



NEWS RELEASE

For release:
Thursday, October 1, 2001
Sydney International Motor Show

SYDNEY 2001 - A BOLD BLEND OF PERFORMANCE AND STYLE

The theme of this year's Ford stand is "Hot and Active Performance", with the emphasis on street-smart, youth-oriented designs and exhilarating performance.

The highlight of the show will be the unveiling of the striking new T-Series range, which will complement a new Series III Falcon.

Powered by a stroked 5.6 litre V8 pumping out 250kW of power and 500 Nm of torque, the new T-3 range combines unparalleled levels of performance with aggressive sports styling.

The new range is scheduled to go on sale in late November and features three sedans, the TE, TS and long-wheelbase TL.

The hand-modified, stroked V8 features an all-new crankshaft, reworked cylinder heads, lightweight pistons, larger diameter inlet duct, high flow inlet manifold and unique, Tickford-developed camshaft and valves.

A more aggressive styling package complements the developments under the hood of the T3 range.

The styling includes new front and rear facias, a chrome mesh grille, side skirts, rear bumper with exposed exhaust and two new spoilers.

The new T-Series shares the Ford stand with a range of youth-oriented concept vehicles designed to appeal to the action sports enthusiast.

From versatile off-roaders to soft-top convertibles and stylish utes, the stand is full of colour and movement.

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One of the stars is the stylish, Ghia-designed, StreetKa Concept, scheduled to go into production in Europe in 2003.

The first product of an exciting partnership between Ford and renowned design studio, Industrie Pininfarina, the StreetKa has received enthusiastic public response since its debut at the 2000 Turin Motor Show.

StreetKa takes the already fashionable Ford Ka and gives it an urban, street spider look and feel.

Exterior body panels are finished in a mauve-tinted, silver metallic paint and are complemented by an easy-fold, fully concealed canvas top.

Six-spoke alloy wheels wrapped in 17-inch, specially sculpted Pirelli racing tyres give the vehicle a wider, performance stance. The interior features two, racing-style bucket seats trimmed in dark blue leather and an instrument panel of translucent plastic with anodised aluminium accents.

The StreetKa is joined on the stand by the high-impact, splice-lime Laser RSR.

The RSR stands out from the crowd with its bold paintwork, 18-inch wheels, Eibach springs and turbo-charged engine.

The vehicle was developed in conjunction with Hot 4's magazine and a number of aftermarket suppliers. It has been designed to provide inspiration to the four-cylinder enthusiast market.

The Independent Ute also has close ties with youth culture. The ute, a joint effort between Ford and skateboard brand, Independent, builds on the outstanding sales success of the XR8 ute. It features 18-inch wheels, blue and black leather interior and lowered springs.

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Both ends of the Ford vehicle line-up get a dash of colour, with the baby Ka and the Ford Mustang Cobra RA Roadster showing off new yellow colour schemes and bodykits. Both colours will go into production.

The new-look Gibson Motorsport Falcon of Craig Lowndes also will be on the stand, straight from doing battle on Mount Panorama.

Ford will be showing off its "Series III" AU Falcon, which incorporates a minor freshening and equipment upgrade.

The freshening sees the introduction of ABS as standard across the Falcon range. Other highlights include subtle exterior styling changes (including a new headlight treatment), freshened wheel styling and new interior trims. The Futura gets a velour-like trim, while leather becomes an option on Fairmont and standard on Fairmont Ghia.

The 220kW Falcon XR8's stand-out styling gets another boost with the bodykit now standard. Customers will now also have a choice of two kits, the Tickford kit or the all new Ford Racing kit.

Sydney also will get its first glimpse of the all-new Ford Explorer.

The 2002 Explorer is completely new from the ground up and has been extensively tested in Australian conditions.

Highlights of the new Explorer include a stiffer chassis, standard, locally-tuned, fully-independent suspension, big reductions in NVH (noise, vibrations and harshness) levels and much more interior room.

An all-new, all-aluminium, 4.6 litre V8 engine has been introduced to complement the powerful 4.0 litre V6, which can now be teamed with a 5-speed manual transmission or an optional revised 5-speed automatic transmission.

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An optional third row seat means that the Explorer can carry seven adults in comfort.

Safety features include standard dual front airbags and front seatbelt pre-tensioners, as well as an optional side-impact "air curtain".

The Explorer will go on sale in November.

Another big attraction on the Ford stand will be the new F-Series. The world's number one selling vehicle is back in Australia after a nine year absence.

The F-Series has a strong following in Australia and is likely to be one of the hits of the show, particularly with fleet customers and 4WD enthusiasts.

The Brazilian-built trucks are available in chassis cab and pick up styles, with a choice of single, super and crew cabs. Engine options are a 5.4 litre petrol V8, a 4.2 litre turbo-charged diesel in-line six and a 7.3 litre turbo-diesel V8 that produces 684Nm of torque.