

Mahindra's XUV500 goes wild -by Angie le Roux

(30/09/2011)

Mahindra has entered the sports utility vehicle (SUV) market with the introduction of the XUV500 - pronounced in *Bond*-like fashion as XUV five-double-"o".

The XUV500 range is powered by a transversely 2,2-litre four-cylinder turbodiesel engine which develops 103 kW at 3 750 r/min and 330 Nm of torque between 1 600 to 2 800 r/min, the latter delivered through a six-speed manual transmission. The all-wheel drive includes a low-range transfer box. A torque management system switches between two and all-wheel drive according to conditions.



Two models are available, featuring varying levels of specification. Driver aid and safety systems, on both, include cruise control, an Intellipark parking aid system front and back, automatic projector-type xenon headlights with LED daytime running lights, automatic windscreen wipers, electronic stability control with a roll mitigation sensor, six airbags and a tyre pressure and -temperature monitor. The W8-models also benefit from hill descent control and hill start assist, while an ABS system, disc brakes on all four wheels, electronic brakeforce distribution and emergency brake assist is also standard.

The spacious interior offers not only comfort, but also a very high level of standard equipment. The W8 models have two-tone leather upholstery, while the W6 model has hard-wearing cloth trim. Infotainment is right up to date. It includes an FM radio/CD player with a shuttle on the W8 models which is controlled from a centrally-mounted 15 cm touch screen with a navigation system as well as MP3, USB, Bluetooth and iPod connectivity. There are also six speakers with built-in tweeters. There are convenient steering wheel-mounted controls for the cruise and audio controls and the system includes the use of voice commands.

Customers will have the peace of mind of a three year/100 000km warranty, a three year/60 000km service plan and roadside assistance for the first year.

Prices:

W6 4x2 manual: R239 900

W8 4x2 manual: R269 000

W8 AWD manual: R294 000

