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Tailored to the needs of the toughest: Rheinmetall presents Caracal air assault vehicle at DSEI 2023

At this year's DSEI exhibition held from September 12 to 15 2023, Rheinmetall will present its Caracal airmobile platform. The Caracal is the product of a partnership between Rheinmetall, Mercedes-Benz AG and Armoured Car Systems GmbH.

As a 4x4 all-wheel-drive vehicle, the Caracal is a mobile platform specially designed to meet the needs of airmobile formations and special operations forces. The Caracal features maximum mobility, a lightweight design and optionally mountable protection elements for countering ballistic and landmine threats. Its 249 horsepower, six-cylinder Euro III diesel engine gives the 4,900 kg vehicle a top speed of 140 km/h.



The Caracal's compact design makes it possible to airlift up to two vehicles in the cargo hold of a CH-53K King Stallion or CH-47F Chinook transport helicopter, which can also carry it as underslung cargo.

Thanks to its unique modular design and two available wheelbases, the Caracal can be employed in a variety of roles during airborne operations – as a basic troop carrier or medical support vehicle, for example, or as supply vehicle – all on one automotive platform.

The Caracal is based on a commercial off-the-shelf chassis of the new G-model 464 series from Mercedes-Benz. In future Rheinmetall will therefore be able to offer users around the world a proven, technically mature platform, providing logistic support throughout the vehicle's long service life.

With the Caracal, Rheinmetall's portfolio of tactical vehicle systems has expanded to embrace the lightweight, less-than-10-ton 4x4 segment, where the Düsseldorf-based tech enterprise sees strong growth potential.

The German and Dutch armed forces have contracted with Rheinmetall to supply up to 3,058 Caracal airmobile platforms. The multiyear framework contract includes up to 2,054 vehicles earmarked for Germany and 1,004 for the Netherlands. As a first step, a firm order from the framework contract has been placed for 1,508 vehicles. Delivery of the first trial models is scheduled to take place as early as the first quarter of 2024, with the start of delivery in series planned for early 2025.

► Key facts

- Rheinmetall presents the Caracal at DSEI 2023
- Exclusive cooperation between Rheinmetall, Mercedes Benz and Armoured Car Systems
- Numerous variants available
- G-class military off the shelf chassis from Mercedes Benz
- Up to two vehicles can be airlifted in a CH-53K or CH47F heavy transport helicopter

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