

Custom frontline armour

South Africa-based **Integrated Convoy Protection** designs and produces armoured personnel carriers for organisations as diverse as the US Special Forces and the Royal Thai Army. Managing director Nadine Rorich discusses the flexibility of its flagship REVA brand and the challenge of providing customised vehicles for diverse areas of conflict.



REVA armoured personnel carriers are double-skinned and possess a V-shaped hull, offering occupants superb protection from IEDs.

What are Integrated Convoy Protection's (ICP's) main geographical markets?

Nadine Rorich: Our REVA [reliable, effective, versatile and affordable] armoured personnel carriers are operational in the Middle East and Asia, predominantly Iraq, Yemen and Thailand. REVAs are also deployed by the African Union in Somalia and by the South African Government.

What training does ICP provide for clients who choose the REVA brand?

Tactical and technical training customised to the local environment and vehicle configuration is given to all users. Training packages based on internationally accepted practices are available for crew members, and include outcomes related to: operation and maintenance; deployment procedures; the vehicle's tactical applications; immediate action drills; recovery; offensive and defensive driving; and weapons. The training curriculum can be customised to suit the client's requirements and doctrine. Operator and technical train-the-trainer packages are also available for users wishing to rapidly integrate REVA armoured personnel carriers into existing organisations.

What does ICP consider to be the most important factors when developing client relationships?

The company strives to form a unique partnership with each client. A thorough evaluation of the client's needs, including a strategic assessment of specific locations and terrains, enables the company to perform an integrated risk analysis and present them with innovative and cost-effective solutions. It is the company's belief that a sale does not signal the end of a partnership, which is why capability integration forms a critical phase of the client relationship.

How are your R&D activities organised?

Our design and engineering team continuously evaluates feedback from clients and users in order to make improvements and offer additions tailored to their specific needs. These options may include: ballistic glass-encased cupolas; obstacle clearing and breaching devices; intercom systems between the driver, co-driver, gunners and speaker crew; PA systems with siren and strobe lights; manually controlled turrets and remote devices; and navigation, observation, and command and control systems.

How have you adapted the REVA range to defend against battlefield threats?

All REVAs are designed to be upgraded by adding additional armour without influencing the baseline performance and characteristics of the vehicle.

IEDs, explosively formed projectiles, landmines, suicide attacks and sniper fire are all commonplace in theatres of war in the 21st century. REVA armoured personnel carriers take all these threats in their stride; their solid double-skinned armouring and V-shaped hull design offer superb protection. All systems and procedures are fully aligned with internationally recognised quality-management philosophies, demonstrating a total commitment to rendering a superior risk-management and loss-prevention service. REVA vehicles are also highly versatile, and have been customised to a variety of military specifications.

What are the most significant issues when designing and producing personnel carriers? How do you plan to meet these challenges?

Client requirements are primarily determined by the specific threats in their area of operation, therefore the design and development of personnel carriers is based on specific needs. Our design and engineering team are all former special forces servicemen who are in close contact with past colleagues who are active in areas of conflict around the world. Close interaction with these soldiers, who operate in hostile urban and rural terrain, together with first-hand experience of such situations and the protection required, has resulted in a versatile vehicle that can be custom-designed for the client. ■

Further information

Integrated Convoy Protection
www.revaarmoredvehicles.com

