

Press release

17 May 2021

Rheinmetall and Thales awarded subcontract from Lockheed Martin to deliver training services to the joint Franco-German C-130J squadron



C130J©Lockheed Martin

Thales and Rheinmetall have been tasked with certifying the future training centre organization for the Franco-German C-130J transport aircraft fleet. The two companies are participating in the project as subcontractors (50/50) to Lockheed Martin, the prime contractor of the France/Germany Multinational Training Centre and manufacturer of the C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft.

Awarded in March 2021, Rheinmetall and Thales will provide personnel and services related to the certification of the training centre organization. The training centre qualification is to be completed in Q1 2024, and the training operation will commence in 2024. The initial establishment and certification phase may be followed by an optional operating phase. If the operating phase is awarded, Thales and Rheinmetall will provide all management personnel, qualified flight and ground crew instructors as well as maintenance personnel for the operation of all training devices.

The training centre is to be established at Évreux in Normandy, home to the French Air Force's 62nd Transport Squadron, and will host the new French and German C-130J Super Hercules aircraft as a joint transport squadron. The accompanying training centre is to be certified as an Approved Training Organization (ATO), certified by the French civil aviation authority (DGAC).

The Franco-German transport aircraft project is one of Europe's key air force programmes. In Évreux, Germany and France intend to jointly operate a total of 10 C-130J Super Hercules aircraft starting this year. The plan calls for joint cockpit crews as well as mixed teams on the ground. France has already taken delivery of a total of four Super Hercules, whereas Germany will contribute six aircrafts to the squadron, with deliveries starting in 2022. These six aircrafts will replace the German Transall C-160.

With this project, Thales and Rheinmetall are continuing an already successful cooperation in the field of Franco-German aviation training, within the TATM "Tiger Aircrew Training Means", for the German and French crews of the Tiger attack helicopter.

► Key facts

- ▷ Certification of joint Franco-German Training Centre Operation
- ▷ World class training facility for C-130J Super Hercules flight crews and ground personnel
- ▷ Certification by the French civil aviation authority (DGAC) by Q1 2024
- ▷ A 50/50 consortium between Thales and Rheinmetall

About Rheinmetall

A publicly traded company headquartered in Düsseldorf, Rheinmetall AG is a globally active technology group dedicated to the twin future imperatives of security and mobility. In 2020 Rheinmetall's 30,000 employees generated sales of around €5.9 billion. The company is present around the globe, with offices and production facilities at over 120 locations.

As one of Europe's top suppliers of defence and security technology, Rheinmetall is synonymous with longstanding experience and pioneering excellence in armoured vehicles, weapons and ammunition as well as air defence and electronics. Its comprehensive range of products and services encompasses a vast range of military capabilities, including reconnaissance, command and control, tactical mobility, kinetics and force protection.

About Thales

Thales (Euronext Paris: HO) is a global high technology leader investing in digital and "deep tech" innovations – connectivity, big data, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and quantum technology – to build a future we can all trust, which is vital to the development of our societies. The company provides solutions, services and products that help its customers – businesses, organisations and states – in the defence, aeronautics, space, transportation and digital identity and security markets to fulfil their critical missions, by placing humans at the heart of the decision-making process.

Thales has 81,000 employees in 68 countries. In 2020 the Group generated sales of €17 billion.

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