

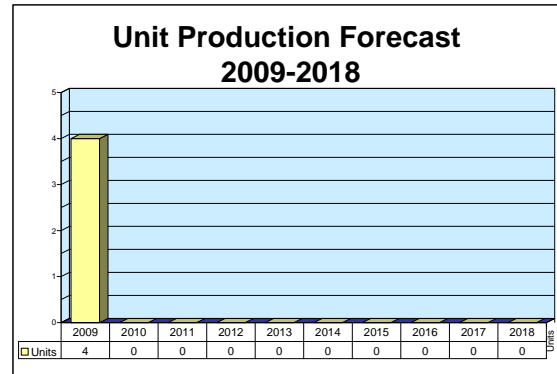
ARCHIVED REPORT

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Alligator

Outlook

- Low-rate serial production for domestic Slovak Republic procurement may be in its final year
- Contractor is promoting Alligator on the international market, albeit with limited prospects for export sales
- Forecast reflects the remaining LRIP for a Slovak Republic procurement objective of about 130 vehicles



Orientation

Description. A wheeled armored vehicle.

Sponsor. The prime contractor sponsors the development of the Alligator as a private venture.

Licensees. None

Status. Development through low-rate initial production.

Total Produced. Through 2008, we estimate the prime contractor produced three Alligator developmental prototypes and 125 production vehicles.

Application. A light wheeled armored vehicle, optimized for the scout and reconnaissance vehicle role.

Price Range. In 2009 U.S. dollars, the basic Alligator reportedly maintains a unit price of \$681,995. However, open-source reporting suggests that various cost overruns have been forcing the Slovak Republic to pay about \$800,000 per vehicle.

Contractors

Prime

Kerametal Company AS	http://www.kerametal.sk , Jasikova 2, Bratislava, 82605 Slovakia, Tel: + 421 2 48 291 111, Fax: + 421 2 48 291 569, Email: kerametal@kerametal.sk , Prime
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Subcontractor

Atlas Elektronik GmbH	http://www.atlas-elektronik.com , Sebaldsbrücker Heerstrasse 235, Bremen, 28309 Germany, Tel: + 49 421 457 02, Fax: + 49 421 457 3699, Email: marketing@atlas.de (Enhanced Alligator Electronic Components)
Deutz AG	http://www.deutz.com , Ottostrasse 1, Koln-Porz (Eil), 51149 Germany, Tel: + 49 221 822 0, Fax: + 49 221 822 3525, Email: info@deutz.com (BF6 1013 Diesel

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	Engine)
MOWAG GmbH	http://www.mowag.ch , Unterseestrasse 65, Kreuzlingen, 8280 Switzerland, Tel: + 41 71 677 55 00, Fax: + 41 71 672 28 86, Email: marketing@mowag.ch (MBK2 Turret)
Michelin	http://www.michelin.com , Places Des Carmes Dechaux, Clermont-Ferrand, 63040 Cedex 9, France, Fax: + 33 1 45 66 15 53 (11.00x16 Run-Flat Tires)
Renk AG	http://www.renk.newsfactory.de , Gogginger Strasse 73, Augsburg, 86159 Germany, Tel: + 49 0821 57 00 0, Fax: + 49 0821 57 00 460, Email: info@renk.biz (Model 606 Automatic Gearbox)
Rheinmetall Defence	http://www.rheinmetall-defence.com , Rheinmetall Allee 1, Düsseldorf, 40476 Germany, Tel: + 49 211 473 01, Fax: + 49 211 473 4727, Email: info@rheinmetall-defence.com (Enhanced Alligator Automotive and Ordnance Components)

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Contractors are invited to submit updated information to Editor, International Contractors, Forecast International, 22 Commerce Road, Newtown, CT 06470, USA; rich.pettibone@forecast1.com

Technical Data

Crew. Two: commander and driver, plus four infantrymen.

Configuration. 4x4

Armor. Welded steel alloy armor, providing protection against 7.62mm armor-piercing projectiles and ballistic fragments. The armor suite may include additional ceramic plates. The floor is double thickness for added protection against land mines.

Dimensions. The following data reflect the production-standard Alligator vehicle. Height is to the top of the hull; the fuel capacity is estimated.

	<u>SI Units</u>	<u>U.S. Units</u>
Length	4.4 m	14.43 ft
Width	2.22 m	7.28 ft
Height	1.95 m	6.39 ft
Combat weight	6.7 tonnes	7.38 tons
Fuel capacity	160 l	45.55 gal

Performance. The speed and range data reflect use on a paved road.

	<u>SI Units</u>	<u>U.S. Units</u>
Maximum speed	120 kmph	74.50 mph
Maximum range	600 km	372.60 stat mi
Step	40 cm	1.31 ft
Trench	80 cm	2.62 ft
Slope	40%	40%
Gradient	60%	60%
Fording	60 cm	1.97 ft

Engine. Deutz BF6 1013 air-cooled diesel engine. This powerplant generates 140.94 kilowatts (189 hp), with a power-to-weight ratio of 21.0 kilowatts per tonne (25.61 hp/ton). The 24-volt electrical system features two 24 volt/180-ampere-hour batteries.

The vehicle employs its wheels for water propulsion.

Gearbox. Renk model 606 automatic gearbox, with one reverse and six forward gear ratios.

Suspension and Running Gear. Conventional independently sprung suspension with hydraulic shock

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dampers on each wheel. The vehicle features hydraulic power-assisted steering and mounts Michelin 11.00 R 16 XL run-flat tires.

Armament. One pintle-mounted 12.7x99mm (.50 caliber) M2HB machine gun on the roof. As an

option, the vehicle can mount a 7.62mm machine gun in place of the M2HB. The vehicle can also mount three electrically operated smoke grenade launchers on each side of the rear hull.

Variants/Upgrades

Variants. A number of Alligator variants are reportedly in different stages of development. An amphibious version is available; a 6x6 version of the Alligator is also in initial development.

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Alligator	Basic 4x4 LAV.
Enhanced Alligator	Collaboration between Kerametal, Rheinmetall Defence, and Atlas Elektronik. Supports a variety of turrets, weapons, and command/observation systems.
Alligator PCM/PSP	Internal security vehicle. Features an elevated roof line, firing ports with vision blocks, appliqué armor, and seating for six. The precise designation of this variant remains unclear.
Alligator ORP	Observation and reconnaissance post variant. Features MOWAG MBK2 turret, mounting a 7.62mm machine gun, and the forward observation and reconnaissance thermal-imaging system.
Alligator MCP	Armored command post variant. Features communications equipment and a two-man workspace in the vehicle rear.

Modernization and Retrofit Overview. Not applicable at this time. Modernization and retrofit potential may develop in the long term of the forecast period.



Alligator Patrol Vehicle

Alligator

Source: Kerametal Company AS

Program Review

Background. In 1993, the Kerametal Company began privately developing a new light scout and reconnaissance vehicle, in anticipation of Slovak Republic requirements for vehicles to replace its obsolete equipment inherited from the former Czechoslovakia.

Developed for Slovak Army

Under the auspices of Kerametal, the Transmisie Company completed the first prototype of the new vehicle, called Alligator, in 1996; two additional prototypes were rolled out in 1997. After evaluations, the Slovak Army placed an initial production order for the Alligator. Low-rate initial production is under way at the DMD Mobiltec production facility (Martin, Slovak Republic).

Description. Kerametal designed the Alligator to NATO standards using proven German commercial automotive components.

Eye on NATO Requirements

The Alligator exhibits a conventional interior layout, with the engine compartment to the front. In the cab immediately behind the engine, the driver sits to the left; the commander sits to the right. Each position features a single-piece side door with a bulletproof window. The commander's station features a low-profile cupola with a machine gun mount on the cab roof.

The troop compartment occupies the rear of the vehicle; a large rear door provides access/egress. The compartment features a hatch cover on the roof and three firing ports with vision blocks (one on each side; one in the rear door).

Optional equipment for the Alligator includes a central tire pressure regulation system; an overpressure nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) protective suite; a recovery winch; and night vision devices. An amphibious kit, which uses a rear-mounted propeller, is also available.

Related News

Slovak Military Forced to Make Personnel Cuts – The armed forces of Slovakia are preparing to dismiss 580 soldiers and 250-270 civilian personnel from its ranks this year due to the effects of the economic crisis. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has called upon the military to economize due to the current financial climate. With the Slovak economy growing at its slowest pace in seven years, the Prime Minister – never one to prioritize defense matters – is looking to various government institutions to make sacrifices. The 16,000-strong armed forces are, therefore, a natural place for the Fico government to focus on reductions. Some 2,200 military posts are to be abolished, though since most of these have yet to be occupied, the cuts are more for bookkeeping purposes.

Presently, the country is struggling with unemployment above 9 percent, making personnel reductions in any area of the state a difficult decision. But Fico has had little trouble in the past placing the armed forces in the line of the government axe. After criticizing the former center-right government of Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda while in opposition for not meeting the NATO Alliance minimum standard of 2 percent of GDP annually allocated towards defense, Fico immediately set about slashing the defense budget, pushing it down from 1.85 percent of GDP to 1.82 percent in 2007, and then down further to 1.7 percent in 2008. This level of spending was to remain in place through 2010. Although with the current economic difficulties the country is facing, this is likely to be revised downward to a lower standard. (CTK, 3/09)

Slovak Republic Selects Alenia's C-27J Spartan for Transport Requirement – The Slovakian Ministry of Defense has selected the Alenia Aeronautica C-27J to fill a need for new transport aircraft. The MoD announced the public tender for procurement of tactical transport aircraft for the Slovakian military on August 8, 2008.

The MoD cited the need to strengthen transport capacity of the Slovakian army and to provide an aircraft that can be used to evacuate Slovakian citizens abroad. The MoD cited a need to evacuate Slovaks from Lebanon in 2006 as an example of the kind of mission the C-27Js will perform. The MoD also noted that the aircraft can be used in support of humanitarian relief operations, during natural disasters, or in operations of international crisis management, such as salvage operations and fire fighting.

The MoD did not specify the number of C-27Js it plans to acquire. (Slovakian Ministry of Defence, 12/08)

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Slovakia Launches Military Transport Tender – The Slovak Defense Ministry launched a tender for the acquisition of military transport aircraft. The tender, announced on the European Defense Agency's electronic bulletin board (contract notice: EDA-1875), calls for the supply of tactical transport aircraft along with integrated logistic support and training. The tender does not detail the number of aircraft, nor the amount the Slovak Defense Ministry is willing to spend for them. Ideally, according to Slovak Defense Minister Jaroslav Baska, there will be a purchase of two aircraft with deliveries between 2010 and 2011.

Long in need of an upgrade to its transport fleet, the urgency for new platforms was brought to the forefront in January 2006 when an An-24 crashed over Hungary, killing 42 personnel aboard. The crash left the military with just two aging Soviet-era An-26s and a small transport LET L-410. For Slovakia, overcoming the transport limitations is a priority, as it will not be able to fulfill its NATO commitments without a fleet modernization.

Still, cost has been a constant issue for Slovakia. An ongoing modernization program for the Slovak armed forces referred to as SR Force 2015 (or Model 2015) was put on the back burner when a center-left coalition under Prime Minister Robert Fico came to power in 2006. The new prime minister proposed defense spending to be held at approximately 1.7 percent during the 2008-2010 fiscal period.

The three companies known to be interested in the Slovak transport program are U.S. Lockheed Martin with its C-130J Hercules, Italy's Alenia Aeronautica with the C-27J Spartan, and Spain's EADS CASA with its C-295. Previously, in November 2006, the Defense Ministry ruled out the C-295 because its interior dimensions were considered too small to carry the Army's Alligator 4x4 light armored vehicle. (CTK, 8/08)

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Funding

Not available, as the Slovak Republic government and the contractor have not released funding information regarding this program.

Contracts/Orders & Options

Not available, as the contractor has not released contractual information regarding this vehicle.

Timetable

<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major Development</u>
	1993	Development begins
	1996	First prototype vehicle rolled out
Mid	2009	Low-rate serial production ongoing; development and operational testing continue

Worldwide Distribution/Inventories

Export Potential. The Slovak Republic is a new and unknown entity in the international market. Though it may take time for the Alligator to catch on, the fact that the Alligator borrows so heavily from established German components could enhance its export potential.

Countries. **Slovak Republic** (3 developmental prototype vehicles; 125 production vehicles).

Forecast Rationale

Low-rate serial production of the Alligator may be in its final year for Slovak Army procurement.

Alligator

Surviving the Perils of Funding

Research indicates that the Slovak Republic maintains an initial Alligator procurement objective of about 130 vehicles. While the Slovak Republic may find it difficult to fund all of the new military equipment it needs as rapidly as it desires, the procurement of up to four more Alligator vehicles this year appears safe from the budget axe.

Any Export Potential?

In the meantime, Kerametel – with the German firms Atlas Elektronik and Rheinmetall Defense – continues to develop an enhanced Alligator, with an eye toward export sales. Indeed, Kerametel designed the Alligator to NATO standards using proven German commercial automotive components.

However, despite the enhanced Alligator's close identification with an established German powerhouse,

the Alligator is not likely to have much impact on the international market. It will, at best, be a minor player in an already glutted market segment of advanced vehicle designs.

Remaining Slovak Army Run

Our 10-year production outlook reflects the remaining low-rate serial production exclusively for Slovak Army procurement. As the Slovak Army maintains an initial procurement objective of about 130 vehicles, we expect the current Alligator production run will reach completion this year.

We do not expect any export sales within this forecast period. Thus, without significant export orders, the Alligator production line will likely fall dormant after this year.

Ten-Year Outlook

ESTIMATED CALENDAR YEAR UNIT PRODUCTION												
Designation or Program	High Confidence					Good Confidence			Speculative			Total
	Thru 2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Kerametal Company AS												
Alligator	128	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total	128	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4