



## **KNDS: the European MBT powerhouse presents its know-how at Eurosatory**

Amsterdam, 13 June 2022

KNDS (KMW+NEXTER Defense Systems) is well recognized as the world leader in main battle tanks (MBT), with systems in service in more than 20 countries.

With high-level technical know-how and a strong capacity to innovate, KNDS has always been able to adapt to the operational needs of its customers and still demonstrates it today through the ongoing modernization programs for Leclerc and Leopard 2 MBTs in service in the French and German armies, as in foreign armies.

Thanks to KNDS's recognized expertise, these state-of-the-art systems will benefit from enhanced protection (APS, add-on armour against IED and RPG-type threats), improved mobility and integration into the collaborative combat environment in order to remain champions in their class for the next decades.

In a context marked by the return of high-intensity combat, KNDS also offers new capabilities while modifying the approach to armored combat and thus ensuring tactical superiority. KNDS is fully aware of the ongoing exponentially accelerated new technology developments and their potential impact on operational capabilities. Therefore, KNDS is continuously analyzing how to match concepts of operations (CONOPS) and opportunities offered by new technologies in order to increase operational effectiveness and efficiency permanently.

On its booth, KNDS presents various innovative concepts like manned/unmanned turrets approaching the design of future MBTs and MGCS tracked modular mission systems:

- The EMBT presented at Eurosatory represents a new experimental platform, featuring a 4 men crew concept (2 men turret, 2 men chassis) with an evolutionary 120mm turret coupled to a new generation ammunition (Shard) and a completely new and reconfigurable MMI. This allows dynamic task allocation and testing of “innovative crew concepts” with variable number of crew stations



including the presence of a System Operator: as a response to the cognitive workload of the tank commander, it enables to leverage the full potential of an extensive sensors and effectors suite while progress is being made on AI technologies. The platform includes a modern power pack with digital control allowing drive-by-wire, which is a prerequisite for remoted automated driving operations and manned/unmanned teaming. The 30mm RCWS located on the turret introduces counter-UAV capability.

- As a major player in the MGCS program, KNDS is also preparing the future of the main armament by presenting the new ASCALON gun and ammunition concept. This innovative concept, while proposing significant growth potential, delivers performance levels that current technologies do not offer. Taking advantage of its long experience with the 120mm smoothbore gun, its mastery of compact ammunition as well as of the maturity achieved during firing campaigns with a 140mm caliber, KNDS designed ASCALON with an open architecture to serve as a basis for cooperative development within the framework of the Franco-German MGCS program, laying the foundations for the future standard of European tank gun and ammunition.
- The BOXER tracked exploiting the application of the wheeled Boxer (mission) modularity is developed for the same purpose. The BOXER tracked is equipped for the Eurosatory 2022 with a Remote-Controlled Turret 120. Due to its new design, the major benefit is that the weapon system itself is not diving into the chassis area. This is achieved via a new approach of weapon recoil mechanism. By this, the chassis can be optimized for crew operation and protection without the crew being disturbed and affected by the effect of the operation of the main gun.



**KMW + nexter**  
DEFENSE SYSTEMS

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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.



## **KNDS continues to grow**

Amsterdam, 10 June 2022

The defence technology group KNDS, in which Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (Germany) and Nexter (France) merged to form the leading European company for military land systems, ammunition and related services, has presented its key figures for fiscal year 2021. The company continued its growth trajectory on a solid basis in an environment that remained strongly affected by the coronavirus pandemic and other uncertainties.

With a slight decline in incoming orders of 2.8 billion euro, KNDS' consolidated order backlog reached another record high of 10.7 billion euro. Major orders came from Germany with the upgrade of the Puma infantry fighting vehicle to the latest standards, as well as from the Czech Republic and France for the Caesar artillery system.

The Group generated sales of 2.7 billion euro in 2021, while its workforce grew to 8,767 employees. The outstanding revenue contributions to the 2021 financial year consisted of deliveries of the Griffon and Jaguar vehicle systems to the French Armed Forces as well as the realization of the enhanced combat effectiveness program for the Leopard 2 fleet of the German Bundeswehr. These major projects were accompanied by strong sales in the ammunition business and services. KNDS plans to generate 3.1 billion euro in turnover and further expand its workforce to around 9,100 employees for the current 2022 financial year.

“As in the previous year, we have achieved or exceeded all of our economic targets,” says Frank Haun, CEO of KNDS, of the company's performance, “and, since February 2022, it has become clear that there will be a profound change in the way security policy is thought and acted out in Europe. This not only concerns increasing investment in the deterrent and operational capacity of the European armed forces. We also expect further consolidation of the European defence industry. KNDS was founded seven years ago to play a key role in shaping this consolidation. We are already present in



eight European countries and will further strengthen our leading position as a European supplier of military land systems.”

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## EUROSATORY 2022: KMW presents a world debut

**Paris, June 2022** – Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW) will be presenting the BOXER tracked vehicle system for the first time at the EUROSATORY 2022 defence trade fair. KMW will also be demonstrating its systems house expertise with a variety of variants ranging from the wheeled bridge layer to the wheeled howitzer RCH 155, the world's first artillery system that can fight the battle while in motion.

KMW and NEXTER also highlight their leading positions in battle tank systems under the umbrella of the holding company KNDS. KMW is underlining its battle tank expertise by presenting the LEOPARD 2 A7, enhanced with the world's most sophisticated active protection system: the Trophy.

The EMBT technology carrier demonstrates the capabilities of French-German cooperation.

### **BOXER tracked**

The tried and tested BOXER system taken to the next level. The innovative tracked drive module has an increased level of protection and mobility that is otherwise only comparable to that of heavy tracked vehicles. Since the BOXER tracked is conceptually based on the modular system of the BOXER vehicle family, the drive module can be combined with all BOXER mission modules already introduced.

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## **EMBT**

The EMBT technology carrier demonstrates the capabilities for successful and effective French-German cooperation. The experimental chassis of the EMBT was combined with an innovative new turret concept. In addition to testing already integrated technologies, the EMBT also enables operation by 2, 3 or 4 men. EMBT is ready for the future integration of ASCALON (140mm) and other turrets.

## **LEOPARD 2 A7**

The major features of the LEOPARD 2 A7 include the Trophy active protection system, which detects and destroys incoming projectiles, a powerful power supply, new NBC and air-conditioning systems and the integration of C4 I systems. The modernisation of the drive train and further weapon stabilisation optimisation during travel enhance the vehicles' agility and combat efficacy.

## **BOXER RCT30**

The mission module of the IFV (Infantry Fighting Vehicle) variant features a fully stabilised, crewless, remotely controllable turret with state-of-the-art optical and optronic sights that enable 360° all-round observation, detection and identification of targets at long range. The airburst-capable, fully stabilised, automatic 30 mm machine gun makes it possible to engage targets with precision accuracy, even while in motion. The familiar turret construction from the PUMA provides a crew compartment for ten soldiers.

## **RCH 155**

The Remote Controlled Howitzer 155 (RCH 155) is a highly mobile artillery system with superlative crew protection. The RCH 155 is the world's first artillery system that can fire while in motion. Refined from the combined arms approach, the complete autonomy of the overall system in command, navigation and fire control as well as its system-related stability opens up entirely new deployment options (e.g. firing at moving targets, camp protection, etc.). Thanks to the network-based system architecture of the RCH 155, it will also be

possible to implement autonomous driving and action (remote-controlled) in the future.

### **LEGUAN on BOXER**

The bridge module allows the BOXER to mount and lay LEGUAN elements of different lengths and weight classes. It can lay a 22-metre (MLC50) or 14-metre bridge (MLC100) in just a few minutes. This bridge can be mounted by other LEGUAN bridge systems (e.g. on LEOPARD 2).

### **BOXER Recovery**

When equipped with the recovery module, all variants of BOXER vehicles can be recovered. The mission modules can also be exchanged with the recovery module without the use of further systems. The recovery module can also be operated without the drive module.

### **MULTIBOX power pack/wheel**

Our MULTIBOX solutions make logistics more effective and efficient – no matter where. Thanks to its high degree of user orientation, it offers all necessary service solutions all the way to the deployment site.

The integrated skid system in this variant ensures that the engine and tyres are ready for use again as quickly and easily as possible. This MULTIBOX variant can be used for all types of large spare parts.

**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.



**Press release**

**CaMo 2: Nexter to supply 9 CAESAR 6X6 Mark II to the Belgian armed forces**

13/06/2022

The French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA) has ordered 9 CAESAR 6X6 Mark II from Nexter to equip the Belgian armed forces' Land component from 2027. This notification is part of the intergovernmental agreement on the second motorised capability (CaMo 2), signed by Belgian Defence Minister Ludivine Dedonder and French Armed Forces Minister Florence Parly.

The Belgian armed forces are acquiring a new artillery capability with the purchase of a battery of 9 CAESAR 6X6 MkII designed by Nexter and Arquus. The Belgian armed forces' Land component will thus be able to strengthen their interoperability with the French Army, in accordance with the objectives of the CaMo programme, which aims to pool the doctrines and equipment of these two armies. The CAESAR will join the JAGUAR and GRIFFON vehicles within the units of the Belgian armed forces' Land Component. Moreover, this order from a strategic partner of France confirms the success of the CAESAR and the confidence placed in this system even before the 6X6 MkII version entered service in the French Army.

The CAESAR is a 155mm artillery system mounted on a truck chassis. Being the lightest in its class, it demonstrates unmatched tactical, operational and strategic mobility. It is air transportable in an A400M or even a C130 for the 6x6 version, is suitable for light infrastructure and consumes very little fuel. The CAESAR is an excellent solution for high-intensity combat that can be put in and out of battery in less than 45 seconds, fire 6 rounds per minute and resupply very quickly (18 rounds/minute) in order to maintain its mobility, the only effective protection against modern guided munitions. Its 155mm/52 calibre gun is the only one in the world to be "long range proven" in conditions close to high intensity combat. It has demonstrated this within the Task Force Wagram in Iraq from 2016 to 2019, with nearly 18,000 rounds fired in outdoor temperatures close to 50°C.

The CAESAR 6x6 MkII retains the artillery system of the version already in service, which has proven itself in operations and has been successful in export. The main improvements concern crew protection and mobility. To this end, Nexter is adding a level 2 STANAG mine and ballistic armoured cabin, resistant to improvised explosive devices and small-calibre ammunition. In addition, the vehicle's mobility has been entirely redesigned by Arquus. The CAESAR 6X6 Mark II is equipped with a new engine (460 HP compared to 215 HP previously), a new automatic gearbox and a new generation chassis. Finally, the CAESAR 6X6 Mk II carries the latest version of fire control software, and the cab is prepared to accommodate the new CONTACT radio. The Thales BARAGE jammer can also be installed on the CAESAR 6x6 MkII.

### **About Nexter**

*Nexter, the leading French land defense company and one of the main European players in the ammunition sector is part of the KNDS Group. The scope of its business includes as well the supply of weapon systems and ammunition for air and naval forces. The group continues to apply its international development policy with several order intakes in 2021 intended for the export market. In France, Nexter is fully committed to meeting the objectives of the SCORPION program, through the upgrade of the Leclerc tank and the development and production of the VBMR GRIFFON and EBRC JAGUAR vehicles within the temporary business venture between Nexter, Thales and Arquus, as well as the Lightweight VBMR SERVVAL (with Texelis). The group's range of products also includes TITUS® and VBCI armored vehicles, CAESAR® and 105LG1 artillery systems, smart ammunition (BONUS®, KATANA®), robots and many equipment. Nexter's 2021 turnover amounted to €1,3 billion, including 30% devoted to customer services, from training to fleet management to support and revaluation.*

More information on [www.nexter-group.fr](http://www.nexter-group.fr).

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