



Product information for the specialized press

**Carl Zeiss
Optronics GmbH**

Carl Zeiss Gruppe

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The Eyes of the Puma Come from Carl Zeiss

Production release: traditional German company starts production of optics for new armored vehicle for German Army

In the near future, German soldiers will be able to maintain an overview and recognize approaching enemies or irregular forces even faster, even better and even more accurately. Carl Zeiss Optronics, a company steeped in tradition, is fully equipping the Puma armored vehicle with extremely powerful, state-of-the-art optics and optronics. With the production release, the defense contractor is starting production of the commander's periscope and the weapons system optronics for the new armored vehicle for the German Army. The first integration-ready optical and optronic systems will be delivered during the second quarter of 2010.

Based in Oberkochen, Germany, the company will equip all of the more than 400 Pumas for the army with an intelligent combination of optics and optronics, thus clearly increasing the ability of German forces to provide protection and reconnaissance while also enhancing its effectiveness. In addition to state-of-the-art thermal imagers, the Puma is armed with daylight cameras and a direct optical channel for the vehicle commander. The entire crew can observe from the highly protected glacis plate – the turret is unmanned.

All visual systems are designed to meet the everyday needs of the military and are precisely stabilized with specially developed platforms from Carl Zeiss to ensure that the crew never loses sight of the target even while driving over rough terrain. Over the past five years, a twenty-man team developed one of the most advanced and powerful optical and optronic systems of its kind for the Puma. Around 30 specialists are now assembling the systems in Oberkochen and preparing them for installation. This is the largest single order in the recent history of the company.

Headquartered in Oberkochen, Germany, Carl Zeiss Optronics GmbH is a member of the Carl Zeiss Group. It is a leading manufacturer of advanced optronic, optical and precision-engineered products for military and civilian applications. These include border surveillance and reconnaissance on land, at sea and from the air. A total of 770 employees work at the Oberkochen and Wetzlar sites and at the subsidiary Carl Zeiss Optronics (Pty.) Ltd. in Irene (South Africa).

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