



Ocelot: new technology to help troops stay secure

In September 2010 the MOD announced that it had awarded Force Protection Europe preferred bidder status to provide a new generation of Light Protected Patrol Vehicles (LPPVs) for troops in Afghanistan. Here, MOD DCB takes a look at the company's winning solution, Ocelot.

As the threat to the security of UK troops in operational theatres such as Afghanistan continues to evolve, so must the technology that is employed to protect them.

To meet this end, the MOD has awarded Force Protection Europe preferred bidder status in the new-generation Light Protected Patrol Vehicle (LPPV) programme.

The selection of Force Protection Europe as the preferred bidder means contract negotiations have now begun to provide an initial order of LPPVs through the Urgent Operational Requirement (UOR) process. The first vehicles are expected to be available to troops for training in 2011. The total number will be subject to negotiation and announced in due course.

The Ocelot LPPV has been designed to provide unprecedented levels of blast protection for a vehicle of its size, and will be able to carry a crew of up to six people. It will add to the wide array of protected vehicles already being used on operations in Afghanistan, including Mastiff and Ridgback.

Minister for Defence Equipment, Support and Technology Peter Luff said: "Small, agile but highly protected, the LPPV is at the forefront of technology. It will offer troops unprecedented levels of blast protection for such a light vehicle, enabling them to carry out a wide range of tasks, while moving with ease through narrow alleyways or crossing bridges."

"It will be a valuable addition to the vehicles already available to commanders in Afghanistan, and demonstrates the Government's commitment to providing our troops with the very best equipment on the front line."

The Ocelot is a unique vehicle in which crew and passengers sit inside a protective pod made of advanced composite materials incorporating Formula 1 racing technology. Beneath them, critical components such as the engine, fuel tank and transmission are contained in a V-shaped armoured spine that deflects a blast away from the vehicle.

Ocelot is also highly flexible. The protective pods can be changed in the field in two hours to equip the vehicle for different missions, such as patrol, fire support or the transportation of vital supplies. While protecting

crew within the vehicle has always been the first priority, Ocelot has also been designed from the outset to be easily repaired and maintained in the austere environment of a forward operating base. The armoured V-shaped hull houses the main fuel tank, drive line, batteries, generator and powerpack; this means these vital components are all protected from potential blasts. Not only will this design reduce repair times and costs, because the Ocelot does not include sacrificial elements as part of its protection package; crucially, it will also enhance the availability of vehicles for operations in-theatre.

"The Ocelot LPPV has been designed to provide unprecedented levels of blast protection for a vehicle of its size, and will be able to carry a crew of up to six people"

Chief of Defence Materiel General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue said: "A great deal of work has been done to get the programme to this stage. When it comes to vehicle technology, it is clear from this competition that British engineering is leading the way. Both proposed solutions reflect the significant progress made in the development of a new generation of small yet highly protected vehicles. The LPPV will offer huge benefit to troops in Afghanistan, as well as being a valuable asset to the Armed Forces in the future."

Team Ocelot brings together a number of contractors, specialist development and manufacturing companies and systems integrators, under the umbrella of Force Protection Europe as the Prime Contractor and survivability specialist, to design, develop, manufacture and support the

next generation of light protected vehicles for UK defence. The Team consists of Force Protection Europe, Ricardo Plc, Thales UK, QinetiQ, Formaplex, Sula Systems and the Defence Support Group.

The design provides the very best levels of protection for troops – comparable with the Cougar family of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles – while also offering exceptional cross-country mobility, flexibility and value for money. The vehicles' unique modular design protects both occupants and critical components from mine and blast threats, and enables rapid mission re-rolling. Growth for payload, power management and incremental uplift have been designed in from the outset.

Force Protection Europe has confirmed that, subject to the satisfactory completion of contractual negotiations with MOD, all of the vehicles will be built and supported in the UK. It is estimated that around 750 jobs will be created or sustained in the UK as a result of this programme.

Force Protection Europe Ltd Managing Director David Hind said: "This is excellent news for UK Servicemen and women, and for the UK defence industry. Ocelot has been designed and developed in the UK from first principles, with our Team Ocelot partners, to save lives, protect against injury and optimise maintenance and reparability. We are very proud that, subject to the outcome of satisfactory contract negotiations, the MOD has recognised the innovation, skill and commitment that has been put into Ocelot's development and the trust they have placed in Force Protection Europe."

Contract announcement for the initial batch of vehicles is expected to be made later in 2010.



Further information

For further information on the MOD's procurement plans, please visit:

Web: www.mod.uk



COUNTER TERROR EXPO

19 - 20 April 2011
Olympia London
www.counterterrorexpocom










Counter Terror Expo delivers both focus and clarity to the complex and multifaceted task of protecting people and assets from those with the intent to do harm.

This critically acclaimed event provides a vital forum for debate and plays a key role at the epicentre of the development of future counter-terrorism strategy.

- Unique, dedicated exhibition with over 400 exhibitors showcasing counter terrorism and specialist security technologies & security
- High level conference with five streams featuring over 200 leading international speakers
- Over 120 free-to-attend technology and practical workshops
- Live product capability demonstrations
- Networking functions

For more information please contact: Nicola Greenaway
t: + 44 (0) 208 542 9090
e: nicola.greenaway@clarionevents.com
w: www.counterterrorexpocom







