

## Bespoke firefighting vehicles for Barra STOLport

Highland & Island Airports Limited (HIAL) have taken delivery of two bespoke aviation, rescue and firefighting vehicles suited to the mixed terrain of its unique Barra STOLport in the Outer Hebrides.

Barra Airport, which opened in 1936, is a short-runway airport (STOLport) located at the northern tip of the island in the spectacular wide shallow bay of Traigh Mhòr. The airport is truly unique, being the only one in the world where scheduled flights use a beach as the runway!

The 2-mile cockle-shell strand beach is set out with three runways in a triangle, marked by permanent wooden poles at their ends, in directions 07/25, 11/29, 15/33. The airport is served by a scheduled passenger air service from Glasgow International Airport using De-Havilland DHC-6 Twin Otter aircraft. The flights work to a very flexible timetable as the runways disappear twice a day under the incoming tide.

These new bespoke UK CAA Category 3 compliant aviation, rescue and firefighting vehicles are based on the Mercedes-Benz 519cdi Sprinter chassis featuring a class-leading Oberaigner Automotive 6x6 all

wheel drive conversion. Built to the exact requirements of HIAL, these stunning fire tenders were designed and manufactured by the FireBug group at their UK facility in Malvern, Worcestershire. They were supplied in partnership with the Iturri Group in Spain as part of an ongoing fleet replacement program.

German all-wheel-drive specialist Oberaigner completed all of the extensive off-road modifications to these Mercedes-Benz Sprinter chassis. In addition to the external changes such as the snorkel, the under-ride guard and a broader wheelbase, they also incorporate various sophisticated technical enhancements including permanent all-wheel drive and a total of four differential locks along with switchable all-terrain gear translation with a ratio of 2.85.

The symmetrical double-pendulum suspension on the rear axle also represents another technical refinement. The Mercedes-Benz 519cdi – Oberaigner 6x6 easily handles high obstacles thanks to its 322-millimetres ground clearance below the front axle; and the reinforced frame allows an enormous payload of 4 tonnes with the vehicle's



maximum weight amounting to an amazing 7 tonnes with exceptional go-anywhere capability making it very suitable for the mixed terrain on/and around Barra Airport.

The fire tenders were specified with an optional four-door Mercedes-Benz crew-cab conversion accommodating the driver plus three crew and a UK-designed one-piece polypropylene body with integrated tanks. The body layout incorporates a spacious transverse locker and a large equipment locker each side, all individually shelved to the requirements of HIAL.

Carrying 1,200 litres of water, 100 litres of foam plus 135kg of DCP courtesy of Perren Engineering Limited, the fire tenders are fitted with a rear-mounted Hale Powerflow HPX275 engine-driven pump and a front-mounted remote Akron Fire Fox bumper turret boasting an output of 900 lpm @ 7 bar.



For more information, go to  
[www.iturri.com](http://www.iturri.com) or  
[www.firebuggroup.com](http://www.firebuggroup.com)

## 4EVAC makes an impact at FIREX 2019

Showcasing its (VA) voice alarm and public address (PA) systems, sole UK distributor, 4EVAC Ltd made an impact at FIREX 2019.

The company boasts over 30 years' experience and will exclusively offer 4EVAC's unique product portfolio, including its



popular Compact 500 networked box on a wall, the new IMPACT system and its innovative LoopDrive FIM.

Demystifying the traditional 'rack-mounted' systems that rely on complex wiring and configuration, 4EVAC supplies a modern family of products that are based on a 'plug and play' principle. By offering systems that are modular, 4EVAC has designed its products to meet the demands of installers and users alike.

General Manager, John Inkster, commented: 'FIREX was a good launch pad for 4EVAC UK and during the event we met a lot of existing contacts and new integrators both from the UK and overseas. The 4EVAC product range generated a great deal of positive interest, with many people commenting on its ease of operation and

value for money. The show was not only a positive start in the UK for 4EVAC but coincided with the first implementation of the IMPACT range for a major High Street Bank. Now we're looking forward to following up with the integrators, architects and fire professionals we met.'

Designing and manufacturing its products in Europe to rigorous specifications, 4EVAC delivers unparalleled quality and reliability. Fully compliant with the EN54-16 certification, for additional peace of mind all 4EVAC products are third-party approved and certified to all European standards including: EN54-16, EN54-4, and EN50130-4.



For more information, go to  
[www.4evac.net](http://www.4evac.net)