

successful. Therefore, international cooperation usually occurs in only one direction, with foreign companies entering the Polish market and establishing trade relations. Sometimes, as in the case of PZL Swidnik and PZL Mielec, they buy Polish plants and then move some of their production there. Foreign companies provide capital and new technologies, whilst Poland can offer experienced workers, including engineers, and low costs.

ROSOMAK: Epitome of Success

Without a doubt, one of the greatest successes of the Polish arms industry in recent years, and proof that Poland can successfully adopt foreign technology - even if it means making mistakes in the first phase -, is the ROSOMAK wheeled armoured vehicle. The first contract for 2004-14 was for 690 vehicles, which was later reduced to 570. In 2013 a second contract for 307 was signed. Today, the vehicle is a flagship product of the Polish defence industry. Polish engineers have made hundreds of amendments and a number of specialised versions, e.g., works are being carried out on a remote-controlled turret with Rafael's SPIKE-LR anti-tank guided missile (ATGW); the first prototype ready in early 2015.

"The ROSOMAK has become a driving force for the whole national defence industry," Polish defence analyst Norbert Baczyk claimed. "It gave jobs not only to a factory in Siemianowice Slaskie, but also to hundreds of subcontractors. Development of special versions allows other companies, such as HSW and WB Electronics, to rise."

With the proper support, the ROSOMAK can become an export hit. New agreements allow WZM to offer this vehicle to foreign customers. The vehicle has proven its worth and value in Chad and Afghanistan.

In terms of land systems, the Polish industry still relies mainly on heavy products. For example, Poland has successfully created the KRAB and KRYL 155mm SPHs as replacements for the 2S1 GVOZDIKA and 152mm DANA. Both products are an example of common sense: On the one hand Polish companies utilise their own potential, but on the other hand, when it is impossible, they rely on foreign technologies, this being the case with the ATMOS 2000 from Elbit Systems. It is also worth mentioning the LANGUSTA and HOMAR self-propelled multiple rocket launchers.

Poland hopes that in the near future it will return to the armoury business, which reduced in size from 1989 and currently is almost only reduced to repairs and minor upgrade services. Poland has approximately 900 tanks (LEOPARD 2A4s, PT-91s, T-72s) and around a thousand BMP-1s.



△ Etronika is middle-size company with 100% polish private funds with modern research, development, technological and production departments.

The company's main target is to response as quick as possible to growing demand for optoelectronic equipment needed for stabilisation missions or to protect homeland. Produced equipment uses latest available technology and is ready for production.

Shown: ETRONIKA UCT-1 on the sniper rifle (Photo: Etronika)

Jewel in the Polish Crown Series

Industrial Research Institute for Automation and Measurements PIAP



Prof. Extraordinarius PhD Eng. Piotr Szynkarczyk,
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Challenge that PIAP is facing on the global market is to reach all potential customers with the message that we can provide high-tech solutions and products. Poland is not widely known as this kind of a producer. Challenge of a special kind for us is to deal with dual-use equipment and also weapons and ammunitions international trading restrictions. Polish law is probably one of the most restrictive in the world, which causes troubles all the time.

On the other side, if we go over all problems and reach with right information to the customer, we can easily show the high quality and wide functionality of our services and products.

The overall conclusion is that we have to deal with some kind of above mentioned obstacles, but as we go over them, we very often find customers who are happy with our product and (what is probably the most important) who come back to us with new orders.

The Ukrainian crisis and fear of Russian aggression increase the need for investment in this sector. So far the 2A4s have been sent for modernisation to 2PL standard. With this project Poland demonstrates that its new approach – so called "Polonisation" – is vital, i.e. modernisation made entirely abroad by foreign companies is out of question.

One of the most important projects, first on the domestic market and then internationally, is the replacement of the BMP-1s and T-72s by a new, universal, modular tracked platform. By 2022, Poland wants to have spent approximately €2 billion on such a project. Some years ago, Polish companies proposed a deep modernisation of BMP-1s under the "Puma" project: This also includes a new armoured direct support vehicle with a 120mm gun, weighing up to 35 tons. The demonstrator will be ready in three years. The Polish defence industry is to play a leading role in three years. The Polish defence industry is to play a leading role in three years. The Polish defence industry is to play a leading role in three years. In might be OBRUM from Gliwice, who for many years have been designing support vehicles and light tracked platforms. Initially, it was under the "Anders" programme. Later in cooperation with BAE Systems, it created a demonstrator known as the PL-01 Concept on the chassis of the CV-90.



PT-72U for urban operations ▷ offered by Bumar. (Photo: Robert Czulda)