATO Codification

System Repository) developed by ESG. The N-CORE NG NATO Codification System is a standardised system for identifying, classifying and assigning stock numbers to materials. It allows maximum efficiency in logistics support and the administration of extremely large and sometimes highly complex material data.

N-CORE is offered in different pre-defined packages. Each package includes the core system and one or more extra modules. N-CORE NG has a centralised database, provision of NSN data, various standard interfaces like SAP interface, support of mass change processes, and many more.

ncore.esg.eu

High Performance Networking Data Link Solution

(df) Patria presents their high performance networking data link solution CANDL (Compact Airborne Networking Data Link). This is a data link system that enables reliable long-range communication between up to 24 members in the same network. CANDL provides a single data link solution for communication requiring high reliability such as UAS payload data and C2. It enables air-to-air and air-to-ground networking as well as relaying for BLOS capability.

It offers an 8 Mbps data rate with additional safety features for C2, dynamic networking communication, motion video and digital voice capability are all integrated in one software defined radio based compact airworthy terminal. CANDL covers NATO IV C-band as well as WRC 2012 defined civil UAS C2 frequency band in single housing enabling both military and civil UAS applications. Networking and range performance can be further extended with optional external HPA (High Power Amplifier) module.



Patria will show CANDL at Rotorcraft & Unmanned Systems Asia – held on April 9 - 11, 2019 in Singapore – on their booth H 17.

www.patria.fi

4G On A Dassault Falcon F900DX

(df) The first installation of a GoGo Advanced L5 Wi-Fi-based 4G experience solution in Europe has been completed by RUAG on a Dassault Falcon F900DX. The upgrade was fulfilled in line with European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) standards,

to full customer satisfaction, the company announced. The Wi-Fi-based communication solution ensures a 4G connectivity experience across up to 40 personal devices. The connectivity and communication platform is lightweight and features the advanced 802.11ac dual-band router

(5GHz & 2.4GHz) that maximises bandwidth, dynamic, multi-bearer data and voice management, and the ability to connect with Gogo Biz/Gogo Biz 4G, Iridium Inmarsat SwiftBroadband, and Inmarsat Jet ConneX bearers.

www.ruag.com

Industry & Trade

Rheinmetall Acquires IBD Deisenroth

(gwh) Rheinmetall is acquiring the operations of IBD Deisenroth Engineering GmbH. Following the recent conclusion of the contract, the transaction is expected to take effect on June 1, 2019. Rheinmetall is thus complementing its expertise in the protection of military vehicles and rounding off its portfolio as a systems supplier to land forces. Deisenroth is a globally renowned supplier of passive protection system primarily for military vehicles.

Rheinmetall and Deisenroth have long been in close contact. Rheinmetall Chempro emerged from the Deisenroth subsidiary Chempro and has been a joint venture of Rheinmetall (51%) and Deisenroth since 2007. ADS Gesellschaft

für aktive Schutzsysteme mbH, founded jointly by Deisenroth (75%) and Rheinmetall in 2007, now operates under the name Rheinmetall Active Protection GmbH, in which Rheinmetall has held 74% of the shares since 2011 as majority shareholder, and the Deisenroth family owns 26%.

IBD Deisenroth has founded a number of international subsidiaries to improve marketing and proximity to customers abroad. These include the Engineering Office Deisenroth Canada (EODC) in Gloucester, the Engineering Office Deisenroth Hellas (EODH) in Thessaloniki and Åkers Krutbruk Protection AB in Åkers Styckebruk, Sweden.

In the past, IBD Deisenroth has equipped a large number of combat vehicles of all



(Graphic: IBD Deisenroth)

sizes – from 4x4 wheeled vehicles to heavy battle tanks – as well as trucks with protective elements in almost all major countries. Many of them are in direct competition with Rheinmetall products. It becomes interesting to see whether conflicts arise as a result and how they are resolved.

www.ibd-deisenroth.de

www.rheinmetall-defence.com

MASTHEAD

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Elbit Acquires Harris Night Vision Systems

(gwh) Elbit Systems of America, a subsidiary of the Israeli company Elbit Systems, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Harris Night Vision Systems. The published purchase price is converted €312 million. The transaction is related to the planned merger of Harris with L3 Technologies,

which was recently approved by the shareholders and is expected to take effect mid-year. The merger is a prerequisite for Elbit's acquisition of Harris Night Vision. Another condition is the approval of the authorities for the merger (Harris - L3 Technologies) and the takeover (Elbit-Harris).

www.elbitsystems.com

www.harris.com

MoU Between SEA And SIATT

(df) British SEA has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Brazilian defence company SIATT. This MoU provides a basis for the two companies to work together to develop a strategically important relationship to pursue routes to market defence equipment and services in Brazil.

"SEA intends to bring the best of the industry's technology to Brazil, transferring its knowledge to SIATT's personnel to expand manufacturing, assembly and test capability in the local market," said Steve Hill, Managing Director, SEA. "This strate-

gically important partnership will help us expand our operations in Brazil, providing mutual benefits for SEA, SIATT and the Brazilian defence industry, which will have access to SEA's leading products, including agnostic torpedo launcher systems, decoy launcher system simulation and training services, and thin line arrays."

Rogério Salvador, SIATT Commercial Director, added: "The MoU between SEA and SIATT gives us the opportunity to expand our existing capabilities within the Brazilian defence market."

www.sea.co.uk

www.siatt.com.br

IDEF'19 – 14th International Defence Industry Fair

The show authorities allocate meeting offices to meet the delegations and participants from national/international defence industry institutions during IDEF, establishing important commercial connections with them. Scheduled meetings and signature ceremonies are provided during the fair between the defence industry authorities and exhibitors from all around the world.

April 30 - May 3, Istanbul, Turkey

**Sea Air Space**

Sea Air Space was developed as a means to bring the U.S. defence industrial base, private-sector U.S. companies and key military decision makers together for an annual innovative, educational, professional and naval based event located in the heart of Washington, DC.

May 6 - 8, Washington, DC, USA

**UDT**

Now in its 32nd year, Undersea Defence Technology (UDT) brings together professionals from military, industry and academia to focus on cutting edge technologies and developments within the underwater battle space. Held in Stockholm, the UDT 2019 conference will consider the key issues faced by countries as they address their needs in the global underwater defence and security environment. This multi-faceted event reflects this community's desire for continuous learning in dealing with one of the world's harshest environments.

May 13 - 15, Stockholm, Sweden

**EWE**

Over the past few years mature, offensive EW activity in Europe has demonstrated that in the electromagnetic domain, warfare is no longer theoretical. The AOC's 24th European event, taking place on May 13 - 15 in Stockholm, will consider the future of EW and EM Operations in the changing light of current and emerging threats including Hybrid Warfare, Information Operations/Warfare, the Multi-Domain Battle (MDB), Cyber and Anti Access/Area Denial (A2/AD) where some potential opponents are excelling.

May 13 - 15, Stockholm, Sweden

**ITEC**

Celebrating its 30th anniversary on May 13 - 15, 2019 in Stockholm, ITEC is held annually in different locations throughout Europe. Presenting a unique overview of the industry's latest innovations, the event provides visitors with a platform to discuss developments in this evolving market and exchange ideas about future requirements for military training, education and simulation.

May 13 - 15, Stockholm, Sweden

**NITEC19**

This year's conference is entitled NATO and the High North. Building on NATO's largest exercise, Trident Juncture, this conference will give industry leaders the chance to learn how they can support Alliance operations in the High North with their latest technology. NITEC19 will focus on advancing technological solutions and business practices to strengthen NATO operations from the South to the High North. The event is organised by the NCI Agency and AFCEA Europe, in partnership with the Norwegian Ministry of Defence.

May 20 - 22, Oslo, Norway



IDET 2019

At this year's IDET / PYROS / ISET security fairs, a comprehensive showcase of sectoral offer, from the Czech Republic as well as abroad is expected at the Brno Exhibition Centre. The trio of traditional international trade fairs are IDET (defence and security technology), PYROS (fire equipment and services) and ISET (police, crime investigation and security technology and services, commercial security).

May 29 – 31, Brno, Czech Republic



International Defence
and Security Technologies Fair

29 - 31 May, 2019 Brno - Czech Republic

**FEINDEF**

The International Defence Exhibition FEINDEF is organised by the Spanish defence industry sector's business organisations TEDAE and AESMIDE, with the support of the Ministry of Defence. It is the first fair of this format to be held in Spain. The main companies in the sector, both national and international, are expected to attend, together with the armed forces, the Security Corps and various delegations from all over the world.

May 29 - 31, Madrid, Spain

FEINDEF

INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE EXHIBITION
MAY 29-31ST 2019 · PAVILION 8 · IFEMA · MADRID · SPAIN

NCT Europe

This year will see the 8th edition of the amazing CBRNe, C-IED, and EOD event, NCT Europe 2019 in Vienna, Austria from June 25 - 27. The collaboration with the Austrian Ministry of Defense guarantees the presence of regional and international stakeholders: from the highest-level decision-makers to civil and military first responders. Whilst passing through the NCT industry exhibition showcasing of novel technologies, take part in the latest discussions on the newest ways to combat ever-evolving CBRNe threats.

June 25 - 27, Vienna, Austria

**DSEI Strategic Conference**

With DSEI 2019 marking 20 years since its first show, the international defence industry can look at not just how the sector has developed in this time, but also what to expect from the next 20 years. So, it is fitting that the RAF has announced the theme of its first DSEI Aerospace Capability Conference as, "Delivering the Next Generation Air Force".

September 9, London, UK

**DSEI**

This years DSEI will connect governments, national armed forces, industry thought leaders and the global defence & security supply chain. With a range of valuable opportunities for networking, a platform for business, access to relevant content & live-action demonstrations, the DSEI community can innovate, share knowledge, discover & experience the latest capabilities across the Aerospace, Land, Naval, Security & Joint domains.

September 10 - 13, London, UK

**Arms and Security**

The XVI international specialised exhibition "Arms and Security – 2019" will be held in Kyiv, Ukraine from October 8 - 11, 2019. The exhibition will have two main parts: Weapons And Equipment For Army And Law Enforcement, and Arms For Civilians.

October 8 - 11, Kyiv, Ukraine

