



Brunei: Rough, tough and ready to rumble

Released : Tuesday, May 29, 2007 9:20 PM

Land Rover will be showcasing two of its high-end vehicles during its participation in the Brunei Darussalam International Defence Exhibition and Forum (BRIDEX 2007) this Thursday at the International Convention Centre.

The vehicles that will be displayed at the exhibition will be the Range Rover Armoured and the Rapid Deployment Vehicle (RDV) based on the Land Rover Defender.

BRIDEX presents a wonderful opportunity for Land Rover, and representatives will be at the exhibition to explain the products offered, and how Land Rover can work with the delegates.

The Range Rover Armoured is a class B6-level protection vehicle, which means it can be protected by weapons from a PM Uzi handgun, up to an AK74 rifle, as well as 15 kilos of high explosives 300 metres away.

"It is a unique product in the market, because the 4X4 armoured vehicle can give you very good visibility, which is called a Command Driving Position, so you can see what's happening all around you, as opposed to driving a normal saloon car which doesn't allow that sort of peripheral vision. The driver will be able to see danger before it happens. It has a number of features that we can train the drivers to use, so as to drive the vehicle properly. We also have a 24-hour help line, to performing servicing as required," explained John C Wright, who is the Global Fleet Operations Manager for Jaguar and Land Rover, to the Borneo Bulletin at the QAF Auto showroom, where the Range Rover Armoured is currently on display.

"It is a very comprehensive package, so you're not just buying the car, but the whole package (their after-sales care and the car) from Land Rover," Mr Wright added.

The Range Rover Armoured has vogue specifications and is equipped with bi-xenon adaptive front headlights, bullet-resistant glazing, an independent oxygen supply, an intercom system, ballistic steel armouring, a rear-view camera, self-sealing fuel tank (optional), siren (optional), tamper-proof exhaust, run-flat tyres, as well as an under-floor Kevlar protection under DM51 hand grenades and a 4.4 V8 engine.

On top of all that, the Range Rover Armoured is also independently tested by Qinetiq. It also comes with a Land Rover support service, which is for customers who do not wish their vehicles to be serviced in the normal way.

"Every three months, a dedicated Land Rover technician will pay a visit to any territory in the world to service the vehicle. The technician will fly all the way from UK to any place, even to your residence. The car does not have to leave your site, and they will even train the drivers on the day-to-day and weekly maintenance required. You can contact them on the 24-hour help line, should any problems arise, and they fly over immediately to help you out," Mr Wright added.

As for the Rapid Development Vehicle (RDV), it is a tough and exceptionally mobile addition to the versatile Land Rover family, and is based on a heavy-duty Defender 90 or 110 Core Military General Service vehicle. It is a flexible equipment-and-weapons platform specifically designed to meet, not only patrol and reconnaissance tasks, but also perform the increasingly important peace-keeping support and humanitarian protection roles now facing the world's defence forces.

Developed jointly with Ricardo Vehicle Engineering, it has seen active service in several trouble spots around the globe, and over 250 vehicles are in operation with British, Dutch and Italian forces.

The RDV, which will be showcased at the BRIDEX 2007, has a base specification of a ring mount, weapon stowage, crew seating and a general stowage.

Sonia K

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