



Defense: Romania Chooses the Lynx. Rheinmetall's Armored Vehicle Dominates the Eastern Flank and in Italy

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BUCHAREST – The Romanian Ministry of Defense has made its decision: the **Lynx KF41** by Rheinmetall will be the new infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) to replace the obsolete Soviet-era MLI-84s. A massive operation, with an estimated value of **3.4 billion euros** (about 4 billion dollars), that positions Romania among the leading users of cutting-edge military technologies within NATO.

Italy's Position: A Leading Market

Although the Romanian order is focused on local production, the announcement highlights the central role of **Italy** in the Lynx ecosystem. Our country has recently initiated a major industrial partnership for this vehicle:

- **The Leonardo-Rheinmetall Axis:** Italy has planned a large-scale order, which includes the acquisition of **1,050 units** of the Lynx. To manage this order, the Italian group **Leonardo** has joined forces with Rheinmetall, creating a production and strategic hub that places Italy at the forefront in Europe.
- **First Deliveries:** Just this past January 2026, the Italian Army has already received an initial batch of **four vehicles**, marking the operational start of one of the most ambitious armored modernization programs on the continent.



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The Details of the Romanian Agreement

Bucharest's choice came after a fierce competition involving giants like BAE Systems (Sweden), Hanwha (South Korea), and General Dynamics. The Romanian plan includes:

- **298 total vehicles:** Of these, 232 will be financed through the European SAFE mechanism (*Security Action For Europe*).
- **Local Production:** The vehicles will be manufactured at the **Mediaș** plant in Romania, where Rheinmetall acquired the majority of the local producer Automecanica Mediaș in 2024 to ensure technology transfer and the country's industrial sovereignty.
- **Timeline:** The program will be completed by **2030**.

A Standard Vehicle for Eastern NATO

With this decision, Romania joins **Hungary** (first customer with 218 units) and **Ukraine** (which will receive the first units financed by Germany) in creating a homogeneous fleet of Lynx along the eastern flank of the Alliance.

The success of the Lynx in Romania, combined with the massive adoption planned in **Italy** through collaboration with Leonardo, confirms the validity of Rheinmetall's project to create a common armored platform for the main European land forces, capable of integrating the industrial excellences of the individual member countries.