



COLT CANADA

1036 Wilson Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, N2C 1J3, WWW.COLTCANADA.COM Tel: 519 893-6840 Fax: 519 893-3144

PRESS RELEASE:

COLT CANADA CORPORATION

2015-06-23

NEW CANADIAN RANGER RIFLE



1. Background

The mandate of the Canadian Rangers (CR) is to conduct activities that enhance and sustain Canada's sovereignty over the land, navigable waters and of the Canadian archipelago to provide immediate support to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) or other Government Departments in the event of a disaster - man made or natural. In carrying out this mandate, the CRs are often in remote and isolated regions of Canada where they require a hunting rifle for survival and self defence against large North American carnivores at ranges of 0 m to 300 m. Currently, the CRs use the Lee Enfield No. 4 to meet these requirements but the age and the scarcity of parts for this weapon will soon make it very difficult if not impossible to maintain.

The New Canadian Ranger Rifle (NCR) system is being procured to replace the aging Lee Enfield fleet of weapon systems.

2. Operational Environment

The NCR will be used by CRs while patrolling some of the most remote regions of coastal, central and northern areas of Canada. The temperatures will reach as high as +39C with moderate to high humidity along coastal and forested regions and as low as -51C in arctic regions. For those CRs located in coastal areas, it is likely that the NCR will be exposed to long term salt laden air and water. The NCR will be transported by the CR on foot, wheeled commercial vehicles, skidoos, sleds, small boats and all-terrain vehicles. It must remain operable during and following exposure to these environments.

3. Program Overview

The Government of Canada and the Department of National Defence with Colt Canada, under the Munitions Supply Program (MSP) will replace the original Lee Enfield rifle fleet with a commercially available hunting rifle. The replacement will be a bolt action, calibre .308 Winchester, magazine fed rifle. Ancillary items, such as a hard transport case, soft transport case, sling, cleaning kit and trigger lock for each rifle will be procured at this time.

Prototype rifles have been delivered to the Rangers and will undergo user trial evaluations from now till the end of 2015. Production of 6500 or more rifles is expected to commence in mid-2016 with a completion mid to end 2018.



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4. Equipment Suppliers

Rifle:

1. The replacement rifle is based on the SAKO T3 CTR (Compact Tactical Rifle).
2. SAKO Ltd is based in Riihimaki, Finland.
3. The Canadian supplier is Stoeger Canada from Whitby, Ontario.
4. The first 125 prototypes have been delivered to Canada and they will undergo User Trials by the Rangers. Feedback from the Rangers will be incorporated into production rifles.
5. Colt Canada will produce the barrel, bolt and receiver under licence from Sako. Production is scheduled to begin mid to end 2016.
6. The Ranger Rifle has several Canadian modifications.
 - a) Larger bolt handle and enlarged trigger guard to accommodate gloved hands.
 - b) Protected front and rear iron sights.
 - c) Laminated stock in unique orange or red colour with Ranger Crest.
 - d) Two stage trigger with three position safety.

Ancillaries:

1. Pelican hard transport case with Ranger Crest and custom moulded internal foam supplied by Pelican Products ULC, from Edmonton, Alberta.
2. Cleaning kit, sling and soft transport case supplied by Rampart International, from Ottawa, Ontario.
3. Trigger lock supplied by The Old Co-Op, from North Gower, Ontario.

5. Colt Canada

Colt Canada is the officially appointed Strategic Source and Centre of Excellence for Small Arms to the Government of Canada. Registered in the province of Nova Scotia, and with its manufacturing facility located in Kitchener, Ontario, Colt Canada provides full support to all small arms -ranging from 9mm pistols to .50 calibre heavy machine guns- in the Canadian Armed Forces inventory. The company takes pride in being a member of DND's Munition's Supply Programme.

As a world renowned manufacturer of small arms weapon systems, previously known as Diemaco, Colt Canada has been in business for over thirty-five years. The company has been a fully owned subsidiary of Colt Defense of Hartford in the United States since 2005.



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Aside from Canada, Colt Canada's weapon systems are in service in, for example, The Netherlands, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Norway and have been combat proven in theatres around the world. Since 2000 Colt Canada has also established itself a major supplier of patrol and tactical carbines and accessories to police forces across Canada and some European countries.

Colt Canada offers a comprehensive range of associated services ranging from research and development, testing, proto-typing, (pre-)production, technical publications, armourer and operator training, integrated logistic support, Inspect and Repair as Necessary (IRAN) etc. As a sub-contractor Colt Canada produces sub-assemblies for major defence contractors such as General Dynamics Land Systems Canada.

Colt Canada rifles are manufactured to the highest standards of quality. Colt Canada is a NATO AQAP 1 qualified facility, and works to ISO 9001-2008 and MIL-Q-9858A standards.

Colt Canada employs 95 highly qualified and competent people. Given the nature of our operations Colt Canada has a great affinity with our end-users, the people in uniform who go out of their way to keep our country safe. By joining Colt Canada veterans continue to serve.