



MEDIA INFORMATION

**EMBARGO: 12:00 GST (Gulf Standard Time) on November 4, 2013**

## **NEW RANGE ROVER SPORT SETS FASTEST RECORDED TIME FOR 'EMPTY QUARTER' DESERT CROSSING**

- Standard production all-new Range Rover Sport conquers the harshest challenges of the desert and sets fastest recorded time of 10 hours, 22 minutes
- Dawn to dusk drive of over 800km by off-road racer Moi Torrallardona – a driver with more than 10 years' experience of the Dakar Rally
- Empty Quarter challenge reaffirms the Range Rover Sport as Land Rover's fastest, most responsive and agile vehicle to date
- Second successful challenge for the new Range Rover Sport following speed record at Pikes Peak
- Short documentary film to follow

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates, November 4, 2013** – The new Range Rover Sport has set the fastest recorded time for a land vehicle crossing of the 'Empty Quarter' – one of the harshest and most challenging desert environments on the planet. The Empty Quarter - or Rub' al Khali - is the largest sand desert in the world and the second largest desert after the Sahara. Intensely hot by day with temperatures exceeding 50°C, it is also dangerously arid. With no reliable water sources and an ever-shifting terrain, it provides a true test for man and machine.

The drive team completed the journey from Wadi Adda Wasir in Saudi Arabia to the border of the United Arab Emirates in 10 hours and 22 minutes at an average speed of 51.87 mph (81.87 km/h), covering a distance of 849km – the route dictated by the conditions on the ground.

The time was set by a standard production new Range Rover Sport with a 510PS 5.0-litre supercharged V8 petrol engine, running standard tyres. The only modification to the vehicle was the fitment of an underbody protection plate.

The vehicle was driven by Land Rover driver Moi Torrallardona, a 47 year-old Spanish off-road racer with extensive experience of the Dakar Rally, in which he competed for ten successive years with a best finish of 6<sup>th</sup> overall.

Torrallardona said: “The challenge of the desert is like nothing else, it is a brutal, unforgiving and sometimes deadly environment. Desert driving requires a unique combination of speed, finesse and technical skill. It is crucial that you tackle the dunes with precision. Knowing the right time to go full throttle and the right time to slow down, takes experience and clear judgement. This unique way of driving requires a vehicle which has the same skillset – it must be both incredibly fast but also agile, responsive and well planted. The Range Rover Sport is exactly that. It is massively capable and is truly the best tool for conquering the desert.”

The team encountered a constantly challenging landscape including vast sand flats, soft dunes and epic canyons. They set off at first light on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and finished the challenge 10 hours later on the border as the sun was setting.

The challenge is the second that the new Range Rover Sport has completed in recent months, following its record hill climb for a production SUV at Pikes Peak back in June. These feats are part of a series of global driving challenges in which the Range Rover Sport is pushed to new limits.

A short documentary of the record attempt is to follow in the first week of December and will be available to download from [www.media.landrover.com](http://www.media.landrover.com)

### **The Empty Quarter**

The Empty Quarter spans four countries in the Arabic Peninsula: Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Temperatures regularly rise above 50°C and any crossing, no matter how well organised, must be approached with extreme caution.

### **All-new Range Rover Sport**

Developed alongside the highly-acclaimed Range Rover, the new Range Rover Sport delivers the brand’s best-ever on-road dynamics together with class-leading, genuine Land Rover all-terrain capability. It presents customers with a more assertive and muscular exterior, more luxurious interior and the flexibility provided by the option of occasional third row seating.

Exploiting Land Rover’s breakthrough lightweight suspension design and innovative dynamic chassis technologies, the all-new Range Rover Sport’s first-in-class aluminium architecture achieves a weight saving of more than 420kg.

Designed and engineered at Land Rover's development centres in the UK, the new model is produced in a state-of-the-art low-energy manufacturing facility at Solihull, UK.

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