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## Rohde & Schwarz equips German Federal Armed Forces with state-of-the-art software defined radio systems

Munich (ots) -

The Munich-based electronics company Rohde & Schwarz has been awarded a contract from the German Federal Ministry of Defense (BMVg) to equip initially 50 command vehicles with the joint radio system of the German Armed Forces, also known as SVFuA. This is an advance measure in the "Mobile Tactical Communications" (MoTaKo) program for digitizing tactical communications within the German Armed Forces.

Following many years of joint development, the Federal Office of Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support (BAAINBw) has signed a contract with Rohde & Schwarz for the procurement of the SVFuA. SVFuA operates on the principle of the software defined radio (SDR) and offers secure, trustworthy communications up to the classification level SECRET. Rohde & Schwarz drew on its in-house cryptology development as a key national technology. Initially, 50 command vehicles - PUMA infantry fighting vehicles (IFV) and BOXER armored transport vehicles (ATV) - will be equipped. Rohde & Schwarz will produce and deliver the first installment of the overall SVFuA system by 2020. The contract's framework agreement allows the Federal Armed Forces to order additional SVFuA systems within a seven-year timeframe.

Harald Stein, President of BAAINBw: "Equipping the first PUMA and BOXER command vehicles with SVFuA is an important first step toward MoTaKo. We are pleased that with Rohde & Schwarz we have found a technologically-leading partner for this key modernization project."

In 2009, Rohde & Schwarz was given responsibility for the overall design and the overall system as well as for developing a prototype base unit and proving that it could be series produced. In 2016, the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) confirmed that the requirements for certification at the classification level SECRET had been met. Certification in line with the internationally recognized Software Communications Architecture (SCA) standard for SDR radio systems was a prerequisite for customer acceptance. Since the radio system was developed in line with the SCA standard, it is possible to port current and future national and international waveforms onto the radio system as long as these waveforms also meet the requirements set out in the SCA standard.

The SVFuA gives the German Armed Forces all the tools needed to create and especially protect information superiority. It also ensures interfaces with allies during joint missions and for collective defense. Hartmut Jäschke, Senior Vice President Market Segment Secure Communications Sales and Projects at Rohde & Schwarz, explains: "With the SVFuA system, the German Armed Forces lays the foundation for state-of-the-art, future-ready tactical communications. As a trusted German partner, Rohde & Schwarz fulfills all the customer's requirements for a scalable, reconfigurable, and future-proof overall system. The company has demonstrated the implementation of current third-party waveforms on the software defined radio while preserving intellectual property rights, satisfying today's requirements for interoperability with partners."

With the acquisition of the SVFuA, the German Armed Forces is taking the first step in modernizing its tactical communications within the framework of the MoTaKo program. To support these projects over the long-term, Rohde & Schwarz decided to set up a joint venture with Rheinmetall AG for the purpose of submitting a tender as a general contractor. Both German companies offer a broad portfolio of trustworthy technology and years of experience in complex undertakings.

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