



News



Eurosatory 2010: G-Nius unveils AvantGuard UGCV

June 15, 2010

The UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) is in talks with unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) developer G-Nius regarding the possible procurement of its AvantGuard system for operations in Afghanistan, according to industry sources.

Speaking to *Unmanned Vehicles* at Eurosatory in Paris, G-Nius's chief executive officer, Erez Peled confirmed that the MoD had 'shown interest' in the AvantGuard UGV and 'wanted this application'

for route proving and force protection.

Industry sources had previously told *UV* that the MoD was seeking a variety of assets to counter improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as employed by insurgent forces in Afghanistan. Other options are also being considered, *UV* was told.

'Some armies operating in Afghanistan are suffering from a lot of casualties by IEDs and there is a massive requirement to reduce the number of soldiers at risk on the battlefield. G-Nius can help in this regard,' Peled said.

The AvantGuard has been operational with the Israel Defence Force (IDF) since March 2009, G-Nius said with border patrolling, route proving and force protection duties as part of the Northern and Southern Commands.

At the Eurosatory exhibition in Paris, the company displayed an IDF-owned example of the AvantGuard, which is based on the Tactical Amphibious Ground Support (TAGS) vehicle built by Dumur Industries of Canada, and leverages autonomous technologies developed for G-Nius' Guardian UGV.

Speaking to *UV* G-Nius VP for marketing and sales, Noam Segal, said the system was designed to be employed across a range of missions, including counter IED, advance guard, reconnaissance, armed sentry and logistical replenishment.

'With the AvantGuard you don't need to put a bunch of soldiers in a heavy metal can to achieve your operational desire,' Segal said.

'The combination of all the systems on board enables you to not only control the ground but also counter the IED threat.'

The UGCV can be controlled by a mobile or portable operational control unit or operate in 'follow-me' mode.

The example of display included a Rafael remote control weapon station (although an Elbit System RCWS is also offered), supply racks, ground penetrating radar, Elisra EJAB C-IED jammer, Mini-Pop cooled thermal surveillance camera, and human detection radar.

Segal added that there was no silver bullet to the IED threat but said the vehicle was designed to provide persistent surveillance of routes that were frequently travelled, such as between a forward operating post and combat outpost.

He said while the vehicle designed with the needs of the IDF in mind, this was equally applicable to commander's requirements in Afghanistan.

The company has delivered 'several' systems to the IDF under a 2007 contract, although Segal declined to confirm the precise number or value of the contract.

By Tony Skinner and Andrew White, Paris

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