

# Mettle of Metal



*Land 400 Phase 3 Trial (Australian MoD)*

**F**rankly, now you might be getting an interesting insight on Russian armoured operations in Ukraine. The unarguably dismissal performance in the ongoing conflict, all those anti-tank weapons used against Russian thrust, the tactics used by the Ukrainian resistance to stop Russian advancement and the questions regarding Russian quality - wouldn't they make an interesting subject? But the Editor said, "Hold on! The glasses are untidy, let the fog of war be cleared of all falsehood, never ever rush in along with the crowd making mistakes". So holding that review for the future and instead here's a piece on the best infantry fighting vehicles around the world you must know about! Honesty, this was a pure joy to work on and hopefully you will feel the same while going through it.

## **AS21 Redback**

It's a great feeling to start the list of best with an Asian product which is competing against Western counterparts around the world. Redback is a new generation combat platform developed by Hanwha Defence of South Korea. First unveiled at ADEX 2019,

since then the advanced features has sent both the experts and enthusiast alike into a tizzy. A high mobile platform provides superior protection against ballistic attack, mines/IED as well as protection against the chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats. With the help of add-on armour, the protection level can be enhanced to STANAG Level 6. In Australia this opportunity is provided by Plasan. Redback can be integrated with Elbit COPAS or EOS ICSS. IronVision provides a 360° situational awareness. Hanwha is now offering a new Redback turret for AS21 demonstrated in Australia. It is equipped with Mk 44S 30/40 mm auto-cannon, Spike LR2 ATGM (anti-tank

guided missile), and 7.62 mm EOS R400S-Mk2 RCWS (remote controlled weapon system). Iron Fist APS (active protection system) provides protection against HEAT (high explosive anti-tank) rounds as found in RPG (rocket propelled grenade) weapons as well as in ATGM. According to reports, it can be offered with EOS T2000 turret as well. Redback is powered by MTU MT 881 engine with an output of 1090 hp. Doosan Mottrol in-arm equips the hydropneumatic suspension. Soucy Defense provides the composite rubber track which helps in smoother and quieter mobility. In fact most of all the other platforms mentioned in the article will use the same kind of add-ons if not equipped with them already.



*AS21 Redback (Image: Hanwha Defense)*