

Commercial ATV Headed to Arctic Forces

OE Watch Commentary: Russian Arctic forces have a variety of tracked vehicles, snowmobiles and ATVs that perform well in the hostile climate. However, many of these come with a hefty price tag. The Russian Ministry of Defense is looking at civilian manufacturing to produce ATVs that can do a similar job for cheaper. The commercial *Шерп* (Sherp-for Sherpa) may fill the bill. The Military would rename it the *Креchet* (Krechet-Gyrfalcon, the largest of all the falcons which breeds in the Arctic and Far North). The accompanying article from *Izvestia* discusses the features of this vehicle.



"Sherp" ATV.

Source: By TonyHansson (Own work), <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:3ASherp.jpg>, CC BY-SA 4.0.

According to the article, "the Arctic Jeep" can cope with any lack of roads and can also float. It can start up at air temperatures ranging between -76° and 122° Fahrenheit. Various weapons, reinforced armor, or other protection may be installed for the military use of the vehicle.

The passage quotes military expert Aleksey Khlopotov who points out that the vehicle will not require serious armor, considering that the real threat in the Arctic is more likely to come from "sabotage and reconnaissance groups with ...small arms," as opposed to "troops with tanks and artillery." It can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRdOIS2EuFk>. The commercial version sells for \$50,000. **End OE Watch Commentary (Grau)**

“The Defense Ministry will equip Arctic brigades with the Krechet all-terrain vehicle... In the opinion of experts, the small, simple all-terrain vehicles will become a kind of ‘Arctic jeep’ and will be in demand among the troops.”

Source: Aleksandr Kruglov and Aleksey Ramm, "Army Will Get 'Arctic' Jeep.' Military Units Above Arctic Circle Will Be Equipped With Simple Economical All-Terrain Vehicles," *Izvestia*, 6 January 2018. <http://iz.ru>

The Defense Ministry ... states that trials of the Krechet light all-terrain vehicles intended for Arctic brigades and other units operating beyond the Arctic Circle will begin in the winter of 2018. After completing the trials and the necessary modifications, the vehicle will be recommended for adoption into the arsenal.

Under conditions of almost impassable terrain, according to the military, the small all-terrain vehicles will be the optimum means of transport for special subunits of the Arctic grouping. One of their main tasks will be to seek out and destroy enemy saboteurs. These vehicles will also be suitable for delivering freight and personnel to remote posts.

The all-terrain vehicles have already been tested under various climatic and landscape conditions – in the polar Urals, the Taymyr and Yamal tundra, the Altay Mountains, and even the deserts of the United Arab Emirates. The test results showed that the all-terrain vehicle is capable of coping with any lack of roads and can also float. It starts up confidently at air temperatures ranging between -60° and 50° Centigrade [-76° and 122° Fahrenheit].

The TekhnoImpuls Company ...states that their vehicle ... is excellent for military use.... Various weapons, reinforced armor, or other protection may be installed.

The Krechet's great cross-country capability is ensured by low-pressure tires and a clearance of 600 mm [two feet]. The wheel pumping system makes it possible to distribute pressure through the axles in the required ratio. The 6 x 6 wheelbase is an original development by the enterprise.

The key feature of the design of the undercarriage is the gearbox, which makes it possible to use economical, low-power units. This gives the Krechet an unprecedented range – 1,500 km. Patrols will be able to stay out on their routes for several days without refueling.

“The Defense Ministry is now deploying a large number of troops in the Arctic Region, and the military needed special hardware. Mass-produced vehicles are needed in the Far North – kind of ‘jeeps,’ suitable for use under very difficult conditions,” military expert Aleksey Khlopotov stated. “The Defense Ministry needs simple vehicles that are economical to use. Everywhere in this region ... are complex sections of terrain with hundreds of rivers, lakes, and marshes that are impossible to overcome without special gear. The main requirements for all-terrain vehicles are good cross-country capability in swampy terrain and the ability to move through water.”

The specialist added that the Russian defense industry is presently manufacturing good-quality all-terrain vehicles. But this is very heavy and “voracious” hardware. Therefore the military are considering ... purchasing a light all-terrain vehicle from companies unconnected with the defense industry. If the Krechet satisfies all the requirements, the Defense Ministry will sign a contract with the manufacturer.

“These vehicles will not require serious armor,” Aleksey Khlopotov pointed out. “It is hard to believe that our hypothetical enemy would decide to send troops into the Arctic with tanks and artillery. But sabotage and reconnaissance groups with ...small arms are a real threat.”

The MOD plans to deploy a coastal defense division in Chukotka [opposite Alaska] in 2018. The military mission will be to patrol the coast and counter a landing by enemy saboteurs. In the event of a large-scale enemy landing the Arctic infantry will have to quickly cover the threatened salient. The absence of roads where the military will have to operate can be overcome only with special gear.