



MAVERICK LAUNCH PRESENTATION

BY

MR IVOR ICHIKOWITZ

Group Executive Chairman

Paramount Group

TUESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you Maverick!

The Continent of Africa has many Assets of which to be proud. One such asset that stands head and shoulders above many others is the South African Defence Industry.

An industry that was born out of political madness and eventually necessity. An Industry which achieved world-class status through what can only be described as sheer audacity. Audacity that has allowed it to punch way above its weight for many years.

It is with great excitement that I stand here in Cape Town, on the Southern most tip of this great Continent, at the beginning of an era that holds the promise of major change.

Change that will bring a new style of democratic leadership, a new phase of co-operation between African countries and an enhanced role for Africa in the Global context.

At this significant time, I am very proud to be presenting to you what is, in our minds, the most significant development in the South African involvement in the Global land forces environment since the famous Tank Technology Demonstrator was announced in 1994.

For many reasons, some good, some bad, some logical, some not, the Tank Technology Demonstrator did not result in the large-scale

production of an indigenous Main Battle Tank. However, it did confirm that we have on this Continent the ability to do this and more.

For many years, South Africa has been acknowledged as being at the forefront of global Armoured and Mine Protected Vehicle technology.

It was also believed that what the South African Defence Industry was producing was at the pinnacle of technical achievement in this field and could not be significantly improved upon.

By chance the Paramount Group was also born in 1994. We entered the scene at a time when African countries were looking to South Africa to leverage on its skills and expertise in the modernisation of their own defence, peacekeeping and security capabilities.

Paramount Group came through to the fore and has, for the last 14 years been doing exactly that. We have supported more than 20 sovereign governments in upgrading their existing equipment, supplying new equipment, providing training, long-term technical support and supplying the finance required in order to create world-class defence, peacekeeping and security capabilities so that these countries can take their rightful place as meaningful contributors to peacekeeping missions, not just in Africa, but worldwide.

Many of the systems which the Paramount Group have supplied over the years have been based on South African manufactured Armoured Vehicles and, through this experience, Paramount Group has had the privilege to supply and support many hundreds of vehicles in active

missions throughout the world. We are also proud to have contributed to the saving of many hundreds of lives of troops in combat.

It is through this practical, hands-on experience that we realised that the time had come to develop our own range of product and invest in the *next* generation of technology.

When the original offering of South African Armoured Vehicles was developed in the late 1980's, the threat profile was very different from what it is today and the need to give end users a product capable of meeting modern threats and operational challenges was critical.

To achieve this, it was necessary to assemble the very best team of vehicle designers and engineers the world had to offer. We told them what the market wanted and placed very few technical or design constraints on them.

We told them to develop a family of armoured vehicles with the highest level of ballistic and mine protection as well as the best possible payload at an affordable price.

We also wanted to be able to produce these vehicles wherever in the world the demand existed.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Press, it gives me great pleasure as an African to stand here before you to celebrate the achievements of other Africans.

Achievements of which the whole world can be proud. Achievements that have the potential to take the South African Defence Industry back to its original glory.

The initial two Mine Protected Vehicles before you today were launched to the world as a concept in February 2007 at the IDEX in Abu Dhabi.

Here we are 18 months, 100's of thousands of man hours and many 10's of millions of dollars later, able to say to the world the NEMO Land Forces System is now a reality.

Matador and Marauder have already been shown to the world and it now gives me great pleasure to introduce you to the newest member of this ever-expanding family. The MAVERICK!

This vehicle is aimed at the policing, internal security, border patrol and urban peacekeeping market.

Our team that created this new Nemo Land Forces System has, collectively, more than 200 years in the South African Defence Industry. They have contributed their lives to making Africa proud. This team has taken what has often been considered to be a ludicrous, over-ambitious and unachievable brief and turned it into a reality. Gentlemen we applaud you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I can assure you that this story will not end here!

The Nemo Land Forces System is the basis upon which many land forces industries will be built throughout the world.

A way for Africa to harness and grow its design and development capability and invest technology throughout the world. A way for us to go global in the true sense of the word!

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press, go and tell the world that the South Africa Defence Industry is back! That we plan to do Africa proud, and we plan to continue growing as an important player in the Global Defence Industry.