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## Minister for International Security Strategy dispatches two Ocelots for trials Down Under



**Australia bound: The utility variant of Force Protection Europe's Ocelot**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

Gerald Howarth MP, UK Minister for International Security Strategy, today had the first viewing of the utility and command variants of Force Protection Europe's Ocelot, as they were being prepared for transportation to Australia.

During a visit to the Ricardo engineering facility in Shoreham, where the two variants have been manufactured, the Minister was given a full briefing on both vehicles' capabilities. Every Ocelot has a v-shaped spine running the length of the vehicle, which protects the occupants and also its critical components from mine and blast threats. On top of the v-spine is an integrated pod which can be configured for a variety of mission roles such as the utility and command variants (required for the Land 121 programme); protected patrol variant (UK's Foxhound LPPV); and the special weapons variant (PV funded by FPE).

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Force Protection Europe's contract winning light protected patrol vehicle, Ocelot, is also appearing at this year's International Armoured Vehicles exhibition which takes place on 8 - 9 February at ExCeL in London. This will be the first time that the protected patrol vehicle variant has been on public view since Force Protection Europe was awarded a contract last November to supply the UK MoD with 200 of the vehicles.

Ocelot has been hailed as the most highly protected and agile vehicle of its size and weight available on today's market. The brainchild of survivability specialist Force Protection Europe and automotive specialist Ricardo plc, the vehicle is being built in Ricardo's manufacturing facility.

The Minister said: "The Ocelot is a testament to British design and engineering skills. It has already been selected by the UK Government for our Light Protected Patrol Vehicle programme as it offers unparalleled levels of protection for a vehicle of its size and weight, with exceptional performance both on and off road. I believe the Ocelot has the qualities which other Armies require to meet today's operational challenges, and I wish the team every success in exporting this excellent vehicle."

David Hind, Managing Director of Force Protection Europe, said: "Today's Ocelot is clearly demonstrating its outstanding versatility with the unveiling of two new pod variants designed for very different roles. One of the most attractive aspects of the vehicle, on top of its survivability levels which protect the crew and mission systems, is its unique modular construction which means that pods can easily be changed in theatre to suit the requirements of each mission. I am delighted that we are able to share this outstanding achievement with Ricardo plc, where we have also chosen to place the manufacturing of the Foxhound."

Martin Fausset, Managing Director of Ricardo UK, added: "I am pleased to welcome Gerald Howarth to Ricardo to preview the two Ocelots shortly to be exported for the Australian Land 121 programme and to meet the teams responsible for the design and development of this highly advanced vehicle concept which offers unparalleled standards of performance, adaptability and crew protection. We are extremely pleased to be working with Force Protection Europe to develop further opportunities for this truly class-leading vehicle on a global basis."

*See the Ocelot on Stand #341 at International Armoured Vehicles from 8-9 February*

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**For high resolution pictures of Ocelot please contact:**

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**Ricardo UK Ltd: Anthony Smith at the Ricardo Media Office on +44 (0)1273 382710 or [media@ricardo.com](mailto:media@ricardo.com)**

**Background information:**

**About Team Ocelot:** Team Ocelot brings together a number of contractors, specialist and best in class 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 the defence market in the United Kingdom. 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 the occupants and also its critical components from mine and blast threats, and enables rapid mission re-rolling. Growth for payload, power management and incremental uplift are designed in from the outset. The Team consists of, Force Protection Europe, Ricardo Plc, Thales UK, QinetiQ, Formaplex, Sula Systems and the Defence Support Group.

**Force Protection Europe Ltd (FPE)** is a wholly owned subsidiary of Force Protection Industries, Inc. (FPII) - the world's leading provider of survivability solutions. FPII's Cougar MPRAP vehicles (in service with the British Army as Mastiff, Ridgback and Wolfhound) are acknowledged globally as providing the highest levels of blast protection. FPE has been established to create a UK leader in the provision and sustainment of survivability solutions based on tactical wheeled vehicles.  
[www.forceprotectioneurope.co.uk](http://www.forceprotectioneurope.co.uk)

**Ricardo plc:** With technical centres and offices in the UK, USA, Germany, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Russia, China, Japan, India and Korea, Ricardo is a leading independent technology provider and strategic consultant to the world's transportation sector and clean energy industries. The company's engineering expertise ranges from vehicle systems integration, controls, electronics and software development, to the latest driveline and transmission systems and gasoline, diesel, hybrid and fuel cell powertrain technologies, as well as wind energy and tidal power systems. Ricardo is committed to excellence and industry leadership in people, technology and knowledge; approximately 70 percent of its employees are highly qualified multi-disciplined professional engineers and technicians. A public company, Ricardo plc is a constituent of the FTSE techMark 100 index - a group of innovative technology companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. For more information, visit [www.ricardo.com](http://www.ricardo.com)

**Force Protection, Inc. Safe Harbor Language**

This press release contains forward looking statements that are not historical facts, including statements about our beliefs and expectations. These statements are based on beliefs and assumptions of Force Protection's management, and on information currently available to management. These forward looking statements include, among other things: the growth, demand and interest for Force Protection's products and services, expectations for future vehicle spares, modernization and service-related contracts; the benefits and suitability of the Company's products and service-related contracts; the effects of the Company's survivability solutions; expected work completion and delivery dates; and the Company's execution of its business strategy and strategic transformation, including its opportunities to grow the business. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made, and the Company undertakes no obligation to update any of them publicly in light of new information or future events. A number of important factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. Examples of these factors include, but are not limited to: the ability to effectively manage the risks in the Company's business; the ability to develop new technologies and products and the acceptance of these technologies and products; and the other risk factors and cautionary statements listed in the Company's periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the risks set forth in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 and as updated in the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2010