

£180m Army vehicle contract protects 700 Glasgow jobs

Press release

A £180 million contract to deliver cutting edge threat detection technology for the British Army's new Boxer vehicles will support hundreds of jobs in Scotland, it is announced today.



The Remote Weapons Stations will deliver cutting-edge technology for the Army's Boxer vehicles. MOD Crown Copyright

The 10-year Remote Weapons Stations (RWS) contract will protect over 700 jobs at Thales UK's Glasgow site while supporting 30 apprenticeships.

It uses a 360degree high definition long range cameras attached to the outside of the vehicle to scan for enemy threats, even when Boxer is moving at speed. The RWS then alerts soldiers inside the armoured Boxer through a digital display – so they can keep a permanent watch outside while remaining safely inside the vehicle.

The system also offers key defensive capabilities, including a multi-barrel smoke grenade launcher, thermal imaging, and infra-red pointers.

Defence last year secured a substantial settlement of more than £24 billion over four years to modernise the Armed Forces to meet the threats of the future and support British across the Union.

Minister for Scotland, Iain Stewart said:

We look forward to working with Thales UK on the delivery of these Remote Weapons Stations, knowing this contract will not only contribute to the safety of British military personnel on the front line, but also support industry growth here in Scotland.

Protecting hundreds of jobs and supporting 30 apprenticeships, this £180 million UK Government investment further demonstrates our commitment to supporting the defence sector in Scotland and underscores the many opportunities available within the United Kingdom economy.

Minister of State for Defence, Baroness Goldie said:

This £180m contract with Thales UK will deliver pioneering surveillance and protection for our front line soldiers and our new Boxer fleet. We depend on skills and technology from across the United Kingdom and this order will secure 700 Scottish jobs.

Our troops face a myriad of new and emerging threats so it is imperative we invest in critical detect and destroy technology such as this.

Following the sonar contract for Dreadnought submarines last year, this is Thales UK's second multi-million-pound contract within 12 months, further showcasing the government's commitment to levelling-up across the UK.

DE&S Director Land Equipment, Major General Darren Crook said:

This is another significant step forward for Boxer and I am delighted to see the different threads of the programme coming together. This is a military capability of the future to be proud of.

The UK re-joined the Boxer programme in 2018 and has committed £2.8 billion to deliver over 500 vehicles to the British Army. The first vehicles are scheduled to be ready for service in 2023.

Steven Lockley, Managing Director of Thales in the UK's vehicle integration business in Glasgow, said:

Thales' sub-contract is a great step forward after months of hard work. Working with our strategic partners, Thales is bringing new skills and technologies into the programme, our facilities in Scotland and the UK supply chain.