

LDV GOES POSTAL

LDV is working its way into more and more commercial fleets both locally and around the world – with postal services and their subcontractors being a particularly happy hunting ground of late.

IN IRELAND

The Irish Post Office recently took delivery of 260 LDV V80 vans marking the first time that a Chinese car manufacturer has won a government procurement contract from a European Union country. The LDV bid was successful in a hard fought contest that included brands such as Mercedes-Benz, Toyota, Ford and Nissan.

It was noted at a hand over ceremony that the Irish government procurement meant a lot to the Chinese automotive industry, signifying that Chinese-made vehicles are capable of meeting the EU's high standards in exhaust emissions and energy conservation.

The order potentially paves the way for LDV to take over the entire Irish Post Office fleet during a five year exclusive purchase period with the brand, and it comes just days after LDV was relaunched in the UK and Ireland by the Harris Group.



IN AUSTRALIA

Richard Forrester started as an Australia Post subcontractor six years ago, working by himself and delivering mail on a motorbike. From humble beginnings he now has ten Australia Post delivery contracts across North Eastern Tasmania and runs a fleet of 23 vehicles.

Recent additions include three LDV V80s and a new G10 auto with another three of the latter soon to be delivered. Richard is a no nonsense character and is forthright in explaining his reasons for buying or not buying different vans. He won't buy HiAce simply because of the high price, whilst iLoads are ruled out by the long wait time for petrol versions – and the six to eight thousand dollar premium for a diesel.

Richard became aware of LDV's availability in Australia via a Google search but did have memories of them being sold in the UK. He was initially concerned about the brand now being built in China, however a significant price advantage over anything of comparable size saw him give two long wheel base V80s a try.

The vans have covered over 20,000km since then, with the total building daily. There have been a few minor concerns but nothing not easily resolved under warranty. Richard speaks highly of his Launceston LDV dealer and plans to buy another three G10s this year if his current vehicles continue to perform well.

Some of the 260 LDV V80 vans delivered to the Irish Postal Service recently.