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LAAD 2023: Brazilian Centauro II Programme Update

First Two Vehicles Due This Year

At LAAD 2023 in Rio de Janeiro the commander of the Brazilian Army, Gen Tomás Miguel Miné Ribeiro Paiva, received a model of the armoured cavalry combat vehicle (VBC Cav) 8X8 Centauro II, jointly presented by Giovanni Luisi, VP of the **CIO consortium** (Iveco-OTO Melara), Humberto Spinetti, President of **IDV Latin America**, and Francesco Moliterni, President of **Leonardo do Brasil**.

The announcement of the selection of the Centauro II for the VBC Cav 8X8 requirement was made last November. The vehicle has been referred to as “a reference platform in the wheeled AFV sector,” featuring a third-generation Leonardo HITFACT MkII turret, which mounts a 120mm/45 calibre cannon. The selection recognised several operational and logistical advantages over the competing candidates, including being the only vehicle to have been specifically designed as a combat vehicle from inception – a key demand from the Brazilian Army. It was also the only candidate featuring a 120mm main armament and benefiting from an existing comprehensive manufacturing and support infrastructure, in the form of IDV’s Sete Lagoas facility. Furthermore, the extensive commonality of components with the Guarani vehicle offers significant operational and logistical advantages.

Brazil will become the reference for the model in South America, so its possible acquisition by other countries of the region may have spin-off benefits for Brazilian industrial participation in the supply of components and services, and in the promotion of the 6X6 Guarani.

Santiago Rivas reporting from LAAD 2023 for MON

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