

## **IMI's ACCULAR shows very high hit accuracy in series of tests**

Israel Military Industries Ltd. (IMI) has recently completed a series of test firings of the ACCULAR, surface-to-surface GPS guided rocket. The test firings were performed at ranges of up to 30 km, with target hits being scored within meters of the aiming point.

IMI is considered a pioneer in rocket artillery - being the first outside the Soviet Union to develop and manufacture artillery rockets and launching platforms. The first generation of artillery rockets were developed in the mid 1960s and were designed to be fired, by the IDF, from rocket launchers that were captured during the Six Days War (1967).

Throughout the years, IMI engineers, working in close cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Defense, developed a family of 290 mm artillery rockets, dubbed MAR-290 (Hebrew: "IVRI"). These entered Israel Defense Force (IDF) service in the late 1960s and were sold to an NATO Army as well. The MAR-290 rockets proved to be a great success during the First Lebanon War (June 1982)- effectively destroying Syrian artillery batteries.

In addition to the artillery rockets, IMI also developed a variety of towed and self-propelled multiple rocket launchers, which were mounted on Sherman M-50/1(Hebrew:"EPISCOPI") and Centurion tank hulls (Hebrew:"ESHEL HYARDEN").

After the success of the MAR-290 rockets, IMI has developed a family of 160 mm diameter rockets, referred to as the LAR160-Light Artillery Rocket family.

The 160 mm caliber was selected in order to allow existing 155 mm artillery projectile warheads and guidance kits to be employed without need of major modifications. The rockets were coupled with a variety of rocket launching systems for mounting on medium tanks (for example the M47 and Argentinean TAM), and on 6X6 heavy truck chassis, as well as towed version.

During the Second Lebanon War (2006), the IDF used an upgraded MLRS rocket (Hebrew:"RAMAM") that achieved highly improved hit accuracy.

The improved precision was achieved through a unique IMI technological breakthrough referred to as the Trajectory Correction System (TCS), which is a result of years of Research and Development.

IMI TCS is designed to significantly improve the precision of the MLRS, or any other rocket, by correcting its course in flight. The rocket establishes a data link with the ground control and calculates the correct trajectory and the correction needed to reach the target. The course correction is performed in a closed loop, using a steering unit mounted on the rocket's nose, thus enabling the ground command unit to direct the rocket to its correct trajectory.

The RAMAM rockets, equipped with IMI's TCS, reduce the Circular Error Probability (CEP) to less than 50 meters at a range of 40 kilometers- a significant improvement in comparison to the several hundred meters attained by standard rockets that do not include the TCS.

Various reports indicate that IMI through the years has exported thousands of artillery rockets and dozens of rocket launchers to numerous customers in Latin America, Africa, East Europe and more. As a result, the State of Israel's foreign exchange revenues from these sales, has grown by hundreds of millions of US dollars. IMI is positioned today as one of the world leaders in artillery rocket systems as well as the sole provider of rocket artillery in Israel.