

Mine-Proof Vehicle Boosts Economy

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A locally produced armoured personnel carrier has boosted the country's exports by about R4.34 billion and created 300 jobs at its Johannesburg factory, the company that builds it said on Tuesday.

The landmine-resistant RG31Mk6E on Tuesday made its international debut at the IDEX exhibition in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, said BAE Systems Land Systems SA in a statement.

"We are confident that this latest development will further confirm our South African business as the world leader in mine protected vehicle technology," said its managing director Johan Steyn.

The new vehicle also sported new seats that provided protection from spinal injuries.

"Tests have shown that these absorb some of the vertical impulse associated with mine blasts, reducing the likelihood of injury during large land mine explosions," it said.

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