



CIO UNVEILS CENTAURO II 105 MM VIDEOS AND EXHIBITS PRODUCTION CENTAURO II 120 MM

By VALERIO DEL GRANDE

When the Centauro II, the 8x8 mobile gun system developed by CIO, the consortium between Iveco DV and Oto Melara, now IDV and Leonardo, was unveiled it was abundantly clear that the 120 mm adopted by the Italian Army was one of the two armament solutions proposed. The HIT-FACT MkII can be fitted either with the 105/52 mm rifled or the 120/45 mm smoothbore low recoil force gun. Until now no images of the 105 version had been made available, while customers in some geo-

graphic areas have shown an interest for the smaller calibre gun. CIO switched therefore the gun on one of the company vehicles; the operation is simple, removing the front shield, removing trunnion mounts, removing the gun assembly, installing the new gun, reinstalling trunnion mounts, and installing the new shield. Of course, new data must be loaded into the Fire Control System. As for the ammunition autoloader, a diameter reduction kit is installed in the canisters, the same being true for spare



HALL
6
STAND
B 176

ammunition magazines. The 105/52 mm gun produced by Leonardo is fully equivalent to the L7; it has however a higher safety coefficient, thanks to the use of advanced materiel. The muzzle brake is of the pepperbox type, like that of the 120 mm gun but with an added baffle.

The Centauro II 105 underwent a full series of firing tests in early 2024 at the Ita-

lian Army Nettuno test range to physically demonstrate the availability of this version.

At Eurosatory CIO is exhibiting the Centauro II 120; for the first time the vehicle on show is one of the latest serial production items, fitted with the programming system for airburst ammunition. ■

