

KMW establishes KNDS service base in Slovakia for Ukraine

Munich, November 15, 2022 - Krauss-Maffei Wegmann GmbH & Co. KG (KMW) is establishing a KNDS base in Slovakia to provide logistical support to Ukraine. The arrangement is based on a corresponding agreement between the Federal Government of Germany and the Government of the Slovak Republic.

The task of the service hub will be the rapid maintenance and repair of vehicles from the KNDS subsidiaries KMW and NEXTER. These include the self-propelled howitzer PzH 2000, the CAESAR wheeled howitzer, the GEPARD self-propelled anti-aircraft gun and the MARS II artillery rocket system, as well as the DINGO armored transport vehicle.

Work has already begun on the construction of the KNDS service hub.

KNDS, the market leader for heavily armored wheeled and tracked vehicles in Europe, will install the MAINTENT mobile maintenance facility at the site and operate it with KMW personnel. The MAINTENT provides the space needed to work on six vehicles simultaneously on an area of 800 square meters, so that they can rapidly be returned to Ukraine. The KNDS service hub will be fully operational by early December 2022 and is initially expected to operate until the end of 2024. KNDS intends to cooperate with other companies in the European defense industry in the course of further expansion.

Krauss-Maffei Wegmann, a member of the German-French defense technology group KNDS, leads the European market for highly protected wheeled and tracked vehicles. At locations in Germany, Brazil, Greece, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Hungary and the USA more than 4.000 employees develop, manufacture and support a product portfolio ranging from air-transportable, highly protected wheeled vehicles through reconnaissance, anti-aircraft and artillery systems to main battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and bridgelaying systems. In addition, KMW has wide-ranging system competence in the area of civil and military simulation, as well as in command and information systems and remote-controlled weapon stations with reconnaissance and observation equipment. The armed forces of more than 50 nations worldwide rely on tactical systems by KMW.

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KNDS (KMW+NEXTER Defense Systems) arose from the merger of Krauss-Maffei Wegmann and Nexter, two of the leading European manufacturers of military land systems, based in Germany and France.

KNDS employs 8,767 people and reported a turnover of 2.7 billion euro and an order intake of 2.8 billion euro for 2021. Its order book thus stands at around 10.7 billion euro. The Group's product range covers main battle tanks, armoured vehicles, artillery systems, weapon systems, ammunition, military bridges, customer service, battle management systems, training solutions, solutions for protection systems and a wide range of equipment.

The formation of KNDS marks the beginning of the consolidation of the industry for military land systems in Europe. The strategic alliance between KMW and Nexter strengthens the competitiveness and international position of both companies as well as their ability to meet the requirements of the armies of their respective nations. In addition, this alliance gives its European and NATO customers a reliable industrial base to increasingly standardise and align their defence technology with each other.

KNDS is headquartered in Amsterdam.