SURFACE-TO-AIR

Tetraedr trials a new Osa-1T chassis

BY MIROSLAV GYÜRÖSI

The Belarus design and production company Tetraedr has begun internal company trials of a version of the Osa-1T (SA-8 'Gecko') modernised self-propelled air-defence missile system installed on a new MZKT-69222 wheeled chassis developed by the Minsk-based MZKT (Minsky Zavod Kolyosnikh Tyagacsey).

The system was originally marketed on the BAZ-5937 wheeled chassis and its missile system has not been changed as a result of the move to the newer design.

A Tetraedr company representative told *Jane's* that it planned to deliver to an unidentified customer the last four Osa-1T combat vehicles (one fire battery) based on original chassis in August 2009. It will then only produce the system on the new MZKT-69222 chassis. The company expects to deliver the first fire battery of four combat vehicles on the new chassis in January 2010.

The new MZKT-69222 chassis is based on the MZKT-6922 chassis used for the first time in the 9A331MK wheeled combat vehicle of the improved Tor-M2 (SA-15 'Gauntlet') missile system. Although there is a close resemblance between the two,the front section has a slightly changed shape, now having three front windows. The earlier MZKT-6922 used a gas turbine-driven auxiliary power unit (APU) but the new version uses a small diesel engine to power the APU. In the driver's position, conventional mechanical instruments have replaced the flat-panel displays.

The crew section is divided into a two-man control section in the front of the chassis, with seats for driver and commander; and a four-man operator section in mid-section. The location of the consoles and working positions of the four operators are identical to those of the original BAZ-5937 chassis. In Tor-M2, the ready-to-fire missiles occupy some space within the chassis but are externally mounted on the Osa-1T. The extra space helps create more comfortable working conditions for the crew.

The latest version of Tetraedr's Osa-1T is based on the MZKT-69222 wheeled chassis.
Miroslav Gyürösi: 1331395

Operators' positions within the mid-section of the MZKT-69222.
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The MZKT-69222 is powered by a YaMZ-7513.10-04 eight-cylinder turbocharged diesel engine with maximum power of 309 kW and a gearbox with five forward speeds and one reverse speed. The wheels have independent suspension with hydropneumatic shock absorbers.

Fully equipped and with the crew on board, the MZKT-69222 version of the Osa-1T weighs approximately 30,000 kg. In this condition it has a maximum road speed of at least 80 km/h and a road range with full tanks of at least 1,000 km. ●

AIR-TO-SURFACE

US Navy studies variable-yield bomb

On 13 July the US Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) released a broad agency announcement to solicit proposals for the Selectable Output Weapons (SOW) Future Naval Capability (FNC) programme, writes *Doug Richardson*.

This five-year project is intended to demonstrate to a technology readiness level (TRL) of TRL6 a warhead whose explosive output or kill mechanism can be selected from the cockpit of the launch aircraft. The technology must be suitable for use in a bomb having the same aerodynamic shape and mass properties as the existing BLU-111.

Under Phase I of the programme, the chosen contractor will focus on analyses and testing to select or verify technologies and configurations able to meet what NAWCWD described as "a variety of potentially competing operational requirements".

Phase II is expected to work on maturing the technologies of the various subsystems required to achieve selectable output and to mitigate the risk associated with transitioning the technology into a design having the same aerodynamic shape, mass properties and interfaces as the BLU-111. Under Phase III, these subsystems would be integrated into a 500 lb-class bomb whose explosive power can be selected by the pilot from the cockpit. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

For a description of some of the techniques able to create a variable yield, see 'A weapon for all occasions? Dial-a-yield concepts hold out promise of flexibility' by Neil Gibson, idr.janes.com, 04.06.08.