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His Excellency, Abdel Fattah El Sisi
President, Arab Republic of Egypt

The 3rd edition of the Egypt Defence Expo (EDEX) is about to have a grand beginning at the Egypt International Exhibition Centre (EIEC). The 4-day defence extravaganza is being held under the patronage of His Excellency, Abdel Fattah El Sisi, The President of The Arab Republic of Egypt and The Supreme Commander of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

The President will launch the expo, which is the only defence and security event that covers Africa and the Middle East, presenting a unique opportunity for visitors to witness the latest technology, equipment and systems across land, sea, and air.

EDEX provides a perfect platform for regional and international defence forces to showcase their tri-service revolutionary products and facilities. The biennial event showcases the latest technologies and solutions in the defence and security industries.

EDEX attracts military personnel, government officials, industry professionals, and international delegations. EDEX features a fully-hosted international military VIP Delegation Programme. EDEX is organised by Arabian World Events with the full support of the Egyptian Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Military Production.



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We're delighted to announce the Portuguese Air Force now joins the Brazilian Air Force as a C-390 Millennium operator. The first Portuguese aircraft of the newly formed 506 Squadron is now in service at Beja Air Base, with four more aircraft to be added in the near future. A growing number of countries are choosing the C-390 Millennium (including Hungary, Netherlands, Austria and Czech Republic) attracted by its unbeatable combination of technology, speed, performance and multi-mission capabilities. Hungary will take delivery of their first C-390 Millennium in 2024 - another milestone for an incredible aircraft that has already achieved 10,000 flight hours with the Brazilian Air Force.

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EDGE

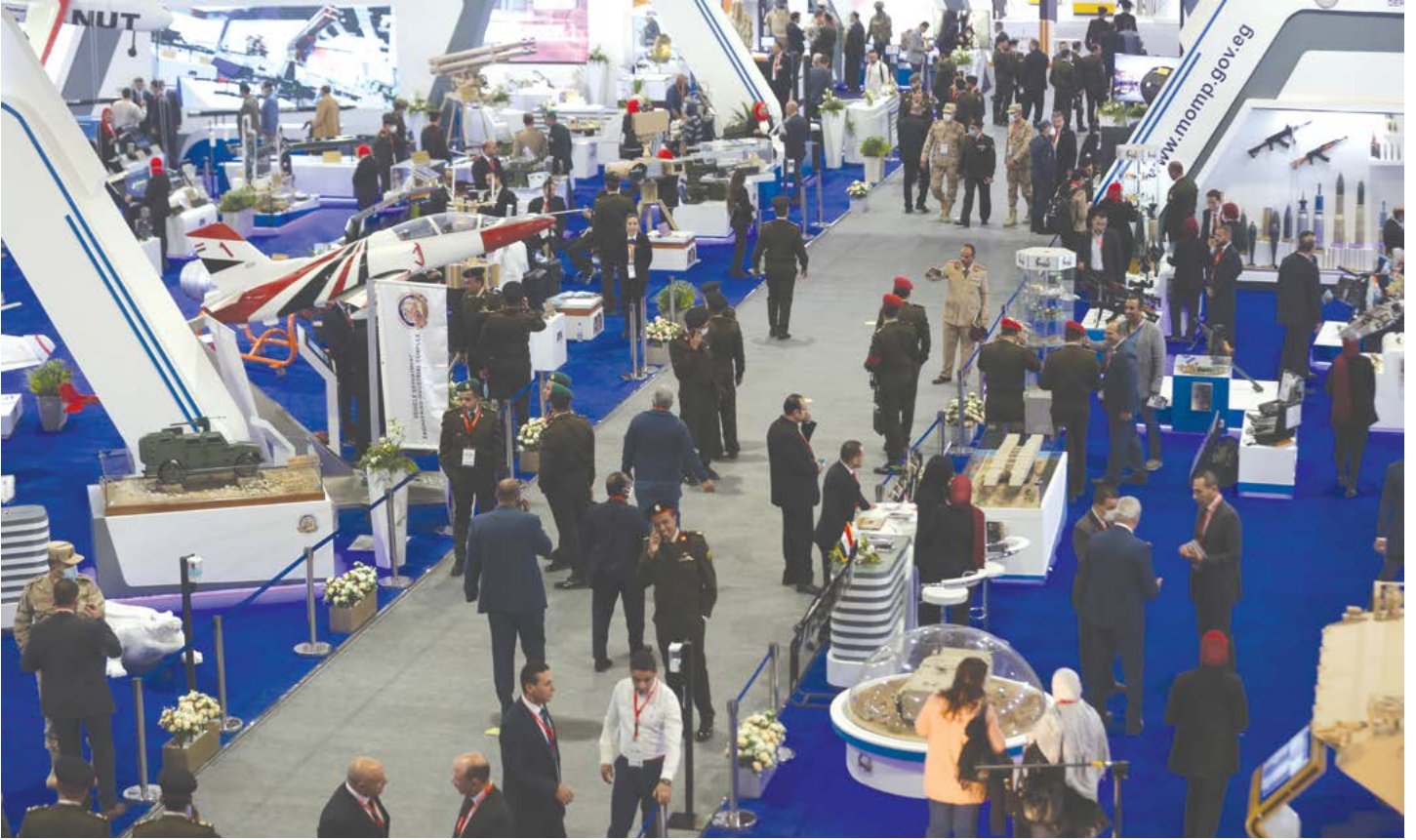


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Transformation of Egyptian Defence in the Sisi Era

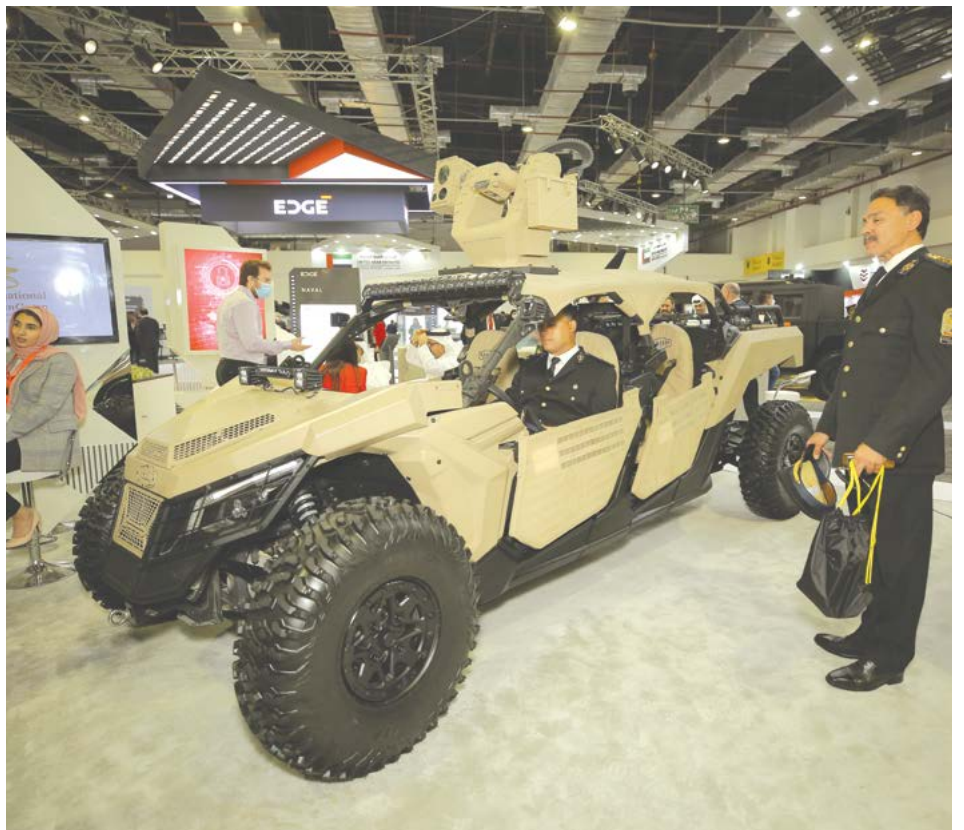


In recent years, Egypt has taken significant steps to modernize and upgrade its military capabilities under the patronage of His Excellency, Abdel Fattah El Sisi, The President of The Arab Republic of Egypt and The Supreme Commander of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

The modernization and upgrade initiatives undertaken by Egypt reflect the country's commitment to maintaining a strong and capable military force. These advancements align with Egypt's broader defence strategy, which seeks to modernize its armed forces and develop a self-reliant defence industry to meet future challenges effectively.

Egypt has been modernizing and upgrading its aging artillery, which plays a crucial role in both defensive and offensive operations. By enhancing its artillery capabilities, Egypt aims to strengthen its deterrence, protect its national security, and contribute to regional stability. And it signifies the nation's commitment to maintaining a modern and formidable artillery arsenal.

The recent major developments in this



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aspect include initiating modifications and upgrades to the M46-1M 130mm towed field gun and the D-30 122mm towed howitzer.

The M46-1M 130mm towed field gun has been upgraded by installing the cannon on a modified armored Kraz 6322 6x6 heavy-duty truck chassis, thereby turning it into a mobile artillery system. It allows for rapid deployment, quick relocation, and improved firing accuracy, making it a formidable asset on the battlefield.

Similarly, Egypt's military has adopted a similar approach to modernize the D-30 122mm towed howitzer, another long-standing artillery piece in its inventory. By transforming it into a mobile artillery system, mounted on Ural 4320 trucks with a reinforced frame and hydraulic stabilizers, Egypt has enhanced its flexibility and operational efficiency.

This indigenous modernization approach also contributes to the growth of Egypt's defence industry, fostering local technological advancements, and promoting self-sufficiency in defence production.

Also, as part of the modernization process, Egypt recently adopted a domestic upgrade of Sakr/BM21 Multiple Rocket Launchers by converting the rocket tubes into disposable canisters and installing an indigenously developed fire-control system (FCS).

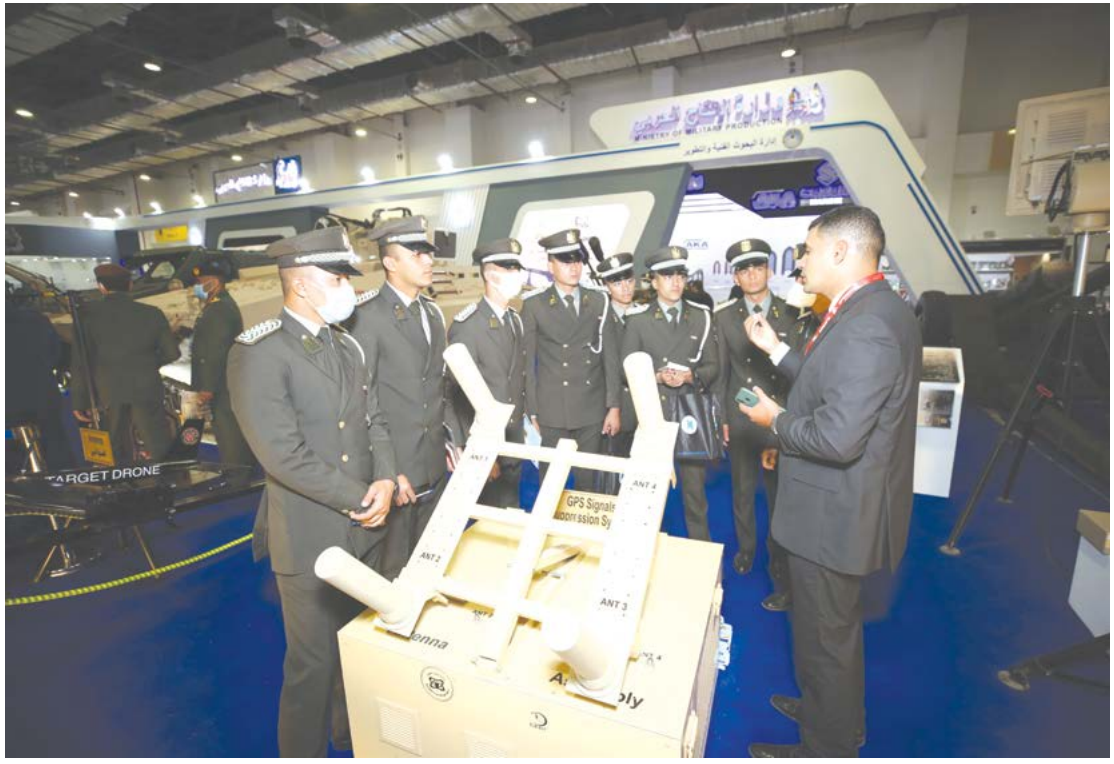
Similarly, another effort in this modernization plan has been embarked on by signing a contract with South Korea for the supply, transfer of technology (ToT), and local production of K9A1 EGY self-propelled Howitzer, which will likely replace



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the American-origin M109 155 mm SPHs. Cairo plans to begin production of the K9 howitzer this year, and will eventually involve 67% of components being produced locally.

South Korea and Egypt are in the final stage of discussions to co-produce the K2 Black Panther main battle tank in Egypt, and the acquisition of the K9 155mm self-propelled Howitzer from Hanwha defence.

The Egyptian government's plan is to export Egyptian weapons to African and Middle Eastern countries in order to further extend Egyptian influence in the continent.

DIEHL

Defence

Expands its Global Footprint in Defence



Helmut Rauch
CEO, Diehl Defence

Diehl Defence, a globally operating German technology enterprise, has positioned itself very well in the global market with its high-tech defence portfolio in the fields of ground-based air defence, guided missiles, ammunition as well as training and protection over the years. Egypt has become a very important partner for Diehl Defence in recent years and offers the potential to intensify and expand business relations with other North African countries. “As a result of the changed international security environment we have been experiencing a high need for defence equipment such as missiles, air defence systems and ammunition in Germany, Europe as well as at international level. We will do our utmost to speed up and support the ramp-up,” says Diehl Defence CEO Helmut Rauch talks about the company’s latest operations, products, future plans and projects in Egypt and the Middle East.



Diehl Defence's ground-based air defence system IRIS-T SLM with radar in the background.

The company is one of the global technology leaders in the development and production of guided missiles and ammunition for armies, air forces and navies. What are the major milestones of the company's success journey?

As a long-standing and reliable equipment supplier of the German Bundeswehr as well as other international armed forces, Diehl Defence has positioned itself very well in the market with its high-tech portfolio over the years. Being part of a financially independent, family-owned technology group with a history of over 120 years offers a high degree of freedom and flexibility in our actions.

Some major milestones were definitely the production of the Sidewinder missiles for the European NATO countries and later on becoming the prime contractor of the IRIS-T air-to-air missile consortium in the 1990s. Having gained this expertise and know-how as a company has enabled us to take important and future-oriented strategic decisions, such as the development of the IRIS-T surface-launched (SL) missile, which became the basis of the very successful and combat-proven Diehl Defence ground-based air defence system IRIS-T SLM for medium range. In our ammunition portfolio, prominent milestones were the production

of a fully automated production line of more than 145,000 MLRS rockets during the Cold War. The development of the technologically outstanding SMArt sensor-fuze munition for 155 mm artillery was another success story, based on the capability to merge our broad technology base.

Could you give the range of the portfolio of your guided missiles and ammunition business? What are the latest updates?

We have significantly expanded our portfolio, have developed into a system house for ground-based air defence systems and have thus achieved great international success. At the same time, we give priority to the expansion and further development of our core business in the areas of guided missiles for the army, air force and navy as well as ammunition. Moreover, we are broadening our portfolio in reconnaissance and protection by means of new system solutions for present-day requested capabilities.

Concerning the latest updates in the guided missiles business, we are currently working on the development of IRIS-T Block 2, which will have a significant performance increase to guarantee to be the world's best SRAAM missile. Also IDAS (Interactive Defence & Attack System

for Submarines), a guided missile for the self-defence of submerged submarines against threats from the air, naval vessels and coastal targets are more and more moving into the center of attention of international navies due to the increasing probability of prospective naval conflicts.

Our latest development in ammunition includes the guided artillery ammunition VULCANO, which is in cooperation with LEONARDO. VULCANO is being offered as 155 mm caliber for indirect fire solutions and 127 mm for naval solutions. This type of ammunition provides armed forces with the capability to engage stationary single targets and moving targets at long distances up to 70 km (155 mm) with pin-point accuracy in future combat scenarios. The ammunition family combines the highest target accuracy with the unique option of mission abort after firing. The combination of satellite-based navigation with laser- or infrared-sensor control makes VULCANO, one of the most accurate artillery ammunition worldwide.

Diehl Defence also offers advanced system solutions for ground-based air defence. Could you elaborate on the various systems you offer?

As a logical consequence of our product strategy, we have further developed and



Short range air-to-air missile IRIS-T - unmatched performance and agility.

extended the IRIS-T guided missile family: the original IRIS-T air-to-air guided missile was adapted to a surface-launched version, which consequently resulted in the ground-based air defence system IRIS-T SLM (surface-launched medium range). We are proud that Egypt was the first customer of this very successful and combat-proven air defence system. By now Diehl Defence offers a layered air defence concept from very short-range C-UAS capabilities to short-range (SLS), medium-range (SLM) and long-range (SLX). IRIS-T SLX will be able to create a protective dome around the system with a range of up to 80 km and an altitude of 30 km. Future applications and further developments of the IRIS-T product family also foresee the defence against hypersonic threats (IRIS-T HYDEF) and an expansion onto naval platforms. The advantages of our state-of-the-art air defence systems – besides their outstanding performance – are the high degree of modularity, which is economically attractive as well as the possibility to integrate different components such as carrier vehicles or radio equipment for customer-tailored solutions.

**How do you look at Egypt as a market for your products and services?
Could you elaborate on your business**

in the North African region?

Egypt has become a very important partner for Diehl Defence in recent years and offers the potential to intensify and expand business relations with other North African countries. We value the reliability and expertise of the Egyptian customers and the appreciation that the Egyptian customers show towards our high-technology products.

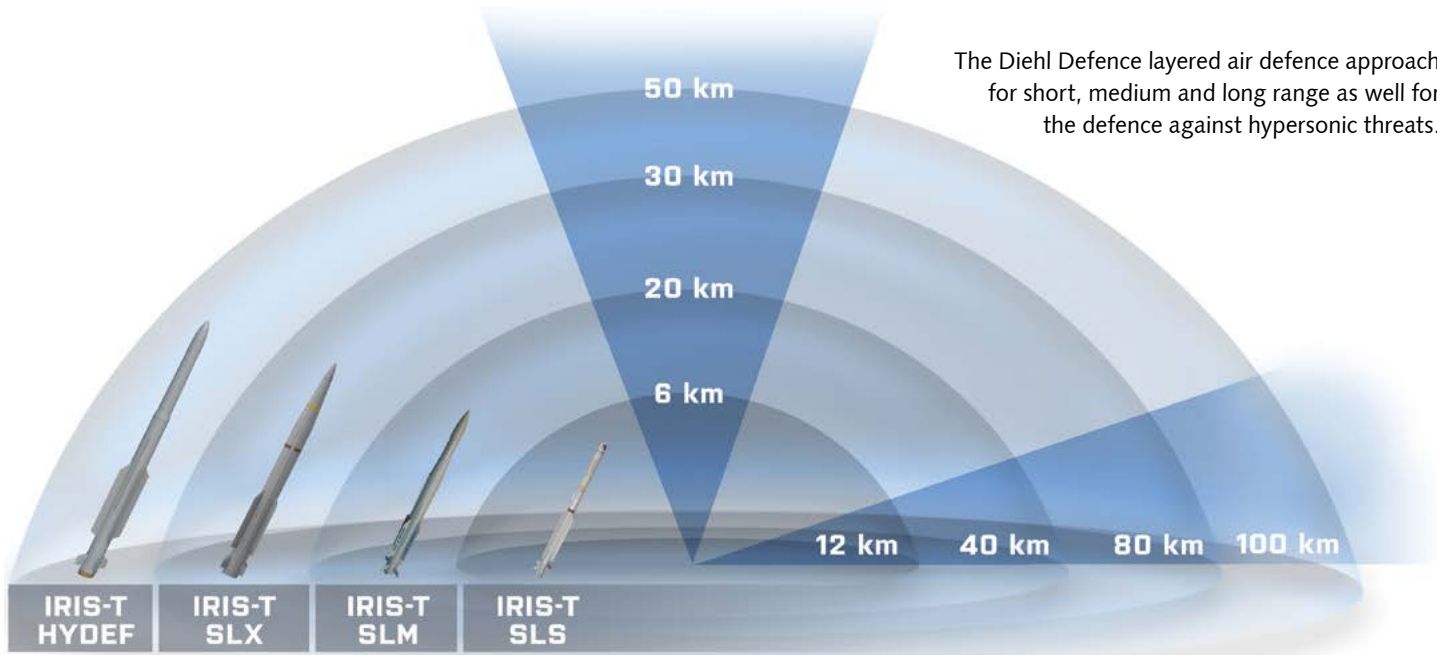
The German Air Force, I would leave GMSH out, since in an international context it only causes confusion and DIEHL Defence inaugurated the Ground-Based Air Defence Training Facility recently. Could you talk more about it?

At Todendorf barracks, the German Air Force together with Diehl Defence, created, as you mentioned, a training facility for ground-based air defence at the military training area of the Bundeswehr Homeland Defence Command in the North of Germany. The joint effort between armed forces and industry proved to be extremely time-efficient and beneficial since the facilities were completed within 9 months. Diehl Defence will support the German Armed Forces in Todendorf with regard to training, qualification and maintenance of the IRIS-T SLM weapon system. Our

company is offering its training services in Todendorf not only for the German users, but also for all other NATO and European Sky Shield Initiative customers who will procure the IRIS-T SLM system. The idea behind a common training area is “joint training, joint tactics, joint maintenance” which will lead to synergy effects for every participating nation. The training area consists of four parts - the premises for theory training, the outdoor area for system training, a maintenance hangar and warehouse facilities - and thus contains all disciplines for fully comprehensive training on the IRIS-T SLM system. Diehl Defence is responsible for the industrial training elements, while the German Air Force is in charge of the tactical and operational parts.

The company has been providing innovative solutions in the fields of reconnaissance, monitoring, training and protection. Could you shed more light on it?

Over the last couple of years, we have developed and established the product area & Protection Systems, in which we deliver applications to various customers and continue to develop the HPEM product family. The non-lethal effectors can be used to protect armed forces against Improvised



The Diehl Defence layered air defence approach for short, medium and long range as well for the defence against hypersonic threats.

Explosive Devices (IEDs), to stop getaway vehicles in moving traffic and to counter small unmanned aerial systems (drones). Our High-Power Electromagnetic (HPEM) products, a new and unique generation of effector systems, are worldwide very successfully in use. This technology, developed by Diehl Defence, is non-lethal and disables the electronic control components of any device. Together with our partners ESG and Rohde & Schwarz, we offer the counter-drone system GUARDION which can protect people (e.g. during the G7 summit or big sporting events), and secure

governmental buildings, airports or other critical infrastructures from hostile small and mini drones. The system is available in a stationary (for the protection of buildings) and a mobile version, integrated into a trailer. Additionally, we have "GUARDION for GBAD" in our product portfolio, which was designed to protect the high-value ground-based air defence system IRIS-T SLM, also against attacks from hostile drones. **How strong is Diehl's presence in the Middle East region? Could you talk about your operations and business there?** The Diehl Group is already well

established in the Middle East region. This is reflected in the representative offices of the corporate divisions Metering, Aerosystems and Defence. The already existing cooperation will be deepened and expanded further. The Middle East region is an important and future-oriented sales market for Diehl.

What are the vision and priorities of the company in the years ahead? What are the major objectives to be fulfilled in the near future?

Our top priority is to fulfill our customers' demands in order to underline our self-conception of a reliable and competent partner for armed forces around the world. As a result of the changed international security environment we have been experiencing a high need for defence equipment such as missiles, air defence systems and ammunition in Germany, Europe as well as at international level. We will do our utmost to speed up and support the ramp-up in the same great quality for which we have always been known for. We will manage this growth in our business activities, which manifests itself in higher numbers and shorter production times, through the expansion of our production facilities, and investments into people and machines, while at the same time improving and accelerating our processes. All this effort will lead to an even stronger establishment of Diehl Defence as a system house for ground-based air defence and our layered air defence approach, with suitable solutions for the very short, short, medium and long range.



Guided artillery ammunition VULCANO

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RADM(Ret) Gary Rosholt
VP, Global Business Development, L3Harris



L3HARRIS

L3Harris, a leading global defence-tech company, continues to maintain a concerted focus on its performance, presence, and partnerships. As recently announced in Saudi Arabia, the company has inaugurated a new production line dedicated to software-defined multi-band radio systems (SDRs) in partnership with SAMI, GAMI, and AEC reflecting its commitment to the strategic partnership and mutual growth opportunities. “We look forward to exploring other technology and production opportunities with key defence industry partners in the region. EDEX 2023, in addition to showcasing our advanced technologies to the Egyptian defence forces, is also our gateway to our growing African military markets,” said RADM(Ret) Gary Rosholt, VP, Global Business Development, L3Harris. Speaking to Arabian Defence, he talks about the company’s latest operations, future plans, and participation in EDEX 2023.



Could you share with us an overview of L3Harris's business operations and the significant milestones in the successful journey of the company?

L3Harris Technologies is the trusted disruptor for the global aerospace and defence industry. With customers' mission-critical needs always in mind, our more than 50,000 employees deliver end-to-end technology solutions connecting the space, air, land, sea, and cyber domains. We are now in our fifth year since the merger of L3 Technologies and Harris Corporation and have built a diverse and seasoned team that is integrating our company. We've recently launched a multi-year, multiphase enterprise transformation programme that leverages our scale to drive efficiencies. These initiatives will make L3Harris a stronger local partner for our customers, including Egypt, building industrial bases and enabling modernized C4ISR solutions.

What is the range of the portfolio of the company's products in the defence industry in all three domains- land,

sea, and air? What are the latest business operations?

With a national security, technology-focused portfolio, we can meet our customers' evolving needs across all domains including the traditional land, sea, and air but also space and cyber. L3Harris is one of the unique companies that has the ability to connect all the pieces through Joint All-Domain Command and Control architectures to enable the modern C4ISR effect.

Could you elaborate on your Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs and their significance?

L3Harris can provide small businesses pursuing SBIR and STTR topics with a broad and deep technical bench, enhanced avenues for customer engagement, internal and external transition programs of record, manufacturing and clean room spaces, and assistance creating compelling commercialization strategies. We are seeking to partner with small businesses at all stages of the innovation process to deliver advanced technical solutions.





L3Harris Technologies has completed its acquisition of Aerojet Rocketdyne, forming a fourth business segment. What is the significance of this deal and what are the plans ahead?

It was indeed impressive to see our initial Aerojet Rocketdyne (AR) acquisition announcement back in December and then close that \$4.7 billion deal in July within seven and a half months. Given their rich heritage, we have maintained their AR branding as an L3Harris Technologies company. AR is our fourth business segment and features two sectors – Missile Solutions and Space Propulsion and Power Systems. We are focused on investing in facility expansions and more efficient manufacturing processes and bolstering the sub-tier supply base, to increase deliveries and future capacity for this key merchant supplier. We are already seeing the benefits of combining our substantial resources and expertise with AR's proven propulsion and energetics capabilities.

L3Harris' cybersecurity expertise addresses today's threat environment with unmatched levels of safety and resiliency. Could you shed more light on the operations?

For decades, L3Harris has provided trusted government-grade encryption to our customers and partners around the globe, which enables C4ISR with the highest levels of resilience and security. One programme

built upon these renowned principles is our CATAPAN Swift Key Technology, a new capability that modernizes key delivery and management across the wider mission. CATAPAN Swift Key Technology keeps pace with emerging threats while improving operational agility and resilience. Using symmetric key transfer standards to enable over-the-network keying (OTNK) and enhanced key management, CATAPAN Swift Key Technology eliminates the need for incumbent sensitive hardware - reducing operational risk, reducing costs, and vastly improving mission agility.

L3Harris anticipates customers' demands and delivers innovative solutions – in the space sector quickly and flawlessly. How strong is the company's operations in the space sector?

L3Harris was awarded a competitive contract for three additional GPS IIIIF ship sets, designed to provide global positioning, navigation, and timing support to US military and civilian users. We are also entering final checkout procedures on the four missile-tracking satellites for Space Development Agency (SDA) tracking tranche 0. Once launched, the satellites will form a robust, multi-layered military satellite network for missile warning and defence, and demonstrate agility in scaling capabilities and solutions to align with an ever-evolving threat environment. We've also deployed a Cross-Track

Infrared Sounder instrument onboard the NOAA-21 satellite - strengthening L3Harris' weather franchise position.

Could you talk about the company's participation in Edex 2023 in Egypt? How do you look at the expo to boost your regional business?

L3Harris was honored to participate in the inaugural EDEX and has exhibited during every trade show, including under the challenging COVID-19 pandemic with all the enhanced safety precautions. In addition to showcasing our advanced technologies, including C4ISR solutions, to the Egyptian defence forces, this is also our gateway to our growing African military markets.

What are the immediate and long-term goals of L3Harris? What are some expansion plans in the region?

L3Harris continues to maintain a concerted focus on our performance, presence, and partnerships. As recently announced in Saudi Arabia, we have inaugurated a new production line dedicated to software-defined multi-band radio systems (SDRs) in partnership with SAMI, GAMI, and AEC reflecting our commitment to our strategic partnership and mutual growth opportunities. We look forward to exploring other technology and production opportunities with key defence industry partners in the region.



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Enzo Giambartolomei
CEO, Merin, Italy

The African region is an area of great interest for Merin, which has been a global leader in the production of fuel tanks according to international standards. “Merin’s participation in EDEX 2023 must be seen with a view to business expansion in the North African Area, and more in general, in the remaining part of Africa,” says Enzo Giambartolomei, CEO, Merin, Italy. Speaking to Arabian Defence, he talks about the company’s future plans, core focus areas etc.

With an expertise of more than two decades, Merin has been a global leader in the production of custom fuel tanks for defence and strategic vessels.

What are the major milestones and achievements in the company’s journey?

Since its inception in 1994, Merin has devised, developed, and produced all our flexible fuel tanks according to international standards. Merin has today become an example of success for the goals and projects achieved with its customers. There are significant milestones in the company’s

successful journey and those include the 1998 qualification of sports car fuel tanks according to FIA FT3-1999, the first supply of fuel tanks for the customer Ferrari in 2005, the first supply of fuel tanks for TB2 UAV to Baykar Company (Turkey) in 2013, company certification in accordance with ISO 9001 – EN9100 standards in 2013 and qualification by Leonardo for the supply of fuel tanks for AWHero in 2021.

Could you give an overview of Merin’s business in the defence sector? How

strong and diverse is the customer base in the defence sector?

Merin’s business in the defense sector began several years ago, with self-sealing tanks for armored vehicles, but has expanded in recent years with the great development in aeronautics, especially with regards to UAVs. Our customers in this sector are large companies (Italian and Foreign) that operate in the national defence sector, but also research institutions that are developing new national solutions for such applications.



What is the range of products and services offered by the company in the UAV and RUAS sectors? What are other operations in the aviation sector?

Over the years, our business has specialized above all in the production of fuel tanks for ultralight aircraft, UAVs, and RUASs. Our custom-designed flexible tanks are made with anti-explosion and anti-slosh foam, which can be installed on all types of aircraft, from ultralights, or UAVs, to helicopters or certified passenger aircraft.

Could you elaborate on Merin's latest operations and products in the marine sector?

In the nautical sector, Merin supplies flexible and self-sealing tanks for patrol boats for anti-piracy use, and flexible tanks for yachts. It is still a marginal sector for the company, but one in which we plan to expand in the next period.



Merin has been an expert in providing protection to armored vehicles' fuel tanks. Could you shed more light on it?

The proprietary technology developed and used for more than 25 years to produce Merin self-sealing tanks, guarantees the armoring of our customers & vehicles against 7.62 and 12.7 caliber bullets. Different treatments are available and tested at approved shooting ranges, which can be applied individually or according to the STANAG specifications requested by the customer.

Self-sealing treatment, Anti-explosion treatment, Grenade, and Flame protection.

How strong is the company's export operations? What are the main products on export and the countries associated with you?

Exports currently cover over 80% of the company's turnover. Leading countries are Germany and the Czech Republic for motorsport, and Turkey for aircraft and armored products.

How strong are Merin's R&D, production capabilities, assembly lines, etc? How do you ensure the quality standards for your products?

Our R&D sector is being strengthened both from the point of view of human resources and from that of technical and IT tools, to allow us to respond to the numerous requests for new products that we receive from all over the world. Our manufacturing facility currently has the capacity to produce over 2000 tanks annually. The expansion of the plant from the current covered 1500 m2 to almost 4000 m2 is expected shortly, which will allow for an increase in production capacity and better rationalization of processes. A new large-volume autoclave was acquired for the vulcanization of fuel tanks. The company works in accordance with the ISO 9001 – EN 9100 standard, for which we have recently obtained the renewal of the qualification



Could you talk about the company's operations in the African Region? What are the expansion plans?

The African region is an area of great interest for our company. We currently have important business in Middle Eastern countries, but we have a plan to expand our activities in Africa, first in the North Africa area, but subsequently in other parts, where we recently had some possible partnerships (for instance in South Africa).

What can we expect from Merin at this year's EDEX in Cairo? Could you share the highlights and objectives of your participation?

Merin's participation in EDEX 2023 must be seen with a view to business expansion in the North African Area, and more in general, in the remaining part of Africa. In these areas,



we have found considerable interest in our products during previous international fairs, and we think they will find good application in the UAV and armored vehicles sector.

Honeywell and EgyptAir Sign Component Repair Agreement

EGYPTAIR fleet to benefit from quicker repair times and greater cost efficiencies



Honeywell (NASDAQ: HON) has signed a five-year agreement with EGYPTAIR Maintenance & Engineering Co., a total care maintenance service provider of its sister company EGYPTAIR Airlines, to provide flat-rate component repair services for the entirety of the 80-plus A320, A330, B737 and B777 EGYPTAIR fleet. Under the agreement, Honeywell sites will repair key existing components and aircraft systems, including environmental controls, avionics and safety systems to keep Egyptair's fleet well maintained.

Honeywell will cover EGYPTAIR Airlines' fleet to help enable a lower cost of ownership, reduced turnaround time and the ability for EGYPTAIR Maintenance & Engineering Co.

to accurately forecast spend on component repairs.

"Honeywell has a long track record of being a reliable and versatile partner to airlines, and we are pleased to partner with them for the component repairs across our fleet," said Eng. Walid Elkhafif, Chairman and CEO of EGYPTAIR Maintenance & Engineering Co. "With the cost and lead time for new aircraft only extending, it is even more vital to have a long-term agreement to repair components quickly, efficiently and effectively to reduce time off-wing. This deal will cut down on administration, lower costs and reduce complexity."

"EGYPTAIR has been a valued regional partner of Honeywell's over the past decades,

and we are pleased that our agreement can help reduce the cost and complexity of their components repairs through this new deal," said Ryan Lees, President, EMEA Aftermarket, Honeywell Aerospace.

"For more than 50 years, Honeywell has been a proud and dedicated contributor to Egyptian industry, and we are proud to build upon this through this agreement with EGYPTAIR," said Mohammed Mohaisen, President and CEO, Middle East and North Africa, Honeywell. "There continues to be a drive toward greater efficiency across industries, and we are delighted to be able to work with EGYPTAIR to help realize that goal and reduce complexity in a vital industry."

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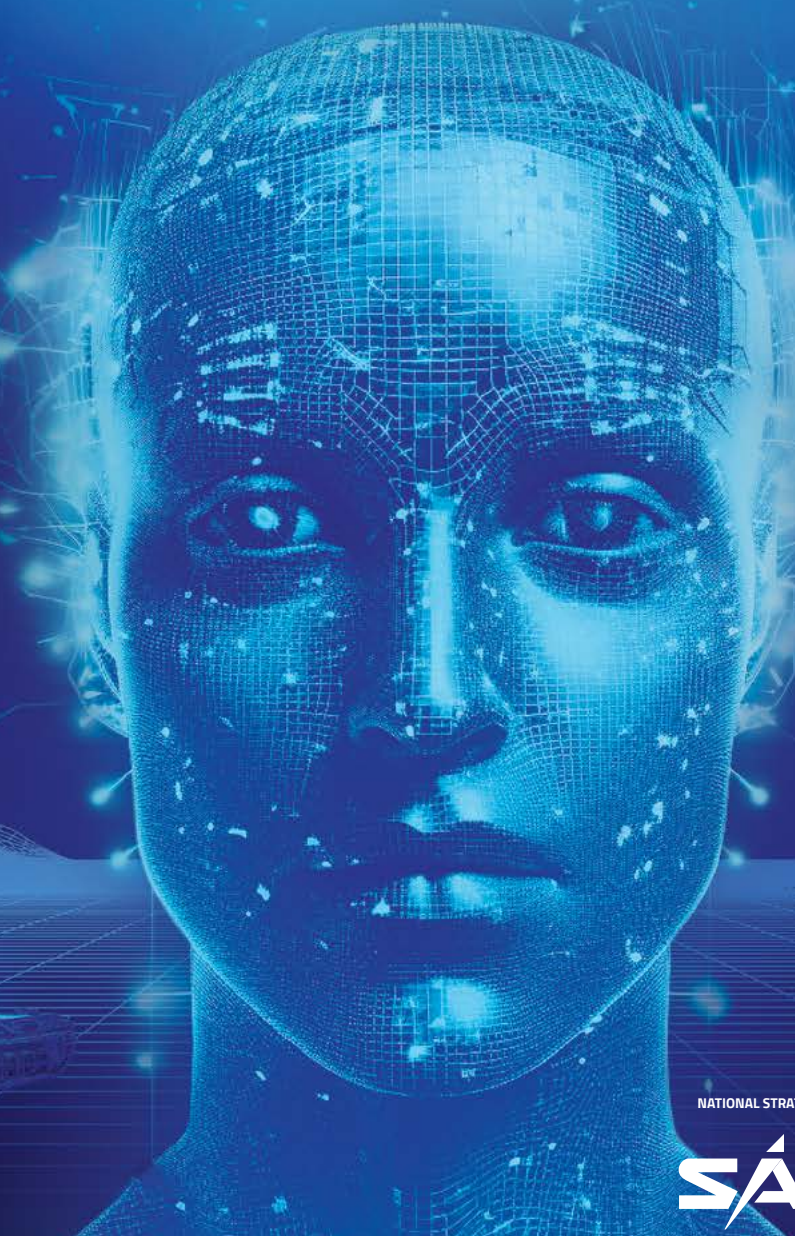


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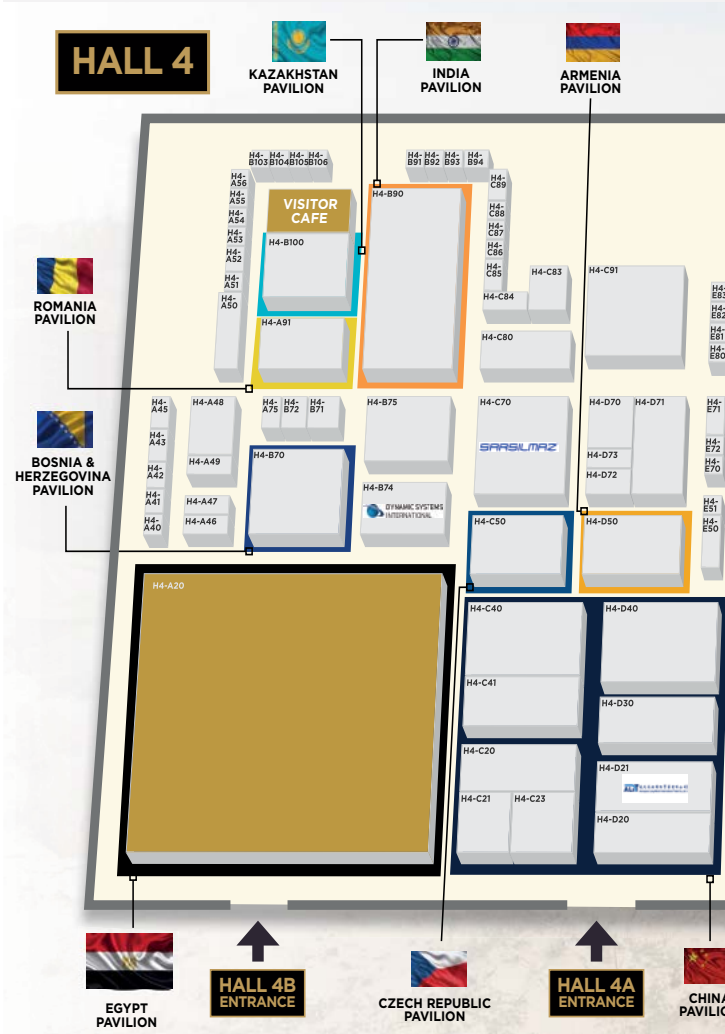
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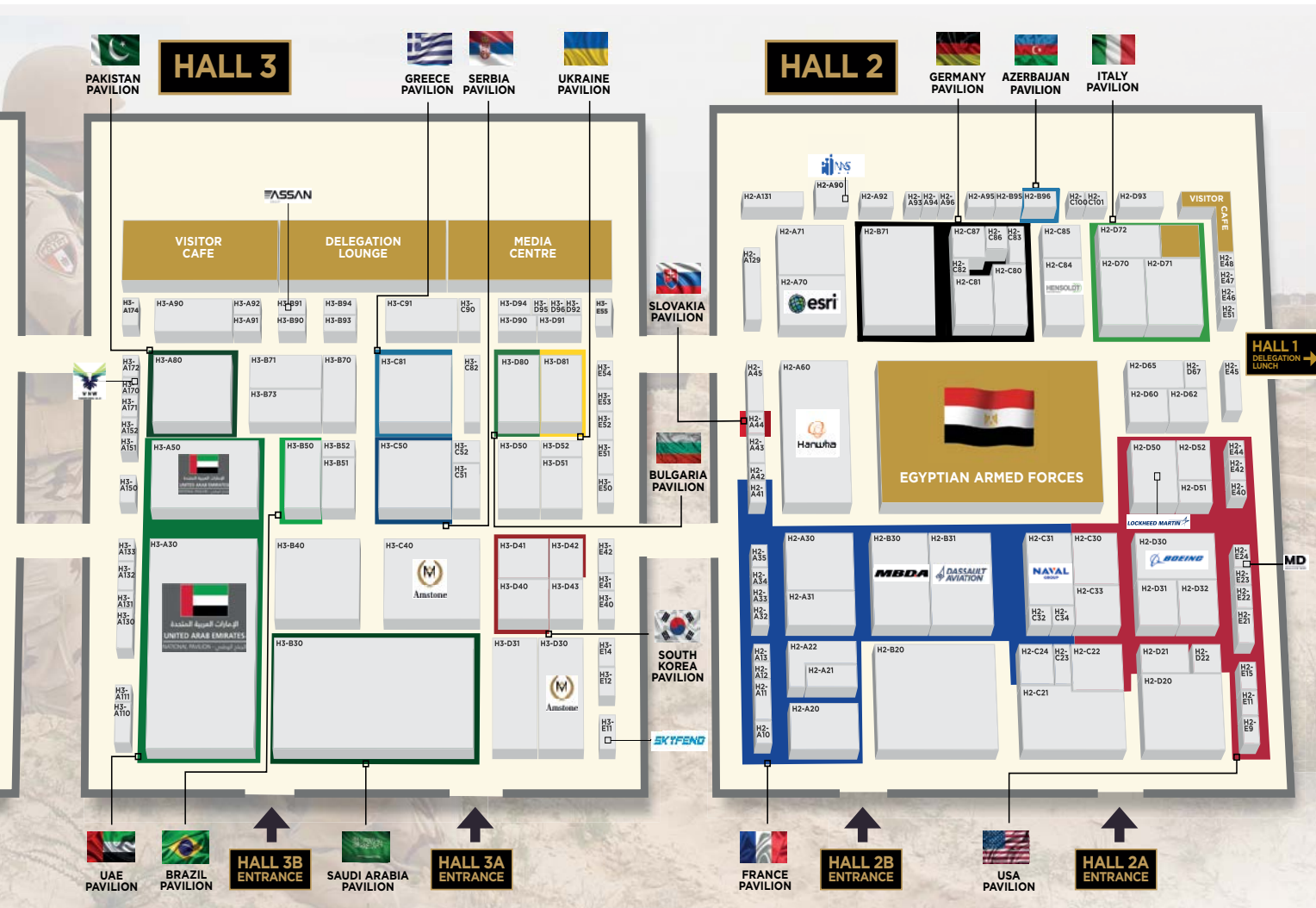
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LEMT Redefines Optoelectronic and Laser Technology



Among LEMT's fairly new, promising, and in-demand products are combined security and perimeter control systems, which provide round-the-clock control of the territory, regular surveillance, timely detection, identification, and tracking of various types of objects in order to maintain the security of state borders and the territory of strategically important buildings.

Ever since its inception three decades ago, Scientific and Technical Center LEMT has been a leader in the research, development, production, and modernization of optoelectronic and laser devices as well as technology transfer. The company, which is based out of the Republic of Belarus, was created in 1992 as a result of the structural reorganization of one of the divisions of the Belarusian Optical and Mechanical Association, the flagship of the optical-electronic engineering of the post-USSR.

The main areas of activity of the company are optical, night vision, and thermal sights and systems for small arms, laser rangefinders, fire control systems, and multi-channel optical-electronic surveillance. The company's products are exported to more than 60 countries including the United States, Canada, Sweden, Germany, England, Japan, the Middle East, South-East Asia, and Latin America.

LEMT's developments of this type include the ZORKI complex, which is a system that combines an optical-electronic module and a radar, providing 24/7 multi-channel surveillance of ground and low-altitude UAVs and is capable of detecting, tracking, recognizing targets and determining their coordinates. ZORKI is used mainly in a stationary version, but can also be deployed on a vehicle.

The main features of its electro-optical module (EOM) are simultaneous display of television and thermal vision images, availability of "scanning" mode to rotate the EOM with the set velocity and into



Specialized software allows the deployment of a network connection of several ZORKI complexes or its integration into other perimeter security systems.



set directions, presence of "patrol" mode to create and edit surveillance routes of EOM, including automatic target tracking, video motion detector, video picture stabilization, control and video streaming via Ethernet and control of several ZORKI systems from one control point.

VISOR is an optoelectronic system designed for ground situation control that provides real time visual detection, tracking and recognition of targets at day and night in various weather conditions. It

could be operated both stationary and on a vehicle as a remote-controlled observation system. In terms of functionality, it is similar to the ZORKI complex, but has smaller dimensions and can also be more quickly and easily deployed.

LEMT-produced long-range multifunction cooled thermal vision binocular is designed for long range detection, observation and extended viewing. The thermal imaging camera of the binoculars based on advanced cooled thermal imaging module; the device is equipped with daytime TV-camera and has an eye-safe laser rangefinder. It's high-resolution sensor, compact and robust design, continuous zooming, fairly high range of operations and suitability for various environments, as well as its portability makes it a well-balanced solution for the armed forces, search & rescue operations, and law enforcement activities.

L3Harris Wins Contract for Next Phase of U.S. Navy F/A-18 Electronic Warfare Modernization Program

L3Harris Technologies (NYSE:LHX) won a contract from the U.S. Navy to continue developing advanced systems to modernize electronic warfare (EW) capabilities on F/A-18 aircraft, enhancing pilot protection against emerging and future threats.

L3Harris will develop a next-generation EW system under the \$80 million contract for the Navy's F/A-18 fleet. It is one of two companies down-selected for the initial prototype contract. The final decision for follow-on development and production contracts is expected in 2026.

"L3Harris is developing the advanced EW system to drive mission success and ensure naval aviators are protected for years to come," said Ed Zoiss, President, Space and Airborne Systems, L3Harris. "This award builds upon decades of delivering EW systems to the Navy, and we are excited that our technology is protecting pilots in dangerous situations while allowing



them to dominate potential adversaries."

The advanced L3Harris system will feature an integrated electronic support measure and electronic attack system, providing prompt threat detection across all relevant radio frequency bands. With a modular open systems approach and open mission systems compliant design, this innovation allows crews to easily

insert new and upgraded technology, saving time and reducing costs.

L3Harris has been providing innovative EW capabilities for F/A-18s for more than two decades. The company has also been providing these capabilities for more than 60 years to the U.S. Air Force and to other allied air services around the world.

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20-25 Feb

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GA-ASI Partners with EDGE to Integrate Smart Weapons onto MQ-9B

General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI), a leading designer and manufacturer of proven, reliable Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) systems, radars, electro-optics, and related mission systems, and EDGE, a world-leading advanced technology group for defence and beyond, announced an agreement to integrate EDGE smart weapons onto GA-ASI's MQ-9B SkyGuardian® RPA.

Under the agreement announced at the Dubai Airshow, the two companies will work together to integrate precision-guided munition (PGM) and guided-glide weapon (GGW) solutions from EDGE onto GA-ASI's MQ-9B SkyGuardian.

"We're excited to work with EDGE on this initiative," said GA-ASI President, David R. Alexander. "Integrating home-grown capabilities onto our customer platforms is something we've done a lot, but we've never before integrated a non-NATO weapon system onto one of our RPA platforms."

The partnership marks the first time that UAE-made smart weapons will be integrated onto a US unmanned platform, signalling a new chapter in US-UAE defence cooperation, and opening the door to further collaboration.

Hamad Al Marar, President of EDGE Group's Missiles & Weapons cluster, said, "We are proud to be working with General Atomics Aeronautical. The opportunity to integrate our smart weapons on the MQ-9B SkyGuardian will offer the end user multiple dynamic, highly accurate, and cost-effective ground strike solutions. We look forward to working closely with General Atomics Aeronautical on this programme and to enhancing our collaboration in the future."



The EDGE smart weapons designated for integration include the DESERT STING family of GGWs and THUNDER family of cost-effective PGMs from HALCON, and the AL TARIQ family of modular, mission-proven, all-weather day/night long-range PGMs.

GA-ASI hopes that its work with EDGE will lead to more partnerships within the UAE defence industry in order to integrate domestically developed sensors and weapons onto the MQ-9B for the UAE and other customers.

The UAE Armed Forces currently operate GA-ASI's Predator XP and are working with GA-ASI and the US Department of Defense to acquire the MQ-9B.

Vektor's Mobile Anti-drone System is Invisible to Radars

Russian Vektor Scientific Research Institute (part of the Vega Radio Engineering Corporation) has developed an integrated UAV detection and countermeasure system, which remains unseen by other radar stations due to its passive mode of operation with no active radio emissions. The system, uniting several sub-systems, is designed to protect various facilities of large and small length: hydro and nuclear power plants, oil and gas pipelines, airports, sea and river ports, facilities of law enforcement agencies.

"The experience and knowledge of Vektor Scientific Research Institute in the field of protection against UAV has enabled us to create in the shortest possible time an integrated system of drone detection and countermeasures, ensuring reliable protection of secured facilities. The enterprise offers solutions for monitoring, detection, identification, tracking and neutralisation of UAVs," says the company on its official website.

Vektor's new systems detect and engage



intruding drones in the sector of up to 360 degrees, which, unlike dome systems, makes possible to use them for targeted suppression of specific intruding drones in a pre-identified sub-band of frequencies.

To provide a comprehensive protection of a facility against possible drone intrusion, different devices are used in an integrated manner, namely: passive radiolocation (PARLS), radio monitoring equipment (RM) and suppression systems.

PARLS and RM detectors are unique due to their invisibility to other radar stations

as they operate in passive mode with no active radio emissions. PARLS can detect approaching aircraft, including silent ones, at distances of up to 11.3 kilometres.

The suppression system provides suppression of signals from satellites and control panels. It has a sector suppression function with independent operating modes according to the instructions received from the detection devices. This allows the use of other UAVs and means of communication, if necessary, during the operation of the system.

All systems are compact: they fit into a few portable cases and can be up and running in 30 minutes. The system can also be convenient for protection of various outdoor events.

Vektor Scientific Research Institute is one of the leading Russian enterprises developing and manufacturing products in the field of radio engineering and radio electronics. It was established in 1908. The company develops and manufactures various UAV detection and countermeasure systems.

Egypt International Airshow will highlight Egypt's strategic importance for the global defence industry



Taking place on 2-5 September 2024, at the new El Alamein International Airport, Egypt International Airshow will showcase Egypt's unique position as a leader in defence aviation across the MENA region.

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In this regard, Egypt continues to rank among the top 15 military powers in the world, with the largest Air Force in the Middle East and North Africa, and a commitment to the modernisation of its combined aerospace forces across all domains.

With over 250 local, regional, and international companies expected to attend, Egypt International Airshow will offer a unique platform for defence industry professionals, military and government officials to foster meaningful connections, exchange ideas, and discover new possibilities in the rapidly evolving defence aerospace landscape, across Egypt, the Middle East and Africa.

The Airshow is officially supported by a number of strategic defence partners including The Egyptian Ministry of Defence and Egypt Air Force. In addition,

the event includes the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Egyptian Space Agency and EgyptAir as strategic partners.

At a recent press conference, Air Marshal Mahmoud Fouad Abdel-Gawad, Commander of the Egyptian Air Force, stated that the exhibition aims to open new horizons of cooperation between Egypt and other nations worldwide across multiple domains. He highlighted that the exhibition serves as a great opportunity to discover new avenues for addressing the challenges within the defence industry. The Commander expressed optimism that the inaugural edition of Egypt International Airshow will showcase the essence of Egypt's uniqueness, the authenticity of its people, and the exceptional dedication of its valiant armed forces.

Thomas Gaunt, CEO of Arabian World Events, the organisers of Egypt International Airshow, highlights: "Egypt's strategic importance in MENA enhance its role in global geopolitics and its position as an important regional military power, making it the ideal host

for this pivotal international event."

With this in mind, Egypt International Airshow 2024 will draw directly on the needs of end users, with the exhibition covering a broad range of technology and taking a joint approach to deliberate aerospace requirements of the Air Force, Air Defence, Army, Navy and Space Forces across all domains.

Sitting alongside the main exhibition, The Air Power Conference at Egypt International Airshow 2024 will bring together military aerospace operators, research and development and industry leaders, to deliberate the current threats faced, operational requirements, emerging capabilities, and approaches to integration.

Overall, Egypt International Airshow 2024 represents a unique opportunity to communicate the specific needs of defence aerospace stakeholders across the MENA region. For those looking to work closer with the Egyptian combined aerospace forces and its international counterparts across Africa and the Middle East, this event is not to be missed.

BEL

Thrust on Exports & Diversification



Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), India's leading defence electronics company, is keen on improving business diversification and export. At EDEX 2023, BEL will be showcasing its capabilities in the field of defence, said Bhanu Prakash Srivastava, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Electronics Limited. Speaking to Arabian Defence, he talks about BEL's latest operations and participation in EDEX 2023.

Bhanu Prakash Srivastava
Chairman and Managing Director
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Can you give us an overview on BEL, its core business segments and financial performance?

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is India's leading Defence electronics company, which possesses expertise in a spectrum of activities, including design, development, manufacturing, supply and life cycle support of hi-tech, strategic electronic products and systems that empower the defence forces.

We develop and manufacture a wide range of defence electronics equipment at our nine plants, including Radar and Fire Control Systems, Weapon Systems, Communication, Network Centric Systems, Electronic Warfare Systems, Avionics, Anti-Submarine Warfare Systems & Sonars, Electro-Optics, Tank Electronics, Gun Upgrades and Strategic Components. We recently diversified into Arms & Ammunitions, Seekers & Missiles, Network & Cyber Security and Unmanned Systems. We are also making inroads into the civilian segment with solutions for Homeland Security and Smart City business, Medical Electronics, Electronic Voting Machine & VVPAT, Software, Civil Aviation, Solar Cells, Railway / Metro / Airport, Space Electronics and Systems, Alternate Energy Solutions, etc.

FY 2022-23 saw the company registering a record turnover of Rs.17,333 Cr (a growth of 15% over previous year), despite challenges posed by the global chip shortage. The turnover per employee increased from Rs.1.69 Crore in FY 2021-22 to Rs.1.96 Crore in FY 2022-23. Our export sales increased in 2022-23 by about

45% to USD 48.33 Million. We made an investment of Rs.1,088 Cr in R&D (6.28% as a percentage of turnover), which paid off as 75% of the turnover in FY 22-23 accrued from indigenously developed products.

We are expecting a revenue growth of around 15% during FY24. We are also confident of maintaining an EBIDTA margin of 21%-23% this year. BEL currently has an order book position of Rs.68,900 Cr, giving stable revenue visibility for the next few years. We have an exports order book of USD 298.73 Million and anticipate good order inflow for both domestic and global business in the next couple of years.

Going forward, how does BEL plan to maintain its leadership position in the defence business and improve exports?

BEL has been contributing to the Indian Government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) initiative in the field of defence in a big way. We will continue to focus on R&D through in-house efforts and collaboration with Defence Research & development Organisation (DRDO), Academia and other industry partners.

BEL will continue to explore new growth opportunities through export initiatives, diversification, capability enhancement, competitiveness and modernisation. We are pro-actively responding to many 'Make-II' projects under Defence Acquisition Policy 2020, and focussing on enhancing indigenous development of sub-systems and systems for which capabilities and competencies are being built.

To give greater thrust to exports, we have plans to expand the network of our marketing offices. The aim is to increase business opportunities in South East Asia, Europe, Middle East, Africa and North and South America through constant engagement with customers and collaborating with other Indian companies and local partners. We have framed strategies to rise above competition, stay abreast of the latest technologies, meet the changing requirements of customers with thrust on cost-effective and innovative solutions, maintain technological edge and strive to maintain leadership position in strategic electronics. Roadmaps have been drawn up for futuristic products, creation of IPRs and acquisition of key new technologies. On the employee front, we have solidified our reputation as a preferred employer with efforts woven around continuous learning, innovation and empowerment.

What are you showcasing at EDEX 2023?

At EDEX 2023, we will be showcasing our capabilities in the field of Defence. On display (in the form of scaled down models and visuals) will be state-of-the-art products and systems including Weapon Locating Radar, Battlefield Surveillance Radar, L-70 Gun Upgrade, Upgraded Schilka Weapon System, Air Defence Weapon System, Night Vision Devices, Communication equipment like Software Defined Radio-Manpack and other radios.



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EDGE to Strengthen Engagement with Egypt, Showcase Major Defence Products at EDEX



EDGE will exhibit state-of-the-art air, land, sea, and electronic warfare solutions at Egypt's leading biennial defence and security event

EDGE, one of the world's leading advanced technology and defence groups, will amplify its presence in Egypt and North Africa by marking its second participation in the Egypt Defence Expo (EDEX 2023), the largest biennial defence and security exhibition in North Africa, held in Cairo, Egypt.

Over the course of the four-day event, which runs from 4 – 7 December, EDGE will exhibit a range of high technology solutions tailored to the region's evolving security requirements. The EDGE exhibition will include high-performance small arms, precision smart weapons, modern autonomous systems, advanced naval vessels, and electronic warfare (EW) solutions.

EDGE's presence at the exhibition is aimed at offering cutting-edge, cost-effective solutions that have been developed with the end-user's requirements and operational environment in mind. North Africa is an important market for the group, presenting unique and rapidly changing security requirements.

Under the land domain, EDGE will display its versatile pistols, compact

sub-machine guns, highly reliable assault rifles and sniper rifles, as well as small to large calibre ammunition.

In the autonomous systems domain, EDGE will display several tactical unmanned aerial vehicles. Smart weapons on display will include short-to long-range precision-guided munitions, and a diverse range of loitering munitions.

Under the sea domain, EDGE will showcase a range of modern naval vessels, designed to meet maritime security challenges faced by the region. Additionally, advanced electronic warfare solutions will be on show, such as a counter drone system and cellular interception solution.

Held at the Egypt International Exhibition Centre, Cairo, the event enables EDGE to fortify its relationships with military personnel, government officials, and leading defence companies, as well as bolster efforts to develop further industry partnerships in the important North Africa region.

Attendees of EDEX 2023 can visit EDGE and its entities at the UAE pavilion, Hall 3, stand A30 and A50.



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Lockheed Martin's Precision Strike Missile Completes Shortest-Range Flight Test

Lockheed Martin successfully completed a production qualification flight test with the U.S. Army in a demonstration at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

One Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) was fired from a HIMARS launcher to hit a target set. The test is the shortest distance flown to date demonstrating the system's continued accuracy from launch to impact. While not PrSM's primary mission range, the short-range flight represents the most stressful, dynamic environment for the missile as it maneuvers at hypersonic speeds to align to the target. This test verifies structural integrity of the missile and trajectory control.

"This demonstration is the first of several production qualification tests moving PrSM closer to fielding and delivery of Early Operational Capability (EOC) missiles this year," said Jay Price, vice president of Precision Fires



at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control. "PrSM is a critical capability and the top long-range precision fires modernization priority for the U.S. Army."

The test follows a third production contract

to produce additional EOC missiles awarded in September 2023. PrSM is the U.S. Army's next generation long-range precision strike missile capable of neutralizing targets out to more than 400 kilometers. ■

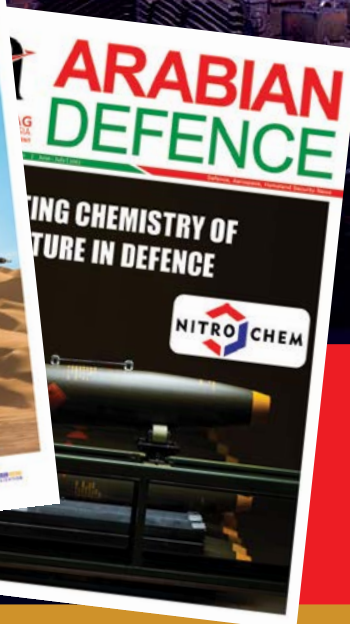
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