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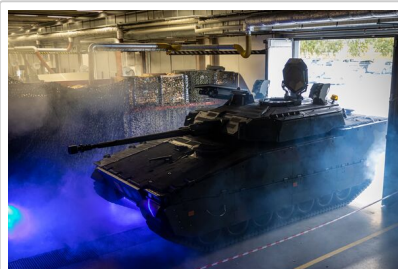
Future Armoured Vehicles Survivability 2022: Production of Dutch CV90s with new turret to begin in December

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Production of Dutch CV90 infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) with a new turret will begin in December, it was revealed at SAE Media Group's Future Armoured Vehicles Survivability 2022 active protection system (APS) Focus Day held in London on 15 November. Tarkan Turkan, CV90 platform director at BAE Systems Hägglunds (BSH), said at the event that production would be launched in parallel with trials of the IFV.



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The first of four upgraded Dutch CV90s with a redesigned turret left the BSH plant in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden, on 26 September. (Dutch MoD)

The first-of-type (FOT) upgraded Dutch CV90 IFV left the BSH plant in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden, on 26 September. Turkan said another FOT vehicle had been built since and that two more were under construction. Delivery of the first FOT vehicle was followed by the launch of trials, leading up to the test readiness review and ending with a final design review in December 2023.

The first delivery of the upgraded CV9035NL is scheduled for January 2024, according to Turkan. Production and the project itself are to be completed in 2026.

Turkan reported further qualification of the CV9035NL's Iron Fist APS, which is being combined with a laser warning system. He added that the Royal Netherlands Army was learning and training with the IFV's 35 mm kinetic energy time fuze round.

Turkan identified among the challenges the late start of training, with a shortage of CV90s for units as they are upgraded

so they can be delivered on time. Production is beginning at a rate of one year per vehicle, ramping up to seven months, according to Turkan.

The mid-life update (MLU) of the IFV's service life to 2039 is focused on the turret, which has been completely redesigned, retaining a lower signature while at the same time aimed at improving the ergonomics and providing more space for the crew. The Dutch CV90 MLU includes the installation of a Spike anti-tank guided missile launcher and the Iron Fist APS, among other capabilities. Under the MLU, the IFV's 35 mm gun main armament has been moved forward

by 50 cm, improving ergonomics by seating the crew next to each other rather than being separated by the gun. In addition to giving the crew more room to move in the turret, this means the vehicle can carry more directly available rounds for the main gun, also providing greater flexibility in the mix of armoured piercing and airburst munitions the vehicle can carry.

An Electro-Optic Panoramic Sight (EOPS) mast has been mounted on the turret and a NATO-standard Generic Vehicle Architecture (NGVA) fourth-generation digital core has been installed, allowing future changes to the vehicle and meaning the vehicle's IT systems are now NGVA-compatible, video streams are digitised, and there is a new set of vetronics.

Turkan expected Sweden to base its new CV90s on the same turret as the Dutch.

Analysis
After the MLU, the Netherlands will have the most advanced version of the CV90 in service, which is why not only Sweden, but also new customers like Slovakia and the Czech Republic can be expected to have IFVs with a turret based on the Dutch one, with adaptations for national requirements. However, with BSH ramping up production for the Netherlands, Prague and Bratislava may have to wait longer for their CV90 MkIVs, especially since their co-ordinated negotiations with Stockholm on the procurement have not been finalised.