

## PRESS RELEASE

### **General Dynamics European Land Systems and Krauss-Maffei Wegmann present advanced artillery system at EUROSATORY 2008**

- **DONAR: a jointly developed, new generation, air deployable (<32 tons), autonomous and remotely operated 155mm artillery system**
- **Revolution in artillery: DONAR changes conventional artillery doctrine**
- **Targeted to replace legacy systems in service with modern armies**

**Paris, June 17<sup>th</sup> 2008.** General Dynamics European Land Systems (GDELS) and Krauss-Maffei Wegmann (KMW), Munich, are presenting the first DONAR prototype at EUROSATORY 2008 in Paris. Both companies just recently announced a teaming agreement to jointly develop and market a new generation, air deployable, autonomous and remotely operated 155mm artillery system. The system addresses the growing need for precise indirect fire capabilities that can augment or even replace close-air-support operations previously conducted by costly fixed- or rotary-wing aircraft.

John C. Ulrich, President of General Dynamics European Land Systems and Frank Haun, President and CEO of KMW, said, "Our companies had a history of collaboration on different projects that have allowed us to unite efforts. This cooperation made us think that we can do more together. That is how the DONAR project was born almost a year and half ago. The idea was simple. To combine the best of our technologies and human capacities to design and develop an innovative system that changes the conventional artillery doctrine. The team, formed by the best engineers from both companies, have been able to achieve the solution on record time."

The KMW / GDELS system, called the DONAR, provides capabilities that will change conventional artillery doctrine. DONAR not only reduces crew and logistics requirements, but also provides for autonomous operations. The system is targeted to replace legacy systems (e.g., M109, AS90, K9, etc.) in service with modern armies. The first prototype displayed at EUROSATORY in Paris, France, has already undergone rigorous mobility and fire trials at the test facility of the German procurement agency BWB (Bundesamt für Wehrtechnik und Beschaffung).

The DONAR is a joint European technology program of GDELS and KMW that utilizes specific resources and shared skills between the companies, creating true value for

European and international defence forces. The joint effort also follows the growing European trend towards enhanced multinational industry cooperation in the land system sector.

**Unique system features: one solution**

DONAR possesses multiple features that are unique to the worldwide artillery community.

**Air transportability** - the total systems weights less than 31 metric tons, allowing it to be transported in the future European Transport Aircraft A400M or similar aircraft with payload capacities in this class.

**Autonomous operation** - The completely remotely operated artillery module is equipped with a 155mm (52 cal.) cannon, giving it the advanced fire power of an PzH2000. DONAR's maximum range amounts to more than 56 kilometers (vlap). Its on-board ammunition supply includes 30 fuzeed 155 mm shells and a corresponding number of charge modules. Despite a marked reduction in weight and size, the gun module is operational without any additional stabilization and provides a 360-degree azimuth range. In addition, the autonomous system character of DONAR allows a consistent step towards networked, centralised command and control (network centric warfare).

**High mobility & survivability** - The system possesses the high mobility of an Infantry Fighting Vehicle, derived from an adapted ASCOD 2 version for artillery applications. Separated from the automatic gun module, a crew of only two soldiers (driver and commander) operate the system from a highly protected driver cabin, increasing survivability and allowing for extremely rapid fire and movement manoevers. The system's survivability is enhanced by both its low silhouette and from the cabin's protection against ballistic impact and shell fragments from artillery and mortar ammunition – the cabin meets a very high NATO protection standard.

**About General Dynamics**

General Dynamics European Land Systems, head quarter in Vienna (Austria) is a business unit of General Dynamics Corporation (NYSE: GD), and conducts its business through four European operating sites located in Spain, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. With more than 3,250 highly skilled technical employees, GD ELS companies design, manufacture and deliver to global customers land systems, including wheeled, tracked, and amphibious vehicles, armaments and munitions.

General Dynamics, headquartered in Falls Church, Va., employs approximately 84,000 people worldwide and reported 2007 revenues of \$27.2 billion. More information about the company is available online at [www.generaldynamics.com](http://www.generaldynamics.com).

## **About KMW**

### **About Krauss-Maffei Wegmann**

Krauss-Maffei Wegmann GmbH & Co. KG is Europe's market leader for armoured wheeled and tracked vehicles. At sites in Germany, Greece, the Netherlands and the United States 2.800 employees develop, produce and support a product portfolio that ranges from airtransportable and highly protected wheeled vehicles (MUNGO, DINGO, FENNEK und BOXER\*), to reconnaissance, air defense and artillery systems (FENNEK, GEPARD, LeFlaSys\*, PzH 2000 and AGM) all the way to main battle tanks (LEOPARD 1 and 2), infantry fighting vehicles (PUMA\*) and bridge layers (LEGUAN und PSB2). Furthermore KMW possesses a broad system competence in the field of civil and military simulation, command and control applications and fully automatic remote controlled gun mounts. The armed forces of more than 30 nations worldwide rely on operational systems supplied by KMW.

\*Joint project with national and international partners

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