BAE Systems Land Systems OMC has confirmed a multi-million US$ order from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Armed Forces for a confirmed initial quantity 28 of RG-31 mine-protected armoured personnel carriers.

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An order for a further 48 vehicles is already under discussion.

The production process is already underway at Land Systems OMC’s Benoni, South Africa factory, for delivery in the first and second quarters of 2006.

The RG-31 (MK3A) is a world-renowned mine-protected armoured personnel carrier (MP APC) in service globally with various peace-keeping organisations and armies - including the US Army which placed an order for 148 earlier this year.

‘The RG-31s for the UAE have been customised according to client needs, with Stanag Level 2 protection against armour-piercing ammunition, more powerful engine, upgraded air-conditioning and additional side doors,’ said Simon Keith, Regional Managing Director BAE Systems Middle East, India and Africa.

Land Systems OMC, working with their UAE distributor in Abu Dhabi, International Golden Group, won this order in the face of competition from other mine-protected vehicle suppliers.

The officers of the U.A.E. Armed forces who visited Land Systems OMC’s production facilities near Johannesburg, were impressed with the technology, agility and response of South Africa’s premier armoured vehicle manufacturer and its combat-proven mine-protection technology.

The South Africans were equally impressed with their UAE counterparts. ‘IGG executives and UAE Armed Forces were extremely professional in their assessment and execution,’ Marinus du Plessis, Marketing Executive for Land Systems OMC responsible for the order.

The RG-31 has received numerous accolades from users who have survived attacks by mines and other Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) - in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Crew and vehicle survivability is achieved through applied system engineering techniques and utilisation of Land Systems OMC’s unrivalled knowledge-base gained through service feedback from operations in Africa, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the Balkans.

The RG-31 is already utilised by other peacekeeping operations in the Middle East, along with Land Systems OMC’s sister vehicle, the RG-12, which is successfully deployed in three countries in the region- the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In 2002, prior to the company’s 2004 purchase by BAE SYSTEMS, Land Systems OMC (then Alvis OMC) sold a number of RG-12 armoured personnel carriers to the Dubai Police Force.

About the RG-31

* The RG-31 Mine Protected Vehicle offers high mobility, ease of handling and outstanding crew comfort combined with effective mine protection.

* Ample payload and crew-capacity enable it to be used for a variety of roles.

* The hull is an all-steel welded armoured monocoque structure to which the drive-line components are fitted.

* Hull-assembly protection includes the mine protection of a double anti-tank mine (14kg TNT) under any wheel or a single anti-tank mine (7kg TNT) under the hull.

* The crew compartment is also protected against armour-piercing ammunition : 7.62 x 39 mm API

About BAE SYSTEMS Land Systems OMC

1. BAE Systems Land Systems OMC is South Africa’s primary military vehicle facility and covers all disciplines of the military vehicle spectrum including conceptualisation, design, development, manufacture, production, and in-service support. The company specialises in a wide range of wheeled armoured vehicles and mine-protected vehicles and supplies South Africa and other African and overseas defence markets. The company’s offices and plant are situated in Benoni, Gauteng. To know more visit www.baesystemsomc.co.za

2. Land Systems OMC currently supports over 95% of the SA Army’s armoured vehicle capability, including: Olifant MBT, Rooikat AFV, Ratel ICV, and Casspir, Mamba, Okapi and Mfezi MPVs. The company maintains facilities and capabilities for the maintenance, repair, upgrade and logistic support of all of these vehicles, which includes the provision of support teams when required at bases where such vehicles are deployed.

3. Land Systems OMC is also responsible for the maintenance and support of other SA Army main equipment including SAMIL trucks, bridging equipment and Engineer combat tractors. Much of the SAMIL support is effected through Land Systems OMC’s dealer network, which includes 16 Black Empowerment dealers.

4. Land Systems South Africa, formerly known as Alvis South Africa, comprises Land Systems OMC and Land Systems Gear Ratio and was acquired by BAE SYSTEMS in September 2004. Today it is an intrinsic element of BAE SYSTEMS’ Land Systems unit, one of the world’s largest makers of security, peacekeeping and military vehicles.

5. BAE Systems holds a 75% share of the Land Systems South Africa business, the remaining 25% being held by DGD Technologies (2001) (Pty) Ltd, a South African Black Empowerment company. Land Systems South Africa has two divisions, OMC and Gear Ratio. The latter is a specialist manufacturer of transmission systems and components to local and overseas OEMs. It is situated in Alrode, Alberton.

6. Our customers are changing, driving for enhanced military capability at lower cost and are seeking to deliver this through long term partnerships with industry. Our track record uniquely positions us to respond to these changes.

7. Land Systems’ strategy and organisation structure, supported by its 5,100 employees, is designed to meet customer requirements. Our strategy is to work closely with our customers to optimise their military capability, both now and in the future, by delivering the most efficient, value for money systems and solutions.

About BAE SYSTEMS

BAE Systems is an international company enshrined in the development, delivery and support of advanced defence and aerospace systems in the air.
BAE Systems is an international company engaged in the development, delivery and support of advanced systems and technology solutions on land, at sea and in space. The company designs, manufactures and supports military aircraft, surface ships, submarines, armoured and armour-proof vehicles, radar, avionics, communications, electronics and guided weapon systems. It is a pioneer in technology with a heritage stretching back hundreds of years. It is at the forefront of innovation, working to develop the next generation of intelligent defence systems.

BAE Systems has major operations across five continents and customers in some 130 countries. The company has more than 90,000 people and generates annual sales of approximately £12 billion through its wholly-owned and joint venture operations.

BAE Systems prime contracting capability combines key in-depth skills in systems, defence and aerospace, enabling it to manage the most complex high-level systems tasks and provide total solutions - a one-stop shop capability and service provision.

BAE Systems designs, manufactures, and supports military aircraft, surface ships, submarines, space systems, radar, avionics, C4ISR, electronic systems, guided weapons and a range of other defence products, many of these with international partners. Key skills include systems integration, complex software and hardware development and advanced manufacturing.

BAE Systems established itself in the new democratic South Africa in 1994. It provides Jetstream 41 airliners to SA Airlink, visual guidance systems to SAA for its Boeing 737-800 fleet and, as a partner in Airbus, built the wings for SAA's entire new Airbus fleet. The company was also selected to provide modern Hawk and Gripen trainers and fighters to the South African Air Force. In return for this joint military contract, the company, with its Gripen partner, Saab AB, is delivering US$8.7-billion of new economic benefits to South Africa through new investments, exports, jobs, skills and technology transfers.

About BAE SYSTEMS Land Systems

BAE Systems Land Systems has some 5,100 employees across four business streams: Land Systems Hagglunds, Land Systems Weapons & Vehicles, Land Systems Munitions & Ordnance and Land Systems South Africa.

Land Systems' product portfolio includes military vehicles, main battle tanks, munitions, artillery, armoured personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles, turreted weapon systems, engineering vehicles and bridging equipment that can be fully integrated and supported to meet a range of customer requirements.

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