



LAND 121 Phase 4

PROTECTED MOBILITY VEHICLE - LIGHT

FACT SHEET - JULY 2016

PROJECT OVERVIEW

LAND 121 is a multi-phased project providing the Australian Defence Force (ADF) with current-generation, high-capability field vehicles, modules and trailers. It will acquire around 7500 protected and unprotected vehicles providing battlefield mobility and logistics support.

LAND 121 Phase 4 will acquire 1100 protected mobility vehicles – light (PMV-L) for command, liaison, utility and reconnaissance roles. The PMV-L has been developed to provide an optimum balance of the requirements for survivability, mobility, payload, communications, useability and sustainability.

In October 2015 the Commonwealth entered into contract with Thales Australia for the acquisition and support of 1100 Hawkei PMV-L and 1058 companion trailers. The Hawkei PMV-L will deliver an entirely new capability for the Australian Army, providing a level of protection comparable to the Thales Bushmaster at around half the weight.

The vehicle will provide a high level of protection for soldiers against blast and ballistic threats, with significantly improved mobility which will enable it to operate in high-risk areas. It is the only protected mobility vehicle capable of being transported by ADF helicopters.

The Hawkei will also pioneer a next-generation communications management system, the Integral Computing System, which will unify the vehicle's panoply of communications systems (including the Battle Management System and radios) through a common interface.

AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY

In December 2011, the Hawkei was selected as the preferred vehicle for development and testing for the project's Manufactured and Supported in Australia (MSA) option. Under the terms of the MSA option, at least 50% of the cost of the vehicle's manufacture is to be incurred in Australia.

Over the period 2012-14, six Hawkei prototypes and one prototype trailer underwent a range of testing and evaluation, including user assessments and capability and reliability testing. This testing program provided assurance to the Capability Manager that the Hawkei would meet the key capability requirements of LAND 121 Phase 4.



LAND 121 PHASE 3A



LAND 121 PHASE 3B



LAND 121 PHASE 4



LAND 121
 FIELD VEHICLES
 AND TRAILERS



Since 2004 Thales's Bendigo facility has been producing the Bushmaster, widely acknowledged as one of the best vehicles of its type in the world. As Bushmaster production ends in 2016, the start of pilot vehicle production will allow the highly skilled Bendigo workforce to be retained for full-rate Hawkei production. It is estimated that Hawkei production will involve 170 jobs in the Bendigo region, with additional jobs to be created in Thales's supply chain and as part of the support contract. The in-service Hawkei will also be fully supported in Australia.

CURRENT STATUS

The Hawkei acquisition contract provides for a phased approach as development continues in the lead-up to the start of full rate production in 2018:

Stage 1 – Engineering and Manufacturing Development (2015 – 2017): A small run of vehicles to support testing and further development.

Stage 2 – Low-Rate Initial Production (2017 – 2018): Around 100 vehicles for final testing and initial deliveries.

Stage 3 – Full-Rate Production (2018 – 2022): Production of the remaining 1000 vehicles and 1058 trailers.

MILESTONES

November 2008 First-pass approval

December 2011 Interim-pass approval

August 2015 Second-pass approval

October 2015 Contract signature

2018 Initial materiel release

2019 Initial operational capability



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