

The Royal Netherlands Army buys **Scanjack**

The Netherlands is the first NATO member country to purchase demining equipment from Scanjack AB. One of the key elements for their choice was operator safety.

Mr. Jacques Roosenboom is Project Manager at the Defence Materiel Organisation, DMO. The DMO is procuring all defence materiel for the Netherlands forces. For peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations a tool box for mine clearance for The Royal Netherlands Army, RNLA is urgently needed. The tool box will contain several means for demining and recently a small mine clearing vehicle, the BOZENA 4NL, was put into service with a mineclearing unit in a engineer battalion.

Heavy Mine Clearing Vehicle

"Putting together the tool box is an ongoing process and hopefully it will be completed 2006. We contracted Scanjack in April 2005 for their Scanjack 3500. The choice was also made on results of several international tests on a variety of heavy mine clearance vehicles including the Scanjack," says Mr. Roosenboom.

One of the reason for choosing Scanjack is that it was the only MCV with double flails with >98% clearance security for AP and AT mines, its resistance against 10 kg AT mines and the remote control function.

Mr. Roosenboom explains that the heavy mine clearing vehicle is able to operate in any country where the Netherlands Ministry of Defence is for peacekeeping or peaceenforcing operations.

Tool box Requirements

More products will be added to the tool box like the Swedish mine information systems EOD-IS. The question also remains whether the RNLA is going to need another mine clearance unit in the future.

The contract with Scanjack includes full training and documentation, full logistic support, "spare parts and special tools and full guarantee for one year". Mr. Roosenboom states that this commitment which also includes sending a technician to the site in question is valid for all operations abroad, regardless of country. The Scanjack is planned to be delivered in spring 2006.

Close Cooperation

"We have a close cooperation with FMV and Swedec. We exchange as much information as possible and handle issues the Scanjack machine concerning jointly as well as working together on training, future logistics, etc." says Mr. Roosenboom.

So, what does Jacques Roosenboom think about the cooperation with Scanjack AB?

"We're having very constructive discussions and the people at Scanjack are working hard to fill in all requirements. For example, a requirement for more glass in the operator's cabin with narrow bars so that the operator has a good view all around whereas the system still must fulfill the ballistic protection as required. Also the maximum functional temperature of +49 degrees Celsius (Stanag 2895 c2) needs further developments of the machine.

The RNLA is also thinking of installing the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Information System, EOD-IS, in the Scanjack. The EOD-IS is an integrated geographical, management and information system that supports explosive ordnance disposal, improvised explosive device disposal, demining and counter-mining. The primary aim is to provide information required to identify and disarm any UXO or IED on land and at sea.

Military Aspects

Captain Rens Righarts is within the RNLA responsible for the military aspects of putting the mine clearance tool box into operation. He has experience from monitoring mine clearance actions in Bosnia a few years ago.

"When the tool box is ready next year we'll introduce a special mineclearing unit in the army with dedicated military personnel. We are not executing any humanitarian demining operations unless it has a military purpose like clearing roads for our own units and purpose for example. The Scanjack machine and the other equipment will for example be used to clear areas where we set up a camp."

Captain Righarts explains that safety is quite important and therefore it is essential that the MCV's, like the Scanjack, can be remotely controlled. He says that it also is important to know in advance what kind of UXO's are in the ground so in addition to manual control, he and his men rely heavily on the knowledge of the local villagers who know what the UXO's look like in the local area.



Mr. Jacques Roosenboom is putting together a tool box for mine clearance.

SCANJACK 3500 NL

- In due time a further developed Scanjack 3500 will be put into service in the RNLA. The Scanjack 3500 NL will be the next generation Scanjack heavy demining vehicle.