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GROUND VEHICLE POWER & MOBILITY



Track and Suspension

The U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) Track and Suspension team has developed the leading track candidate for the Future Combat Systems (FCS) Manned Ground Vehicle – Segmented Band Track.

TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN. WARFIGHTER FOCUSED.



Application Areas

Band Track Technology

TARDEC has partnered with BAE Systems to develop band track technology by developing new, longer-lasting rubber compounds. Recently, TARDEC developed a 29-ton band track system whose durability has been demonstrated in excess of 2,000 miles. Today, the continuous band track system has been implemented on the first FCS Non-Line-of-Sight-Cannon (NLOS-C) vehicles.

Segmented Band Track Technology

In an effort to enhance the band track system's capabilities for warfighters, TARDEC has expanded upon its continuous band track development program. A segmented band track system offers virtually all of the continuous band track's advantages with the additional benefits of enhanced field supportability and reduced logistics burdens. Currently, TARDEC has prototype segmented band track systems under development and testing and will produce a fully fielded segmented band track system by 2012.



Band Track Benefits

- Reduced weight compared to steel tracks, which allows for more armor protection to be added to the vehicle and for warfighters to balance performance, payload and protection.
- Reduced vibration, which improves the life of sensitive electronic equipment and reduces crew members' fatigue.
- Reduced noise, which improves crew members' health, operations and communications.
- Lower life-cycle costs.
- Improved fuel economy.
- Reduced maintenance — the system is virtually maintenance-free.

