

First prototype M113MB1 APC ready for mobility tests

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Israel Military Industries (IMI) has completed a prototype of the first M113MB1 upgraded armored personnel carrier (APC) for the Brazilian Navy (Marinha do Brasil).

Development took place at the main depot of the Brazilian Marine Corps (Corpo de Fuzileiros Navais - CFN) in Rio de Janeiro. A round of mobility trials for the vehicle is scheduled to begin in May, prior to its delivery to the CFN.

The CFN's modernization project will see 30 M113 series vehicles upgraded locally to the M113MB1 automotive standard, including: 24 M113A1 troop carriers; one XM806E1 recovery vehicle; one M113A1G repair vehicle; two M577A1 command post vehicles; and two M125A1 mortar carriers. The last upgraded vehicle is scheduled to be delivered by December 2013.

Major improvements include the installation of a Caterpillar C7 diesel engine, an Allison Transmission 3200SP gearbox, a Platt MR555 Mod 2 weapon station, new Diehl Remscheid tracks, a Marvin Land Systems climate control system, a new braking system, reinforcement of the suspension with shock absorbers added to four of the wheel stations and two external fuel tanks.

Consideration is also being given to fitting the vehicles with an internal armor suite and a day/night camera for the driver. Jane's understands that the communication suite is also to be replaced eventually.

The contract to upgrade the fleet was placed in November 2008 through the London-based Brazilian Naval Commission in Europe (Comissao Naval Brasileira na Europa).

IMI was selected over BAE Systems and Flensburger Fahrzeugbau. The first vehicle has been upgraded by IMI while the CFN workshop gained experience; the second vehicle is to be upgraded by CFN with management help from IMI; and the remaining vehicles are to be fully upgraded by the CFN workshop.

The M113MB1 weighs about 15 tones, has a top speed of 75 km/h and a range of up to 555 km.

Additionally, IMI has been awarded a contract to refurbish 208 M113B vehicles in Brazil for the Brazilian Army.



A Brazilian M113MB1. (*Victor M S Barreira*).