

Press release

Eurosatory 2022: Nexter Arrowtech presents the new generation SHARD APFSDS with unrivalled performance

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Nexter Arrowtech has developed the 120mm SHARD armour-piercing discarding-sabot fin-stabilized (APFSDS) in order to give main battle tanks the means to face the latest generation of armoured threats. This ammunition, presented on the Nexter stand at Eurosatory 2022, can be fired by all armoured vehicles equipped with NATO-standard 120mm smoothbore guns, of all calibres and generations.

SHARD, an acronym for "Solution for Hardened ARmour Defeat", is the most powerful tungsten alloy APFSDS currently available. Its penetration capabilities are almost 20% higher than those of commercially available ammunitions. It combines an unmatched level of penetration against metal armour and complex targets with a very good level of dispersion. Its innovative architecture, combining an extended penetrator, an optimised sabot and a low-erosive propellant powder, enables it to generate superior energy while significantly reducing the pressure level, thus lessening significantly the tube wear. SHARD, developed in an agile mode, has been designed to allow incremental upgrades in order to adapt to future threats, including the incorporation of new penetrator technology and higher energy powders. Thus, in a short time, the terminal ballistic performance of the ammunition can be increased by more than 20%.

The development of SHARD was finalised at the end of 2021 and its qualification will be completed by the end of 2022. Several firing campaigns have been successfully conducted since the beginning of the year, on 52-calibre weapons (on Leclerc tanks) and 44-calibre weapons (on Leopard 2 and M1 Abrams). These dynamic tests have confirmed the performance levels achieved during the development tests.

"At the time of the last Eurosatory show held in 2018, SHARD was an embryonic project: we were then aiming for both a rapid market launch and very high performance by relying on our technical mastery of high elongation penetrators. Four years later after numerous shootings, SHARD has become a reality. We are very proud to be able to offer this product to our customers around the world," explains Dominique Guillet, Director of Nexter Arrowtech.

SHARD is both the latest addition to Nexter Arrowtech's range of arrow ammunition, which extends from medium (25x137mm, 30x165mm, 30x173mm) to large calibre (90mm, 105mm, 120mm), and a milestone in the development of very high-performance ammunition for future land combat systems, including the MGCS. With the expertise acquired in this field, Nexter is preparing the introduction of the ASCALON weapon system and associated compact ammunition to revolutionise land armament.

About Nexter

Nexter, the leading French land defense company and one of the main European players in the ammunition sector is part of the KNDS Group. The scope of its business includes as well the supply of weapon systems and ammunition for air and naval forces. The group continues to apply its international development policy with several order intakes in 2021 intended for the export market. In France, Nexter is fully committed to meeting the objectives of the SCORPION program, through the upgrade of the Leclerc tank and the development and production of the VBMR GRIFFON and EBRC JAGUAR vehicles within the temporary business venture between Nexter, Thales and Arquus, as well as the Lightweight VBMR SERVVAL (with Texelis). The group's range of products also includes TITUS® and VBCI armored vehicles, CAESAR® and 105LG1 artillery systems, smart ammunition (BONUS®, KATANA®), robots and many equipment. Nexter's 2021 turnover amounted to €1,3 billion, including 30% devoted to customer services, from training to fleet management to support and revaluation.

More information on www.nexter-group.fr.

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