



## **Nortrax to Team with Armatec Survivability to Pursue CHER Program**

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For Immediate Release

OTTAWA - Nortrax Canada and Armatec Survivability Corporation (ASC) are pleased to announce they will jointly pursue the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Common Heavy Equipment Replacement Program (CHER). Nortrax is a wholly owned subsidiary of John Deere which manufactures and sells construction equipment in Canada and the United States.

Michael Rugeroni, VP and General Manager for Nortrax Canada, said that he looks forward to working with Armatec on the CHER program to provide the CAF with the next generation of technologically advanced highly protected armoured heavy equipment. "We chose Armatec – a great Canadian success story - after a lengthy process of due diligence which involved several other armour suppliers. In the end, Armatec was head and shoulders above the rest on the basis of level of protection, innovation and R&D, quality assurance, customer service and company values," said Rugeroni.

Karl Pfister, President and CEO of London, Ontario based ASC added that his team is delighted to work with Nortrax to supply the survivability technology for the CHER program. "Our two companies complement each other very well for this important procurement," he noted. "In addition to a focus on innovation and quality, both companies share a grass roots orientation with a global vision and capacity."

Rugeroni and Pfister each emphasized that both Nortrax and Armatec have solid credentials in supplying the Canadian and US militaries. Nortrax has a long track record of delivering heavy equipment to the Canadian government. Many of those models such as excavators, wheel loaders and crawler dozers have a history with other military forces around the world in both armoured and unarmoured configurations. Similarly, ASC has supplied protective technologies to Canada, the US and many other countries. Rugeroni underlined that Nortrax has access to an extensive domestic and international parts supply network which ensures a speedy and extremely reliable in-service support capability.

The CHER program, valued at between \$250-\$500 million, will focus on operator protection while maintaining the operational effectiveness of the heavy equipment. The program is intended to improve the CAF mobility, counter-mobility, force protection and sustainment capabilities by recapitalizing existing heavy equipment fleets. It will also provide air-transportable capability and be able to operate effectively in both moderate and extreme climates.

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