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DSEI: G-NIUS moves on to Nahshon contract

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G-NIUS Unmanned Ground Systems announced on 2 September that it has been awarded a development contract for its next-generation unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) from the Israel Defence Force (IDF).

Known as the 'Nahshon', the system follows on from experience **G-NIUS** has gained in developing and fielding its Guardium UGV, which has been operational with the IDF for the last seven months with both its Northern and Southern Commands.

"What we've learned in the last seven months is 10 times more than during the whole [Guardium] development process," **G-NIUS** Chief Executive Officer Erez Peled told *Jane's* at the Defence Systems and Equipment International (DSEI) exhibition on 8 September. The main enhancements for the Nahshon, he explained, will be in improved autonomous movement and operational performance, an increased payload weight and improved navigational capabilities.

Unlike the Guardium, which mainly conducts border patrols and missions ensuring the security of military sites, the Nahshon will operate more in force protection, combat logistics and route-proving-type missions. The system, said Peled, would bring UGVs much closer to being able to operate in "non-structured environments".

G-NIUS, a joint venture between Elbit Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), chose DSEI to unveil the Guardium LS, a logistics support variant of the Guardium UGV.

Also drawing on experience gained working with the IDF in deploying the original Guardium, the new logistics variant offers a payload of 1.2 tons and can be commanded from either mobile or portable terminals. Alternatively, it can act in a 'mule' mode, autonomously following the squad it is supporting.

Peled also pointed out that all **G-NIUS** UGVs are fully integrated within the IDF's Torch digital army programme. "We've learned that this is an essential thing," he said. "If you're not in the network, they won't use you."

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