



Innovative Solutions for Material Handling

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RICO AWARDED \$4M ARMY CONTRACT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(June 13, 2005 – Medina, Ohio) TACOM, the U.S. Army's Tank – Automotive and Armaments Command, has awarded RICO a \$4 million firm fixed price contract to manufacture and supply their HMMWV (Humvee) Drop Down Spare Tire Carrier.

"This contract is the second such contract awarded to RICO this year," say company president Dave Mueller. "Deliveries are expected to start immediately with contract completion expected December 2005. RICO's commitment to providing our soldiers with the very best equipment, services and support is unwavering," said Dave Mueller.

The patented tire carrier will be assembled directly onto new up-armored humvee's , more commonly know as M1114's, as they finishes the assembly process. The M1114 is the Up-Armored Armament Carrier configuration of the HMMWV family. These vehicles are equipped with additional armor both on the sides and underneath to protect the crew from small arms ammunition and mines.

Mueller stated, "The makeup of our armed forces is so diverse, the military needed a product that would allow a 5th percentile female to lower and raise a spare tire, without risk of injury. The spare tire can weigh up to 163 pounds. It would normally take at least two individuals, male or female, just to remove and replace the spare tire. The product also has to handle the rigors of punishing terrain and abuse that Humvees encounter on a daily basis."

The RICO Drop Down Spare Tire Carrier is a patented spare tire carrier that raises and lowers a tire in excess of 165 lbs with an electric or manual actuator. It is designed to swing out 180-degrees in order to access the rear of the vehicle without obstruction.

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