



Alvis Vickers

IMPACT

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Alvis Vickers enhances business operations

Centres of excellence at Telford and Leeds

Alvis Vickers is re-shaping its business operations across the UK to ensure the company remains competitive and effective in the global marketplace.

Plans announced on 11 December – two months after the new combined company was formed – revealed that the company was creating two centres of engineering excellence at Telford and Leeds, building upon the established engineering capability of Newcastle.

Telford – the base of the former Alvis Vehicles business – will become a centre for vehicle technology. A centre for electronic and systems technology will be created on a new site at Leeds over the coming months.

In addition, the business' central support functions – including finance, commercial, information technology and sales and marketing – will be consolidated onto the company's site at Newcastle.

The company's board has been working on the rationalisation plans since Alvis acquired Vickers Defence Systems at Newcastle and Leeds and the Vickers Bridging business – now renamed Alvis Bridging – at Wolverhampton on 1 October.

"Our aim has always been to ensure the business is effective and as efficient as possible. Our rationalisation plans and the creation of centres of excellence will play a key part in the continuing success of Alvis Vickers," said Alvis Vickers Managing Director, Trevor Harrison.

He added that great care had been taken in formulating the rationalisation plans to ensure that the company's ongoing work for UK and overseas customers would not be adversely affected.



▲ The new "Alvis Vickers" name is now evident throughout the company's sites – including the former Vickers factory on the Tyne at Newcastle.

"We are involved with a large number of major programmes such as the Engineer Tank System, the Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle, the Future Rapid Effect System and the Future Command and Liaison Vehicle.

"These programmes are key to the business and we are working extremely hard to make sure that our modernising and streamlining plans enhance the way we are able to contribute to these programmes – we aim to be best of class in terms of our organisation and processes," said Trevor, who was formerly Group Director of Marketing at Alvis and is a former director of Vickers Defence Systems.

He added that other key business objectives included winning an increasing number of major export orders and the continuing efficient supply of a consid-



▲ Managing Director of Alvis Vickers, Trevor Harrison.

erable amount of product support worldwide.

"This is an exciting period we are going through in terms of opportunities. We have a successful track record in delivering armoured fighting vehicles from three tonnes to 70 tonnes and are obviously in a strong position to provide a global market. We have also demonstrated considerable prime contractorship capabilities on programmes such as Challenger 2, Kuwait Warrior and armoured vehicle programmes in Oman.

"I'm impressed by the commitment and the 'can do' attitude of the people in the new Alvis Vickers business and by their skills and capabilities in engineering and commercial fields. I believe we can look forward to the future with great confidence," said Trevor.

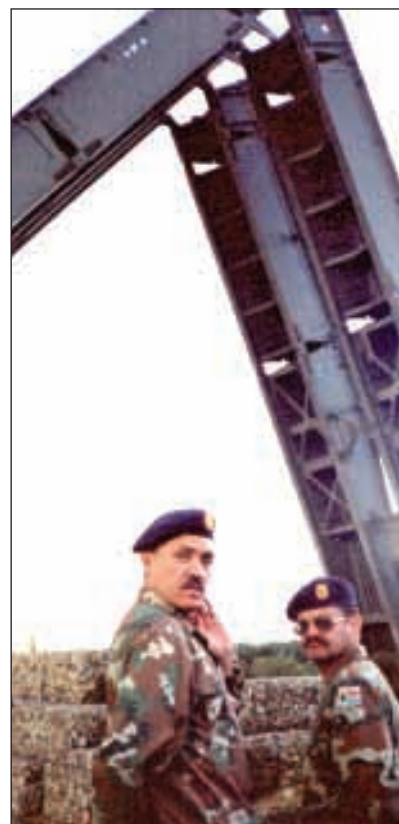
Alvis Vickers launches newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Alvis Vickers quarterly newsletter, Impact - bringing you news from the Alvis Vickers sites at Telford, Newcastle and Leeds and from Alvis Bridging at Wolverhampton.

Impact aims to keep readers up to date with all the company's achievements and new developments both in the UK and overseas.

"At Alvis Vickers we recognise that it is vitally important to communicate with a wide range of people who have an interest in our company. The company is involved in a lot of exciting defence programmes and we want to make sure that our customers, shareholders, partners, suppliers and our own employees are all kept up to date with developments," said Alvis Vickers Communications Manager, Kate Roberts.

Alvis bridging goes on show



▲ Brigadier General David Masters (left) and Colonel William Endley witness a No. 10 bridge launch during their UK visit.

High ranking officers from the South African Army visited Alvis Bridging last month for talks on the company's modular bridging system which is in service with the British Army.

The General Officer Commanding Engineer Foundation, Brigadier General David Masters, and his Chief of Staff, Colonel William Endley, were briefed by the General Manager of Alvis Bridging, John Eden, and toured the company's Wolverhampton site.

They were also briefed by senior British Army officers and visited the Combat Engineer School at Camberley - where they witnessed the build of a 32 metre general support bridge - and the Royal Armoured Corps Centre at Bovington where they saw demonstrations of close support bridging and armoured engineering.

Alvis Vickers Business Development Manager Engineer Systems, John McKeown, explained that the South African Army was seeking to replace its existing bridging system with a modern system that could be mounted on the army's in-service vehicles. Alvis OMC will adapt the in-service vehicles if the plans come to fruition and executives from OMC accompanied the South African visit to the UK.

"They need mobile, tactical bridging that they can use if necessary on behalf of the international community for peacekeeping and stability missions in the region. The visit to the UK went well and they seemed very impressed with what we can offer," said John.

FRES programme gathers pace

Alvis Vickers is leading an industry team on what is likely to be the UK's biggest ever land systems programme, the Future Rapid Effect System (FRES).

The FRES programme is vital to the British Army's future capability and could result in a massive new vehicle fleet of between 800 and 2000 vehicles.

FRES will also break new ground by providing the British Army with its first network-enabled force - using internet-type technology to enable rapid and detailed communications across the fleet.

The requirement for FRES is a result of new military thinking in the wake of the Cold War. Whilst there is still a major role for existing heavier armoured vehicles such as the Alvis Vickers Challenger 2 and Warrior, there is a new need for a complementary medium force that can be rapidly and easily deployed to undertake expeditionary and peacekeeping roles.

Airportability is a vital requirement for

the range of FRES vehicles that will include reconnaissance and mechanised infantry variants. The total FRES programme is expected to be worth several billions of pounds.

Alvis Vickers is currently deploying some of its best engineering and commercial brains to assist the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) in preparing

for the formal Assessment Phase of the FRES programme which is expected to start in the early part of next year.

The company has partnered with BAE Systems and Alvis Hägglunds to set up a dedicated FRES team co-located at Alvis Vickers in Telford. Alvis Vickers has also appointed a main board director, Richard Wigley, with specific responsibility for FRES.

"This is a huge programme to deliver a vital new capability to the British Army. We are thoroughly focused on providing first-class support to the MoD's integrated project team (IPT) with whom we would propose to partner for the FRES programme," said Richard Wigley.

He added: "A key thing that Alvis Vickers offers the programme is its armoured vehicle knowledge and its extensive experience as a prime contractor in delivering land systems capability.

"Alvis Vickers was also successfully



Continued on page 2

VIPs see MRAV roll-out in Germany

VIPs gathered in Germany this month for the roll-out ceremony for the first prototype in the international Multi-Role Armoured Vehicle (MRAV) programme.

An Alvis Vickers team based at Telford has been playing a key part in the MRAV programme to design, build and trial a range of vehicles for the armies of the UK, Germany and the Netherlands.

Alvis Vickers and its German and Dutch industrial partners - co-ordinated by the ARTEC joint venture company - have worked together to prepare the MRAV GTP (a German armoured personnel carrier) for the VIP roll-out in Munich on 12 December. Guests included customer and industry representatives from all three participating nations.



▲ Senior executives and staff from Alvis and ARTEC at the MRAV roll-out.

The 120-strong Telford team has been working on MRAV - currently being renamed 'BOXER' - since the multi-million pound contract was awarded to the ARTEC consortium partners three years ago.

A total of 13 vehicles is being designed and built including command, ambulance and cargo carrier variants. The vehicles are being built in modular form to minimise future development costs. Common 'drive' modules are being paired with a variety of 'mission' modules to suit the different roles.

Key work packages being undertaken by Alvis Vickers during the 68-month contract include the design and manufacture of the steel hulls for all of the vehicles and the design and build of the mission modules for the UK armoured personnel carrier and command vehicles.

"We have now reached a crucial and rewarding stage in the programme with the VIP roll-out of one of the two prototypes that have been built - coupled with the fact that we are about to enter the trials phase," said Alvis Vickers MRAV Programme Manager, Bob George.

He added: "We have a team of people who are highly competent in their respective fields. With MRAV they have had to work in a completely



▲ Engineers at Telford have used finite element analysis in the design of the complex MRAV hull fabrication. The vehicle design has been optimised for maximum protection.

new environment embracing the different cultures, processes and team structures of our partners in Germany and the Netherlands.

"But our team has risen to the challenge. Many of them have worked for long stretches with our partners in Germany and the whole team has grown in capability and strength as a result of playing the largest shareholder role in this multi-national

programme."

Engineering Programme Manager, Andrew Munt, echoed Bob's sentiments. He said: "Our engineers have been faced with a multitude of tasks including the management of difficult design interfaces and problem-solving across the tri-nation consortium. Whenever necessary our teams have adopted new working styles and methodologies to ensure the programme's success."

Manufacturing Manager for MRAV at Telford, Paul Macey, said: "One of our major challenges has been developing processes to meet stringent contract requirements and satisfy complex trade-offs between traditional fabrication techniques, demanding protection requirements and tight programme schedules. We have embraced this challenge with enthusiasm."

The next major challenge to be faced by the Telford MRAV team (pictured below with the third MRAV prototype earlier this month) is to assemble the first two MRAV vehicles for the British Army over the coming six months.



FRES programme gathers pace continued from page 1

involved in the recent TRACER reconnaissance vehicle programme. The TRACER requirement now forms part of FRES and a lot of the work we did on TRACER - such as trade-off studies on armour systems and sensor packages - will read across to FRES."

The FRES programme involves Alvis Vickers engineers deploying their

"FRES is a ground-breaking programme and we are excited at the prospect of working with the MoD to take it forward"

Richard Wigley,

Project Director FRES.

expertise in on-board systems integration whilst working with the rest of the team to scope the programme. Alvis Vickers is also talking to other potential industry partners about their involvement in the programme.

The Alvis Vickers Project Executive leading the FRES industry team, Peter Thompson, said: "We have an excellent team drawn from industry and we are developing a very open and close working relationship between the industry partners and with the MoD IPT."

"The team was only formed in September and it's a testament to the

calibre and the commitment of everybody involved that we have been able to hit the ground running and deliver a range of technical, costing and risk analysis work to the MoD in this planning phase."

The Alvis Vickers team is drawing on its experience of working closely with MoD project teams including the Engineer Tank System IPT - with whom the company won a MoD award for SMART acquisition.

"If we are selected to continue work with the MoD on FRES then we will be taking SMART acquisition in land systems to a new level. It will be essential to have an open working environment because the

FRES requirement is still developing and it is a complex programme that will interact with other MoD programmes such as BOWMAN," said Richard Wigley.

He added: "The timescales are also very demanding - with an aim of having an initial operating capability by 2007 - so there is obviously a need for making sound, joint decisions along the way to avoid unnecessary delays."

"To ensure that the MoD gets value for money with FRES we will be using our prime contractor expertise to compete an extensive range of work at sub-contractor level. We anticipate that more than 70 per cent of the FRES work will be competed."



▲ The FRES industry team at Alvis Vickers in Telford.

RG-32M PVP vehicle is trialled in France

The Alvis Vickers contender for the French Petit Véhicule Protégé (PVP) programme is being put through its paces in customer evaluation trials at Angers in the Loire valley.



▲ With the RG-32M PVP before it left for trials in France are (left to right) Martin Chisholm, Maurice Bilheur and Dave Blythman.

The trials commenced at the ETAS test centre in September after the Alvis Vickers RG-32M PVP was formally accepted for delivery to France on 5 August.

Acceptance of the vehicle followed a visit to Alvis Vickers in Newcastle by a senior member of the French DGA-SPART procurement body, Programme Technical Manager Maurice Bilheur.

Monsieur Bilheur spent two days with the Alvis Vickers team and worked with UK Ministry of Defence Quality Assurance Representative, Dave Blythman, to ensure that the evaluation vehicle conformed to the technical specification.

"The working visit by Monsieur Bilheur went very well. He made it clear that he thought we had an exceptionally motivated team and that we were working well together across our various sites," said Alvis Vickers Head of European Marketing and Sales, Martin Chisholm.

Earlier this year the vehicle took part in the UK Future Command and Liaison Vehicle trials and since then it has been modified and configured to meet the French customer requirements.

"The specification states that the vehicle must be derived from an existing vehicle or have sub-assemblies that are commercially available. Our RG-32M PVP is an ideal choice because it's derived from a proven vehicle in active service and uses commercially available sub-assemblies," said Martin.

Meet the Alvis Vickers directors

Alvis Vickers has appointed five main board directors to work with Managing Director, Trevor Harrison.

Projects Director Alan Cook, aged 40, was appointed to the Alvis Vehicles board as Projects Director in February 2000. A graduate in Production Engineering, he also holds an MBA from Aston University.

Alan has held senior production and projects roles since joining GKN Defence/Alvis in 1989. Prior to that he had production management experience in the automotive industry with GKN Axles and Peugeot.



Finance Director Des Webster, aged 38, joined Alvis Vehicles as Financial and Commercial Director in December 2001 having previously held senior financial appointments within the aerospace and automotive industries with Toyota Gosei Fluid Systems and Hurel Dubois UK Ltd.

A graduate in Economics, Des is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.



Operations Director Barry Eardley, aged 49, has been employed by Alvis since 1975 in a wide variety of senior roles at Coventry, London and Telford. His previous appointments include Product Support Director and, prior to that, Operations Director at Coventry.

Barry is also a pension scheme trustee and chairman of the Alvis Vickers Telford Charities Committee.



Project Director FRES, Richard Wigley, aged 53, has held senior appointments with Alvis since 1983. Prior to his current appointment he was Engineering Director at Coventry and then Business Development Director at Telford.

A graduate in Mechanical Sciences at Cambridge University, Richard had almost 10 years' experience with PA Management Consultants before joining Alvis.

Engineering Director Bill Jamieson, aged 44, joined the executive board of Vickers Defence Systems (VDS) in August 1998 as Projects Director with responsibility for all project and engineering activity. A graduate in Engineering from Bath University, Bill joined VDS in 1984 from British Aerospace, initially as Senior Systems Engineer.

Bill has held a number of senior engineering management positions since and played a major role in the development of the VDS systems design and integration capability.



FCLV decision approaches

The acquisition of Vickers Defence Systems by Alvis in October means that the newly formed Alvis Vickers company now has two contenders in the Future Command and Liaison Vehicle (FCLV) programme for the UK Ministry of Defence.

The company has two separate teams working on the programme. A team in Newcastle is offering the RG-32M which is based on an in-service vehicle. A Telford team working in partnership with Iveco is offering a vehicle based on the Iveco Multi-role Light Vehicle (MLV). The vehicles are competing against one other contender.



The two Alvis Vickers teams working on the FCLV programme are preparing to provide more information to the UK Ministry of Defence about their proposed vehicles and plans. Selection of a preferred supplier is expected to follow in the early part of next year.

In October the teams responded to a formal invitation to tender for the demonstration, manufacture and support of a large fleet of FCLVs for the British Army and the RAF Regiment. The Alvis Vickers bids followed formal User Trials earlier this year when both the RG-32M (pictured left) and MLV (pictured right) were assessed by military crews.

Head of the RG-32M team, Mark Ellery, said his team's bid for the FCLV contract had taken into account all the user feedback from the trials and was compliant with all key user requirements.

"We are offering a vehicle that is fit for purpose for all FCLV missions. It offers high manoeuvrability in urban and complex terrain, high deployability and mine protection that is proven and designed into the vehicle. RG-32M will also complement the capability to be delivered by the Future Rapid Effect System," said Mark.

Commenting on the MLV, Alvis Vickers Business Development Manager with responsibility for the vehicle, Toby Marshall, said: "The MLV



vehicle has been developed by Iveco for an identical Italian programme of 2500 vehicles, providing commonality in NATO fleets. In addition the Iveco worldwide dealer network can be utilised to provide innovative support.

"The MLV fully meets the FCLV requirement and provides excellent stretch potential to meet future roles."

Newcastle prepares for ETS launch day

The Engineer Tank System (ETS) team at Newcastle is gearing up for two major milestones within the next few months.



▲ The TROJAN excavator test rig in action at Ridsdale.

A VIP launch day ceremony is planned for 20 February when senior British Army and Ministry of Defence figures will view the first TITAN bridgelayer and the first TROJAN obstacle and mine clearance vehicle to be produced for the Royal Engineers under the ETS contract.

And then, by 17 April, another TROJAN and TITAN have to be made available so that four vehicles can be supplied for the official start of an eighteen-month programme of vehicle trials.

"It's an extremely challenging programme to get the two different types of vehicle ready at the same time. But everybody is focused on getting this done and our internal team and our suppliers are doing everything we can to make sure we meet the challenge," said the Alvis Vickers ETS Integrated Project Team Leader, Bob Armstrong.

The commencement of vehicle trials will mark the achievement of the third ETS major project milestone. In the summer the ETS team successfully met all the criteria for Milestone 2 which included completing the design of the TROJAN and TITAN hulls, the TROJAN excavator and the special-to-role test rigs.

Since then work has forged ahead in building the first four vehicle prototypes and commissioning the excavator and bridgelayer test rigs at Alvis Vickers' range at Ridsdale in Northumberland. A major crew station trial has also been conducted using full-scale 'mock-ups' of the vehicle crew stations.

Human Factors Specialist, Gary Wilson, who managed the mock-up trials, said the



▲ The MP for North Durham, Kevan Jones (pictured here second right with Alvis Vickers personnel John McKeown, Bob Armstrong and Bill Jamieson), is among several recent visitors to Newcastle who have been briefed on the ETS programme. On 25 October, the Minister of Defence Procurement, Lord Bach, visited the site to witness the advanced stages of ETS prototype build.



▲ Soldiers from the Royal Engineers Trials and Development Unit during the stowage exercise conducted on the TITAN crew station mock-up.

trials included a stowage exercise, ease of maintenance assessment and exercises to plot fields of vision for vehicle crews.

"We conducted the trials over several weeks with the support of soldiers from the Royal Engineers Trials and Development Unit at Bovington," explained Gary.

The ETS contract - worth more than £250 million - was awarded to the company in March 2001 and will see Alvis Vickers producing a further 66 specialist engineer tanks to follow on from the four prototypes currently being built at Newcastle.

"We are extremely proud of what's been achieved so far and I'm delighted with the close working relationship that has continued to develop with the MoD IPT and which has contributed so much to our rapid progress," said Bob Armstrong.



▲ On 10 December top executives of Alvis plc inspected ETS following a board meeting at Newcastle. Pictured with Bob Armstrong (on the first TROJAN prototype) are (clockwise from bottom left): Managing Director of Alvis Vickers, Trevor Harrison; Alvis plc Company Secretary, Patrick Jarman; Chairman and Chief Executive of Alvis plc, Nick Prest; non-executive directors of Alvis plc, Trevor Beyer and Sir Robert Hayman-Joyce.

Product support is a top priority

A new Product Support Department is being created at Alvis Vickers to ensure a first class support service to the company's armoured vehicles across the globe.

On 1 November Alvis Vickers appointed a new Director of Product Support, Colin Coleman, to expand the existing support service at Telford to include new functions at Newcastle.

Colin, who previously ran the company's Warrior programme in Kuwait, said Alvis Vickers regarded product support as an essential service to customers. The service will cover spares, tools, servicing, training and in-depth support.

"My department will be supporting all of our products worldwide. It's imperative that we provide through-life support to all our customers so they can extend the life of their fleets," said Colin.

A key element of Colin's role as Director of Product Support will be to develop the close working relationship between Alvis Vickers



▲ Colin Coleman.

and ABRO. The two organisations are already working on the Base Inspection Repair (BIR) contract that was awarded to Vickers by the MoD's Defence Logistics Organisation earlier this year. The 10-year contract is worth more than £120 million.

"Our relationship with ABRO is very good. Our joint work on BIR is progressing well and we are continually refining the process to make it more efficient. I'm looking forward to expanding our role with ABRO on other vehicle programmes in the future," said Colin.

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ A number of directors and managers from Alvis Vickers will attend an Alvis Group conference to be led by the Chairman and Chief Executive of Alvis plc, Nick Prest.

The conference, to be held in the Newcastle area in the early part of January, is on the theme of "Alvis Group companies and global marketing".

■ A SMART acquisition team is being formed at Alvis Vickers to work with the MoD's SMART acquisition group. The team will be tasked with spreading best practice throughout the company.

■ Alvis Vickers has completed a funded study that examines how a number of British Army Warrior vehicles could be converted into Armoured Battlegroup Support Vehicles (ABSV). It is thought that work to produce a formal user requirement for ABSVs could proceed next year - leading to actual vehicle conversions for user assessment.



Royal command Jordan announces order for gunnery training equipment

Alvis Vickers played host to His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan when he visited the company's stand during October's SOFEX defence exhibition in the Jordan capital of Amman.

Jordan has a large fleet of Challenger 1 tanks - named Al Hussein in Jordan - and the company presented His Majesty with a hand-crafted model of the tank.

SOFEX also saw the award of the first contract to be won by the newly-formed Alvis Vickers company - an order from the Jordanian Armed Forces for precision gunnery training equipment (PGTE) worth several million pounds. In addition, Jordan announced its intention to sign a post design services contract with Alvis Vickers for its Al Hussein fleet.

"It was a very successful exhibition for us. We were obviously delighted to win the PGTE contract and to have an opportunity to brief King Abdullah II on other services that we hope to offer his armed forces," said Alvis Vickers Business Development Manager, Peter Cooper.

Other VIP visitors to the Alvis Vickers stand included His



▲ King Abdullah II of Jordan with Graham Crowder (centre) and Peter Cooper of Alvis Vickers.

Royal Highness Prince Andrew (visiting Jordan in his role as an ambassador for British industry) and the Minister of Defence Procurement, Lord Bach, who congratulated Alvis Vickers on winning the PGTE order.

On parade in Oman

Senior Alvis executives visited Oman last month to deliver a top-level briefing on the formation of the new Alvis Vickers company.

Chairman and Chief Executive of Alvis plc., Nick Prest, and the Managing Director of Alvis Vickers, Trevor Harrison, were keen to pledge the company's ongoing commitment to supporting the Royal Army of Oman which has a large number of Alvis Vickers vehicles in its fleet including Challenger 2, Stormer and Scorpion.

They visited the capital, Muscat, where they briefed the Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, Major General Ahmed bin

Harith al Nabhani, and the Director General Contracts and Procurement, Air Commodore Abdullah bin Khaseeb al Hadhrami. They also met with the British Ambassador, Stuart Laing.

Alvis Vickers Sales Manager for Oman, Terry O'Carroll, said: "The visit went extremely well. We have very good relations with Oman and are always made to feel very welcome."

The striking picture above of Alvis Vickers vehicles in Oman shows the Alvis Unipower tank transporter and (from left to right) the Scorpion 76, Piranha Ambulance, Challenger 2, Stormer APC and Sultan Command vehicle.



Honours for Alvis Vickers men

Former Operations Director of Alvis Vehicles, John Horton, visited Buckingham Palace last month to receive the OBE.

John, who retired in March this year, received the award in the Queen's Jubilee Honours List for services to the defence industry.

"I was very surprised and excited by the honour - it came out of the blue. It gives you a feeling of pride, knowing that your country has recognised your contribution to the industry," said John who has a wife, Janet, and children Claire and Jonathon.

John joined GKN in Wolverhampton as a design draughtsman at the age of 21 but switched to production engineering in 1965. He later became Manufacturing Director of GKN Defence Land Systems with responsi-



▲ Derek Turnbull.



▲ John Horton.

bility for the Warrior production contract.

John served on the GKN Defence board until the takeover by Alvis in 1998. He became Operations Director of Alvis Vehicles until his retirement.

Oman Project Manager at Alvis Vickers, Derek Turnbull, also visited Buckingham Palace earlier this year to receive the MBE from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Derek, who joined Vickers Defence Systems at Newcastle in 1974, was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List.

"My wife Brenda and my sons Stephen and Craig came with me to the palace. We all enjoyed the day and it's one I'll remember for the rest of my life.

"I'd met Prince Charles once before - in Oman in 1996 - and he spoke to me about the company and our Challenger 2 tanks," said Derek.

Plans for Warrior

Alvis Vickers is playing an active part in proposals for an upgrade to the Warrior family of vehicles.

Earlier this year the company signed a partnering memorandum with the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the programme and has since assisted the MoD in the planning and costing of a future upgrade. The work follows Warrior mid-life improvement studies undertaken by both Alvis and Vickers.

Head of Business Development at Alvis Vickers, Mike Pope, has been the company's representative on the Warrior Upgrade Integrated Project Team. He said: "We believe this way of working with the MoD is mutually very effective and enables lower risk programmes to be achieved in a shorter timeframe."

Work launched on Malaysian bridges

Work on a £20 million bridging order from Malaysia is now forging ahead at Alvis Vickers.

In April this year Amalgamated Metal Builders of Malaysia ordered three 52 metre sets of the Vickers Modular Bridging System for use by the Royal Malaysian Engineers. The system is in service with the British Army where it is known as BR90.

The bridges are being built by Alvis Bridging at Wolverhampton which is now gearing up for production. The composite material launch rails are being produced by Aero-Composites Technologies (ACT) in

Malaysia.

"The formal contract negotiations have now concluded and at ACT the design for the composite tooling has been finalised and orders are being placed for jigs," said Alvis Bridging Head of Sales with responsibility for the Malaysian order, Hugh Stott.

Hugh recently went on a working visit to ACT where he toured the facilities and met key members of the Launch Rail Management Team. Pictured above with Hugh (fifth from the right) at ACT are team managers including the Project Manager, Zulfikar Zikri Dino Harris (fifth from the left).



Alvis Vickers wins new Tactica order

The Norwegian Air Force has ordered 12 Tactica 2000 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) vehicles from Alvis Vickers.

The vehicles, which will be used for airfield defence, have been contracted through the Alvis group's Norwegian company Alvis Moelv which will carry out final integration of the systems and training.

The 4 x 4 Tactica vehicles will be built at Telford and deliveries to Norway will take place in 2003.

Managing Director of Alvis Vickers, Trevor Harrison, said: "This is excellent news for the new combined business and means Tactica will be deployed with another member of NATO in a critical role. This adds to the 10 countries already using Tactica and illustrates the strength of its flexible design in winning this valuable contract."

Tactica's many variants are in service with emergency and security forces worldwide, most notably with the British Army on EOD duties.

ALVIS VICKERS

- Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1BX, England
Telephone: **44 (0)191 273 8888 • Fax: **44 (0)191 273 2324
- PO Box 106, Hadley Castle Works, Telford, Shropshire, TF1 6QW, England
Telephone: **44 (0)1952 224500 • Fax: **44 (0)1952 243910

- Manston Lane, Crossgates, Leeds, LS15 8ST, England
Telephone: **44 (0)113 264 8123 • Fax: **44 (0)113 260 7674

ALVIS BRIDGING

- Spring Road, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton, WV4 6YN, England
Telephone: **44 (0)1902 405050 • Fax: **44 (0)1902 355355

www.alvisvickers.co.uk

Produced by Amanda Hodges
for Alvis Vickers.