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MITSUBISHI INTRODUCES NEW OUTLANDER 2.4-LITER ES AND SPECIAL-EDITION MODELS FOR 2008

Mitsubishi Motors North America (MMNA) is expanding the market reach of its popular next-generation Outlander crossover SUV for 2008 with the introduction of two new 4-cylinder models, the value-minded ES and the high-tech-equipped Special Edition (SE). Available with 2WD or 4WD, the Outlander ES and Special Edition models are powered by a new 2.4-liter DOHC MIVEC 4-cylinder engine teamed with a Sportronic[®] continuously variable transmission (CVT). The Special Edition features magnesium steering wheel paddle shifters.

The 2008 Outlander LS and XLS models continue with a standard 220-hp 3.0-liter MIVEC V6 (213 hp for PZEV-certified model) and 6-speed Sportronic automatic transmission, with the XLS featuring magnesium steering wheel paddle shifters. The Outlander ES model offers a new choice for customers who prioritize fuel economy over maximum performance. The combination of the 4-cylinder engine, CVT, aluminum roof panel (also on V6 models) and a modified rear suspension system all contribute to fuel economy in the Outlander ES.

The Mitsubishi Outlander offers a compelling blend of thrilling dynamics, bold styling, five- or seven-passenger versatility, plus advanced user technology and onboard entertainment options. The segment's first and only flap-fold tailgate helps make loading cargo easier and can also serve as a tailgate seat that supports up to 440 lbs.

All Outlander models gain redesigned interior door panels with cloth inserts for 2008, with new chrome door handles for XLS. The FAST (Freehand Advanced Security Transmitter) Key

entry system, which allows passive vehicle unlocking and engine start/stop, is now standard on the LS and Special Edition models. An MP3/auxiliary input jack is now standard for LS and XLS models, and all 4WD models have heated exterior mirrors standard, as well.

New Outlander Special Edition

A second 2.4-liter model, the new Outlander Special Edition arrives in early 2008. The Outlander SE combines the economy of the new 4-cylinder engine and CVT with amenities from the premium XLS model, plus exclusive new interior and exterior features. Driving performance in the Outlander SE is enhanced by Sportronic® shifting with magnesium steering wheel paddle shifters or console shift, as in the Outlander XLS model. Like the XLS model, the Outlander SE is equipped with 18-inch alloy wheels. The FAST Key entry system, standard on LS and XLS models, is also standard on the Special Edition.

The Outlander Special Edition excels in onboard entertainment. Offered as standard, the 650-watt (max.) Rockford-Fosgate® Premium Audio system features digital signal processing and nine speakers, including a rear subwoofer. This high-end audio package, which is optional on the Outlander XLS, includes SIRIUS® Satellite Radio with six month pre-paid subscription.

Exclusive to the Outlander 2.4 SE are new interior door panel trim and chrome door handles, chrome-accented exterior door handles and side sills, mesh fabric seats with leather bolsters, and high-contrast instrument gauges. Some Outlander SE features will be available on other Outlander models for 2009.

A Driver's SUV

The Outlander's design and engineering reflect Mitsubishi's many years of success in major off-road competition. Mitsubishi has won the Dakar Rally, a grueling 7,000-mile trek across just about every kind of terrain in parts of Europe and North Africa, 12 times, including seven consecutive since 2001. No other manufacturer comes close to matching that record.

Outlander is based on a performance-engineered global platform that also forms the foundation of the new-generation Mitsubishi Lancer and upcoming Lancer Evolution models. The result is a crossover-type SUV that delivers handling dynamics, stability and a level of driver engagement uncommon in the segment.

A highly rigid unibody structure, which makes extensive use of high-strength steel, allows for sport-oriented suspension tuning while also providing a smooth, compliant ride. Front suspension employs strut tower bars to enhance lateral rigidity for precise steering response. The rear multilink suspension provides an excellent balance of handling performance and ride comfort.

Outlander ES and LS models feature standard 16-in. wheels (steel on ES, aluminum alloy on LS) with 215/70 R16 tires. On Outlander XLS models, standard 18-in. aluminum-alloy wheels with 225/55 R18 all-season tires enhance both vehicle handling and styling. Like the V6 Outlander models, the Outlander ES comes standard with the Active Stability and Traction Control (ASTC) system and anti-lock brakes (ABS) with electronic brake-force distribution (EBD).

Power Choices

The Outlander ES model's new 2.4-liter 4-cylinder engine is based on the same architecture as the 2.0-liter engine used in the next-generation Lancer. The Outlander's 2.4-liter version produces 168 hp and 167 lb.-ft. of peak torque. Counter-balance shafts, a system patented by Mitsubishi over 30 years ago to reduce engine vibration and noise, help give the Outlander ES smooth, quiet performance, a trait further enhanced by the CVT.

The Mitsubishi Innovative Valve-timing Electronic Control (MIVEC) system controls valve timing on both the intake and exhaust camshafts to optimize performance at all engine speeds.

The 3.0-liter aluminum SOHC V-6 in Outlander LS and XLS produces 220 hp at 6,250 rpm and 204 lb.-ft. of peak torque at 4,000 rpm, with nearly 90 percent of peak torque available from just 2,000 rpm. In the Outlander V6 engine, the MIVEC system controls valve timing and lift to optimize performance at all engine speeds. When it was introduced for 2007, the next-generation

Outlander was the first SUV model in the U.S. market powered by a PZEV-certified V6 engine (in states where applicable, and rated at 213 hp).

A “Lock” on 4WD Performance

Mitsubishi’s All-Wheel Control philosophy for Outlander combines sophisticated electronically controlled 4-wheel drive with Active Stability and Traction Control (ASTC) and a tuned suspension, plus an aluminum roof that lowers the center of gravity for better handling response. Mitsubishi engineers developed Outlander’s proprietary 4WD system, drawing on many years’ experience with performance-type 4WD systems. The transfer system case is made from aluminum and located near the rear differential for optimal weight distribution.

The Outlander’s electronic 4WD system, which offers two driver-selectable full-time modes, provides traction and performance advantages over the part-time 4WD systems featured on some competitive vehicles. Outlander’s 4-wheel drive system is designed to enhance handling response and vehicle stability in all conditions, not just on slippery driving surfaces. Using a drive-mode dial on the center console, the driver can select FWD, 4WD or LOCK positions.

In 4WD or LOCK modes, the system uses an electronically controlled transfer clutch to automatically and seamlessly route variable power to the rear wheels, depending on driving and road surface conditions. In either 4WD or LOCK modes, the system routes more torque to the rear wheels under acceleration.

In Outlander, LOCK mode can operate at all speeds, sending additional (but still variable) torque to the rear wheels to enhance agility on dry roads and to help improve traction on slippery surfaces. In contrast, the lock mode in some competitive vehicles’ 4WD systems is only for driving at low speeds on very slippery or loose surfaces.

In all driving modes, the ASTC system works to help keep the Outlander traveling in the direction the driver is steering. Taking sensor input from the engine’s electronic control unit (ECU), wheel speed sensors and a yaw sensor, ASTC can regulate torque and braking to individual

wheels to help maintain vehicle stability.

Outlander Safety

The 2008 Outlander's safety package is one of the most comprehensive in the segment and includes an advanced dual front air bag supplemental restraint system (SRS) with occupant sensors, standard front seat-mounted side-impact air bags and side curtain air bags (front and second row), plus energy-absorbing head protection interior pillars. All models include as standard an anti-lock braking system (ABS) with electronic brake-force distribution (EBD), as well as a tire pressure monitor system.

The Bold New Look of Mitsubishi

The next-generation Outlander introduced a new Mitsubishi design language that captures the performance-oriented essence of the brand. Clean, sharp lines, featuring a "diamond cut" front end and boldly sculpted fender flares, evoke the athleticism of a sport sedan and the sophistication of a premium SUV. The LED tail lamp clusters give the Outlander a distinctive, high-tech appearance. Available for XLS models, auto-leveling xenon HID headlamps enhance road illumination and accentuate the high-tech styling.

On XLS models, a color-keyed front bumper with silver skid plate extension, silver painted roof rails, door handles and dual exhaust tailpipe outlets emphasize the upscale design. Privacy tinted rear glass is standard on Outlander LS, SE and XLS models and available on ES.

Mitsubishi designed the Outlander interior to look and feel more like a sport sedan than a typical compact SUV. Smooth forms and sculpted door panels (with new cloth inserts for 2008) are set off by silver-accent trim.

Deeply contoured front bucket seats and motorcycle-style instrument panel gauges suggest "sports car" more than "sport-utility." The premium upholstery combines a suede-style knit and sporty mesh fabric. The XLS offers available leather upholstery.

Interior Flexibility and Unique Flap-Fold Tailgate

Outlander offers ample room for five, or seven in XLS models, which include a standard underfloor-stowable compact third-row seat that folds flat into the floor when not needed. Five-seat models offer an under-floor storage compartment. The second-row seat employs 60/40 split fold-and-tumble seat backs that expand cargo capacity. On XLS, the second-row 60/40 seat cushions independently offer a 3.15-in. fore/aft slide range to optimize passenger room or cargo room as needed. In addition, the XLS rear seatbacks recline independently.

With the second row seats up, cargo room measures 39.0 cu. ft., and 14.9 cu. ft. behind the third row seats on XLS models. Total cargo volume behind the front seats measures 72.6 cu. ft. Loading bicycles or large packages is made easier by the segment's first and only flap-fold tailgate. When lowered, the tailgate can also serve as a seat for outdoor activities, with a capacity of 440 lbs. Ample storage spaces include useful bins and compartments, a movable front center console and door-panel bottle carriers. The Outlander 4WD V6 models can tow a trailer up to 3,500 lbs. when equipped with the trailer tow package.

Premium User Technology

The 2008 Outlander offers many user technologies typically available on premium SUVs, some of which were firsts for the segment. On Outlander Special Edition, LS and XLS models, the standard FAST (Freehand Advanced Security Transmitter) Key entry system allows passive vehicle unlocking and engine start/stop simply by carrying the remote control.

Outlander XLS models are available with a 30-gigabyte HDD navigation system with music server; the 650-watt Rockford-Fosgate® Premium Audio system; SIRIUS® Satellite Radio with six month pre-paid subscription (also included with the Rockford-Fosgate system); hands-free calling through Bluetooth® wireless technology, and a DVD rear seat entertainment (RSE) system with a nine-inch wide-format LCD screen. The Rockford-Fosgate Premium Audio system is standard in the Outlander Special Edition.

The navigation system now features Diamond Lane Guidance, an industry-first development that gives the driver to have HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lane information included with directions. Using HOV lanes, where permissible and accessible, can help reduce driving times. The navigation system with music server and the RSE can be added to the ES and LS models as an accessory.

Standout Value

Outlander is equipped to provide outstanding value in the segment. Generous standard equipment in Outlander ES includes: Active Stability and Traction Control (ASTC); air conditioning; cabin air filter; ambient lighting monitor; cruise control; power windows, locks and mirrors; engine immobilizer and anti-theft alarm system; keyless entry, and an audio system with AM/FM/CD/MP3 playback capability and six speakers.

An optional Convenience Package for the Outlander ES adds a number of exterior and interior enhancements, including: color-keyed door handles and side view mirrors; roof rails; rear privacy glass; 16-inch alloy wheels; steering wheel remote audio switches; auxiliary audio inputs, Bluetooth[®] cell phone-ready pre-wire switch (additional equipment required), leather-wrapped steering wheel and shift knob; a driver's seatback pocket; two additional 12-volt accessory outlets (one in cockpit, one in cargo area), and floor mats.

Outlander XLS models add 18-inch alloy wheels; Sportronic[®] magnesium steering wheel shifter paddles; underfloor-stowable compact third row seat; automatic climate control system; hands-free Bluetooth[®] cellular phone interface system with voice recognition and fog lights.

The Sun and Sound option package for Outlander XLS includes a power glass sunroof, the Rockford-Fosgate audio system and SIRIUS Satellite Radio with 6 months paid subscription. The Luxury Package available for Outlander XLS adds leather seating surfaces (front and second rows), heated front seats, auto-leveling xenon HID headlamps and a power-adjustable driver's seat.

Premium Warranty

Mitsubishi cars, sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks are backed by comprehensive new vehicle limited warranties. Mitsubishi Eclipse, Lancer, Galant, Endeavor and Outlander vehicles come with a 10-year/100,000 mile powertrain limited warranty; along with a 5-year/60,000 mile bumper to bumper new vehicle limited warranty. The high-performance Lancer Evolution is covered by a 5-year, 60,000 mile powertrain limited warranty, along with a 3-year/36,000 mile bumper to bumper new vehicle limited warranty. Mitsubishi pickup trucks are covered by a 5-year/60,000 mile bumper to bumper new vehicle limited warranty that also includes powertrain components.

All Mitsubishi vehicles have a 7-year /100,000 mile anti-corrosion/perforation limited warranty, along with 5-years/unlimited miles Roadside Assistance, which includes free towing to the nearest authorized Mitsubishi retailer.

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