

# Nissan now offering a bullet-proof deal

BY MOTORING STAFF

Expensive German limousines have offered it for some time, but Nissan South Africa is the first to introduce armoured protection for mainstream cars.

Responding to customer requests, Nissan now provides armoured protection for its Almera cars, Hardbody bakkies, and X-Trail and Patrol SUVs.

The conversions are carried out by leading armoured protection company Armour Systems and Projects, of Alrode near Johannesburg.

"Armoured vehicles are not unique in South Africa, but they come at a very high price," says Mike Whitfield, Nissan's director of sales and marketing.

"What we have done is enter into a partnership with the country's leading armoured protection company, whereby we have been able to develop a security option for our customers that is affordable and that meets their needs."

The armoring is designed to give protection against firearms up to 9mm parabellum level (which account for approximately 85% of all crimes committed with a gun), and involves replacing all the glass (the front and rear windscreens and side windows) and fitting steel armour inside the doors.

Door pillars are also armoured

as are the engine compartment firewall and the bulkhead behind the rear seat.

Driver and front passenger windows operate normally, while rear passenger windows are fixed shut, unless otherwise specified.

In addition, the Nissan package includes a locally developed run-flat tyre device that consists of a metal band that fills the well of the tyre rim.

This enables the driver to



Bulletproof glass ... resists 9mm calibre weapons.

travel up to 15km at a maximum speed of around 18km/h on a flat tyre.

"We have been involved in armoring for about 30 years, supplying a service to the military and cash-in-transit companies, for example, and started armoring cars five or six years ago," says Armour Systems

and Projects operations director, Grant Austin.

"Although we still provide an armoring service to the owner of any make of car, the agreement with Nissan allows us to take advantage of volume production and we have an exclusive agreement with them to supply armoring at this much more affordable price."

The Nissan conversion, ordered through a Nissan dealer and completed by Armour Systems at its Alrode facility, costs 50% less than imported conversions.

The cost of armoring a Hardbody Double Cab or Almera sedan, for example, is approximately R46 000 and a Hardbody Single Cab is approximately R36 000.

The conversion is now also available on the Patrol SUV 4x4 station wagon, while the X-Trail option will follow soon.

Nissan Finance, the vehicle financing arm of Nissan South Africa, has come up with an innovative package in which the cost of the conversion is included in the principal debt that requires financing.

The monthly repayments on a Hardbody Single Cab, for example, will increase by as little as R565 per month over a standard 60 month contract period, while insurance excess normally payable in the case of a vehicle hijacking will fall away.



Stealth ... armoring is not obvious, though it adds plenty weight.