SEYNTEX
OVER 100 YEARS HI-TECH TEXTILES

Seyntex: The Future

With the burden on the dismounted soldier increasing at a rapid rate and their ability to function as a combat soldier hampered with this weight increase, the problems for industry and the military to address this issue become ever greater

Seyntex is looking very hard at this issue and is investing in the future, as the basic cut and sew will no longer be enough to support the ever technological advances that military command requires and a dismounted soldier has to wear. We are looking at ever changing threat levels and threat requirements where armour and heavy weight loads are needed one day and not the next.

The power requirement for the dismounted soldier also seems to grow at a rapid pace with battery consumption at an all time high with industry looking at alternatives, with no major breakthrough in sight. The other issue with the power requirement is where the power is fed to the soldier as size and weight is at a major premium. We have looked at intelligent textiles where the electronics are part of the material and despite the claims they are a long way from being combat effective.

The main issue for all new technologies that look good on paper is that when they are tested for combat effectiveness the short falls become all too clear. That said Seyntex is investing in its staff and ability to manufacture these technologies as when they are ready, as they will have to be manufactured. We are fully committed to this process for the future.

We are currently working with a number of Universities within Europe and two highly specialised UK firms that develop extreme survival and combat equipment with power solutions. This tie up has developed what is probably the best quick release mechanism on the market that will offer solutions the military do not currently have and they desperately need. The quick release mechanism is now going through its second generation development and extreme testing. Our test teams work and test in all of the worst environments nature has and the results are very good with the design now at TRL 7.

It is this thinking "outside of the box" that will keep European manufacturers and the technologies within Europe; as many skill sets are now leaving Europe and Europe can ill afford this brain drain. We have a number of solutions that will be available for a future soldier platform that we are developing with our UK and European partners and a number of European MoD's and these enhances are not static applications as they are designed to evolve to accept technologies as the technologies become combat effective and no other company at this time is working within this ethos.

Most developments are for a time line of service before a new iteration is then developed, so evolutionary designs are a rare commodity within this industry. Our future soldier platform is not a static application but one that is designed to evolve with technologies as and when they are ready it is completely modular and innovative. Our tie ups allow us to develop and test the equipment; resolve any issues before we present them to the client. This allows us to be more efficient and to exceed time line lines in development. Along with our investment in new manufacturing processes to cope with this new technology we have positioned ourselves to be at the forefront of manufacturing and development for the 21st century.

As European Militaries move from large scale infantry regiments to a more highly mobile and versatile specialist unit the developments have to be designed to adapt to the idiosyncrasies of these units with the through life cost and manufacture support that we feel we are best placed to provide.

We are also at the forefront of fabric design and developments working on new fabrics that are lighter stronger and offer other features that the future soldier platform will require and one that can be delivered. ■

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