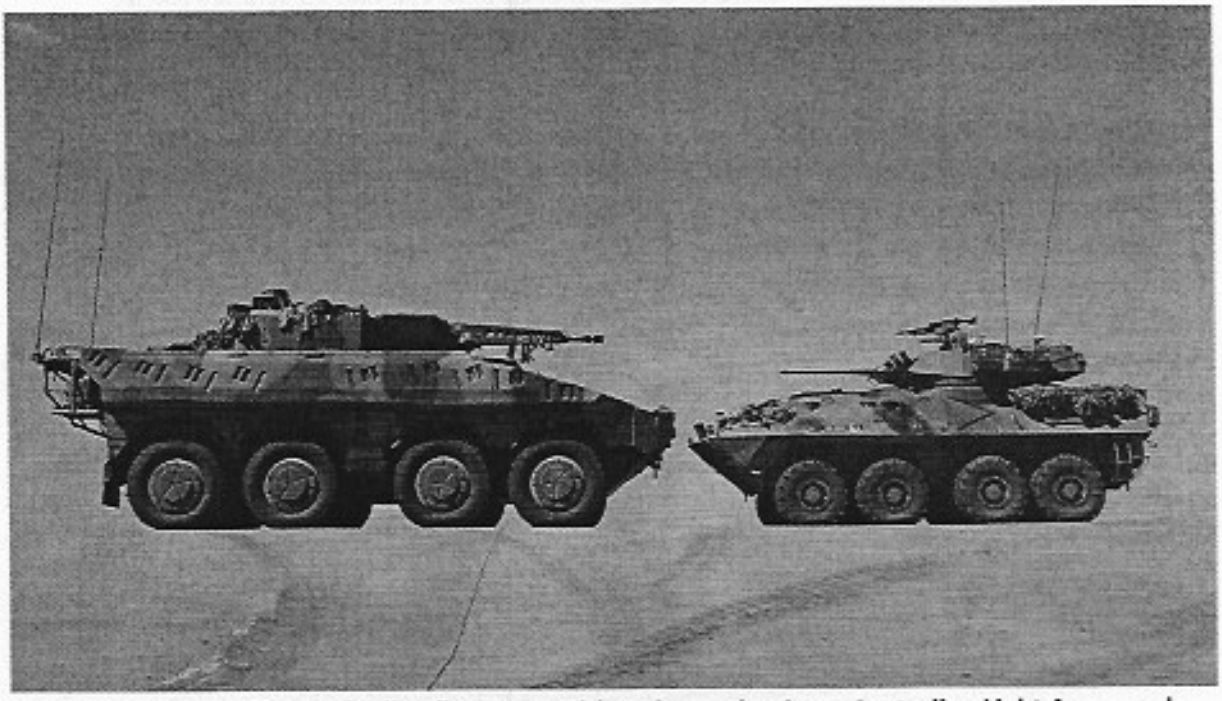
**Rheinmetall wins $3 billion Australian armored vehicle competition**

By: Nigel Pittaway 18 hours ago



**Rheinmetall Boxer CRV on the live fire range with an in-service Army Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV) at Mount Bundey Military training area, Northern Territory. (Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Defence)**

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Defence Minister Marise Payne and Minister for Defence Industry Christopher Pyne announced Wednesday that Rheinmetall Defence Australia has been selected to supply its Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle to the Australian Army.

A total of 211 vehicles will be acquired under the Australian Defence Force's Project Land 400 Phase 2, valued at an estimated AU$5 billion (U.S. $3.3 billion). The first vehicle will be delivered in 2020.

The Boxer CRV is a version of the eight-wheel drive Boxer infantry fighting vehicle in service with Germany's Bundeswehr, fitted with a two-person LANCE turret and Mauser Mk.30-2 30mm cannon.

Rheinmetall Defence Australia was competing against BAE Systems Australia, who had teamed with Patria of Finland to offer a vehicle based on Patria's AMV, but with a BAE Systems Hägglunds CV9035 turret and ATK Bushmaster III 35mm gun and known as the AMV35.

The selection of Boxer comes after a 12-month long risk mitigation activity of the two vehicles undertaken by the Australian Defence Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group, which included blast survivability testing.

"Our first priority is to ensure our capability that it needs," Payne said. "Choosing the right vehicle has been a very detailed process focused on the capability requirements of our Army. I'd like to commend defense and industry, who participated in this global tender process. Billions of dollars will be invested in this new capability and hundreds of jobs will be created. There will be many opportunities for small and medium enterprises around Australia to participate in the supply chain."

Rheinmetall Defence Australia has said that it will establish a Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence (MILVEHCOE) in Ipswich, southeastern Queensland, to complete delivery of the Boxer CRV and to function as an engineering hub for future land vehicle programs. The first 25 vehicles will be completed in Germany and Australian workers will receive training at that time before completion is transferred to the MILVEHCOE in Queensland.

"For Rheinmetall this isn't just about ensuring our soldiers have the most capable combat reconnaissance vehicle," said Ben Hudson, Rheinmetall global head of vehicle systems. "We will utilize the Land 400 project as a catalyst that will see more than AU$250 million invested in technology development and a world class Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence in Queensland. This will allow us to establish a sovereign military vehicle industry in Australia that will underpin an enduring partnership with government to design, deliver, support and modernize this world-leading capability."

The Boxer CRV will be delivered in CRV, ambulance, command & control, joint fires, surveillance, and repair and recovery configurations, with its modular design allowing role changes between vehicles if required. They will replace the existing Australian Light Armored Vehicle fleet and deliver a mounted reconnaissance capability to the Australian Army.

A future phase of the Land 400 program (Phase 3) will acquire a tracked infantry fighting vehicle and the two phases together, valued at AU$10 billion, represent the largest military vehicle recapitalization program in Australia's history.