

Weekly World Car Info

by

ceAUTO

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NEW MODEL LAUNCHES

INTERNATIONAL

Genesis Unveils New Mid-Size Crossover GV70

Hyundai's luxury brand has just unveiled the next utility model to join the family: the 2022 Genesis GV70. Considering its more compact size, odds are that this new SUV could quickly become the brand's top-selling model. At the same time, the GV70 will have its work cut out for it, as it will compete head on with heavyweights like the Audi Q5, BMW X3 and Mercedes GLC. The new model will be limited to five seats, leaving the seven-seat format exclusively to the GV80.

Major features

- The new model bears the same stylistic traits seen on the company's other new models and the design signature, it must be said, pretty beguiling. The headlights and lights are similar to those of the G80 and GV80. The exterior design of the GV70 Sport Package creates a sporty and dynamic image with a strong blackout bezel, the three-dimensional pattern of a dark chrome

garnished grille mesh design, an exclusive bumper design, a large circular muffler, a body-colored diffuser, and 19- and 21-inch Sport-exclusive wheels. A total of 13 exterior colours will be offered for the GV70, including three new ones: Mauna Red, Barossa Burgundy Metallic, and Barossa Burgundy Matte.

- Inside, the presentation is welcoming and plush, and of particular note is the inclusion of many oval shapes, which creates a remarkable





visual environment. A huge multimedia screen is mounted on the dashboard and its menus are accessible via a thumbwheel located on the centre console. The interior design of the GV70 Sport Package also emphasizes dynamic elements with exclusive interior colors, an exclusive steering wheel, and optional carbon fiber details on the console and door. The GV70 offers a choice of five interior colours.

- The GV70's dual filter system improves indoor air quality by preventing fine dust and bacteria from entering the engine room pre-filter and indoor cabin filter. The indoor cabin filter, especially, efficiently removes fine dust from inside and outside of the vehicle with higher capability of filtering ultrafine dust.

- The 2022 GV70 will come with a wide range of safety features. Among them are Intelligent Speed Limit Assist, navigation-based Smart Cruise Control, Forward Collision-Avoidance Assist, Blind-Spot Collision-Avoidance Assist and Driver Attention Warning. All-new technologies featured in the GV70 include a fingerprint authentication system as well as Advanced ROA

(Rear Occupant Alert) based on radar sensors.

- Powertrain choices include a 2.5 L turbocharged 4-cylinder good for about 300 hp in the base version, while the Sport variant will benefit from the company's 3.5 L twin-turbo V6 that delivers around 375 hp. The 2.2 diesel engine has a maximum output of 210 hp and combined fuel efficiency of 13.6 km/l. There will be four drive modes including Eco, Comfort, Sport, and Custom for dynamic driving in various road conditions. The Sport Package is also equipped with an additional Sport Plus mode.

Sales launch and pricing

More information on model specifications and pricing for each versions will be offered in the coming months. We can expect the model to take on the German kings of the category head-on, starting with an aggressive price range.

<https://www.auto123.com/en/news/2022-genesis-gv70-suv-unveiling/67539/>

EUROPE

Toyota to Reveal New European-Focused Electric SUV in 2021

Toyota will reveal a new electric SUV next year as the first model built on a bespoke BEV platform, kick-starting what will be a fast-expanding range of electric vehicles. The as-yet-unnamed model will be similar in size to today's RAV4, although as a dedicated BEV on a dedicated architecture it's set to take a new name. Toyota says the SUV has been tailored specifically for the European market and will be built at its dedicated zero-emissions factory in Japan. Toyota's European product development boss, Andrea Carlucci, said the new car will be "very European in the DNA and design." He explained that a RAV4-sized SUV was chosen for Toyota's

first BEV because "the car will be a global model, and it offers the best balance to out together the needs of all regions." He added: "It's quite obvious that there's volume in more compact models, and this is where we will look in the future with other models for the European market."

Main features

- The SUV will be the first of six BEVs planned to use the new e-TNGA platform that Toyota



has co-developed with Subaru. This architecture is designed to be highly adaptable and can be used for vehicles of differing length and wheelbase.

- e-TNGA can also be used for front, rear and four-wheel drive powertrains by allowing for motors across both axles, and with a wide range of battery capacities. The first e-TNGA based model has already been developed and is being readied for production. Manufacturing will take place at Toyota's ZEV Factory in Japan.
- Toyota claims that learnings from its hybrids will allow it to increase both range and battery lifespan.

Further details are to be announced in the coming months. At this stage, only a stylised silhouette and details of the platform architecture have been released.

As well as the new electric SUV, Toyota will also launch BEV versions of its Proace and Proace City vans next year. While the arrival of e-TNGA-based models will quickly flesh out Toyota's BEV offering, the firm remains committed to offering a range of electrified options, with hybrid, plug-in hybrid and hydrogen fuel cell models. It aims to be selling 5.5 million electrified cars per year by 2025. In Europe, Toyota is planning to launch more than 60 new or updated electrified models by 2025. By that date, it expects more than 70% of its sales to be of hybrid models, with PHEVs, BEVs and FCEVs accounting for slightly more than 10% each.

<https://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/new-cars/toyota-reveal-new-european-focused-electric-suv-2021>



NORTH AMERICA

2022 MDX SUV Revealed as Acura's New Flagship

Occupying a new position atop the Acura lineup, the all-new MDX has been remade into the premium marque's flagship. It is the first sport utility so honoured and, as such, it is more luxurious, decidedly more stylish and, once we get the new Type S variant promised late next summer, substantially sportier as well. The 2022 MDX – there won't be a 2021 model – is a ground-up redesign with an all-new platform, at least one completely new engine and, most importantly, styling befitting an SUV that will not only have to compete with BMW's X5 and Lexus's RX but also carry the Acura banner on its shoulders.

Major features

- The 2022 MDX is 55.1 mm longer, 25 mm wider and 11 mm taller than the outgoing 2020 model. It is decidedly more aggressive in its demeanour than the rather tepid designs that went before. Noticeably more fierce is the front fascia, all scoops, ducts and menacing grille. The rest of the exterior is equally sophisticated, there being an almost Audi-like lilt to the roofline and what Acura calls a “cab rearward” proportion the result, the company says, of its dash-to-front-axle “ratio” having been extended by almost 150 mm.

- Inside, Acura says the cabin is “driver focused” but “with room for seven passengers.” With noticeably better materials — open-pore wood, brushed aluminum and premium leather — it's also more upscale than MDXs past. The cabin is also roomier, especially in the rearmost 3rd row, where there's 10-mm more headroom, 60-mm more legroom and the seats 'sit' 50 mm higher than the previous generation. And, thanks





to the 2022's 70-mm longer wheelbase, there's as much as 10 per cent more cargo space (depending on which seats are folded).

- The instrument panel is now a 12.3-inch customizable screen with outputs for AcuraWatch, SH-AWD status and even a "g" meter – and what Acura calls a 12.3-inch True Touchpad Interface screen controlling the infotainment system. Acura has nonetheless wisely retained physical Power, Volume and Seek controls to the immediate right of the touchpad.
- Helping contain all that power is a revised version of Acura's Super-Handling All-Wheel-Drive system which has been modified for flagship use with a greater rear torque bias. So, not only will the new MDX transmit as much as 70 per cent of its torque rearward, it can also "vector" all of that torque to whichever rear wheel has the most traction. The company also says that this fourth generation of SH-AWD is 30 per cent quicker in altering said front-to-rear torque distribution.
- In the engine department, the 3.5-litre VTEC V6 soldiers on, albeit with friction reducing

enhancements and a magnesium "crossflow" intake manifold. It still pumps out the same 290 horsepower and 267 pound-feet of torque. More enticing is the news that a 355-hp turbocharged 3.0L V6 with 354 lb.-ft. of torque will soon be available in the Type S scheduled to hit dealerships by late summer 2021.

Sales launch and pricing

Look for the new 2022 MDX in Canadian Acura dealerships in February of 2021 ranging from \$56,045 for the base model to \$67,045 for the Platinum Elite model. In between are the Tech trim at \$60,045 and the A-spec retailing for \$63,945. Type S pricing will have to wait until closer to its late summer arrival.

<https://driving.ca/acura/mdx/auto-news/news/acura-pulls-wraps-off-new-flagship-2022-acura-mdx-suv>



Nissan's 2021 Kicks And 2021 Armada Get Tech, Design Updates

Nissan is updating the two vehicles that bookend its SUV lineup: the Nissan Kicks subcompact crossover and the Nissan Armada full-size SUV. Both will see notable changes for the 2021 model year that focus on design, interior comfort and technology. Both vehicles hold an important place in Nissan's lineup. Through November of 2020, sales of Armada hit 18,655. Sale-wise, that's far behind segment rivals such as the Chevrolet Tahoe (78,245 units) and GMC Yukon (35,595), but its burly output helps maintain its position as a worthy competitor. The Kicks is Nissan's third top-selling utility vehicle behind the Rogue compact crossover and the Murano midsize SUV. Through November sales of the Kicks nearly surpassed 53,000 units.

Major features

- The exterior of the upgraded Nissan Kicks features a new "Double V-motion" grille, fresh LED headlights and fog lights and a new rear bumper.
- The interior also has material and trim upgrades, an additional USB port and a redesigned center console with added storage space and a comfier armrest. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are now standard, as is a 7-inch touchscreen for most trims except the top two SV and SR models,

which get a larger 8-inch screen. In an upgrade to driving assistance technology, intelligent cruise control comes to the SV model.

- The Kicks' front-wheel-drive 1.6-liter inline-four cylinder engine also will remain in place for the 2021 model year. It comes standard with comes with Nissan's Xtronic continuously variable transmission and delivers 122 horsepower 114 pound-feet of torque.

- The body-on-frame Nissan Armada, which entered its second-generation in 2017, is showcasing a more squared-off, chiseled appearance that carries all the way around the vehicle. Also incorporated is a more modernized headlight design that includes 50 LEDs in each lamp. The new lights flank a new grille, fenders and bumper that feature more angular enhancements. A similarly modern appearance also is found in new taillights, which each get 70 LEDs.

- Inside, the 2021 Armada gets a new 12.3-inch infotainment screen, which Nissan claims is the largest in the full-size category. The screen's higher resolution will give drivers a crisper shot when using the rearview camera display. There also is a new 7-inch driver information display embedded in the gauge cluster that's operable by steering wheel controls. Top-tier Platinum models get a new rear-seat entertainment system and an intelligent rearview mirror,

which can display a camera view of what's going on behind the vehicle when the physical mirror is blocked by passengers or cargo.

- While the Armada has been powered by the same 5.6-liter V8 engine for quite some time, the 2021 version gets a boost to 400 horsepower, up from 390. Torque remains at 394 pound-feet. It's a good engine, too, providing best-in-class horsepower and towing capacity. To aid in towing, Nissan added a standard trailer brake controller system. The top two trims also get trailer sway control.

Sales launch and pricing

Nissan hasn't released pricing or on-sale date information for either vehicle, but they are not expected to veer too sharply off-course from the prices of the equivalent 2020 models. The 2020 Kicks started at \$20,165 after a \$1,095 destination fee and the 2020 Armada started at \$48,895 after a \$1,395 destination charge. Both models are expected to start hitting dealers lots soon.

<https://www.forbes.com/wheels/news/nissan-2021-kicks-2021-armada-tech-design-updates/>





SOUTH ASIA

Pravaig Extinction MK1 Launched: Indian Luxury Electric Car with 500km Range

India is just getting warmed up to the idea of electric vehicles, especially in the four-wheeler space. Aiming to be one of the best options in the emerging market, Bangalore-based Pravaig Dynamics has launched its first EV in India — the Extinction MK1. The start-up had been developing the vehicle for over nine years to bring it to the level it is at today. The company said that there will be some additional improvements over the prototype that was showcased, such as higher ground clearance, four doors instead of two and a higher degree of comfort.

Major features

- Pravaig claims that the Extinction MK1 has a 5-star safety rating, a characteristic that only a handful of cars in India can boast of.
- As with most electric vehicles, it offers a rather

futuristic design with aerodynamic curves all around. The headlight and the taillight are accompanied by single-strip LED DRLs. Large 17-inch alloy rims also make the cut.

- The luxury design is carried forward to the inside of the Pravaig Extinction MK1 as well. The rear seats,

in particular, have large tray tables for working or eating, individual AC vents, Thunderbolt charging ports, and 12-inch mirrors as well as the ability to recline to 165-degrees. The section is also divided from the front seats with a glass pane for added privacy.

- As for entertainment, it will have speakers from Devialet, which is well-known to offer some of the densest and loudest output. There will also be high-end PM 2.5 air purifiers for the entire cabin.

- The battery pack, which resides in the floor of the car, has a density of 155 Wh/kg. Only the top-of-the-line Tesla Model S P100D (160 Wh/kg) has a denser battery. With that, the Pravaig Extinction MK1 has a claimed range of 504 km on a single charge. Fast charging is also supported, filling the car by 80% in about 30 minutes. A 150 KW motor enables it to have an output of 2,400 Nm and an acceleration of 0-100 km/h in 5.4 seconds. However, at its top speed of 106 km/h, the range will be under 200km.

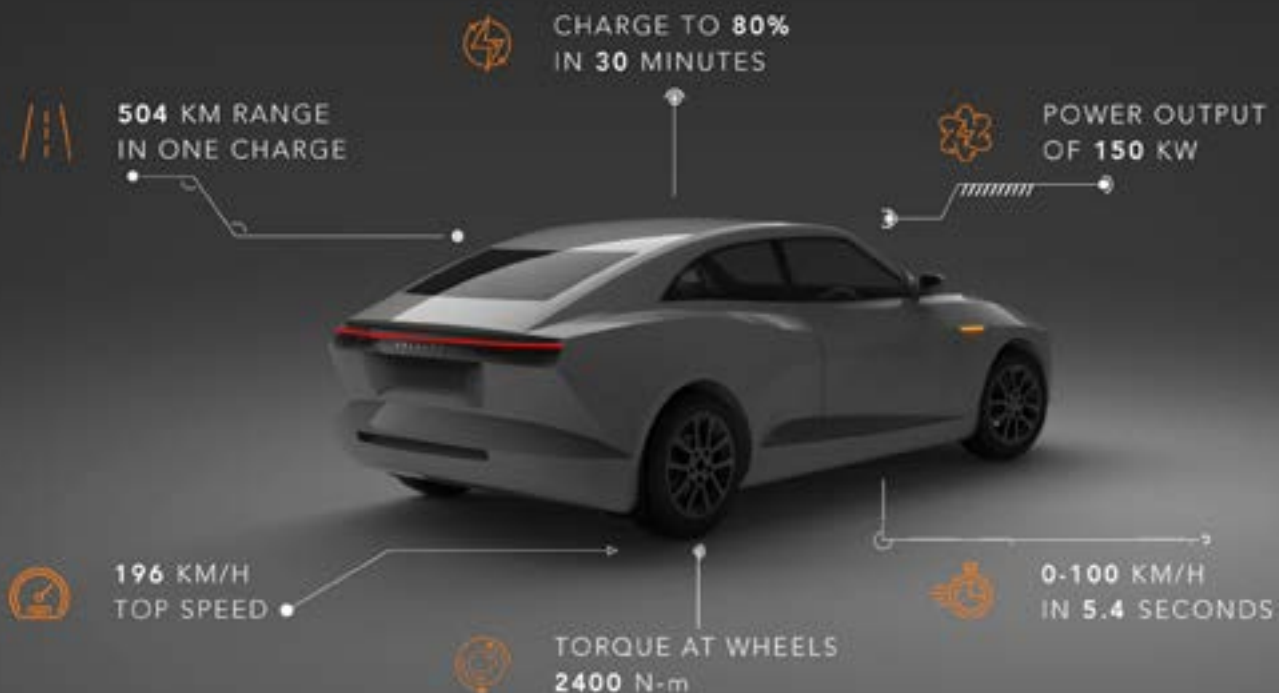
Sales launch and pricing

While the car wasn't shown in action at the event, Pravaig did talk at length about what it will be like when it hits the roads sometime next year. For the foreseeable future, it will be available exclusively as a premium fleet service for B2B clients in Bangalore and Delhi, with optional chauffeur services. No information around the pricing was shared at the unveiling event, but individuals interested in checking out the experience can do so by registering at Defy.city.

Production target

Specific timelines for the vehicle production and commencement of the service were not mentioned. For the first year, Pravaig has a production target of 2,500 units.

<https://www.techradar.com/news/pravaig-extinction-ev>



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

New Brand/International

Hyundai Motor Group Launches ,HTWO' Dedicated Fuel Cell System Brand

Hyundai Motor Group has introduced, HTWO', a new brand to represent the group's world-leading hydrogen fuel cell system. Building upon Hyundai's 20-plus years of experience in hydrogen fuel cell technology, the brand will present hydrogen as a positive energy for humanity. HTWO stands for ,H2', the hydrogen molecule, whilst also representing ,Hydrogen' and ,Humanity', the two main pillars of Hyundai's fuel cell business. The launch of the new fuel cell system brand will help facilitate Hyundai's global fuel cell business and grow the hydrogen ecosystem. With its next generation fuel cell system, the group aims to offer a highly efficient

and diversified lineup of hydrogen-powered vehicles. Through strategic partnerships with hydrogen, energy and logistics companies around the world, Hyundai Motor Group has expanded its fuel cell system business, accelerating development of a hydrogen society and laying the foundation for the company's HTWO brand, with initial focus on major hub regions – Korea, the United States, Europe and China.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/hyundai-motor-group-launches-htwo-dedicated-fuel-cell-system-brand-301190137.html>



Preview/International

Volkswagen Plans Small Electric Car for the Masses

Volkswagen is bringing forward the development of a small electric car for the mass market in anticipation of tougher climate regulations, according to plans seen by Reuters, as it seeks to boost sales in a new green era. Under the project dubbed “Small BEV (Battery Electric Vehicle)”, engineers are racing to develop a purely-battery powered car around the size of a Polo which will be available for between 20,000 and 25,000 euros. This would make it cheaper than Volkswagen’s ID.3 electric car, which went on sale in September. Volkswagen did not provide details on what the vehicle might look like,

when it might be launched or where it might be built. The carmaker has said the European Union’s more stringent emissions targets will force it to boost the proportion of hybrid and electric vehicles in its European car sales to 60% by 2030, up from a previous target of 40%. The VW brand currently plans to build 1.5 million electric cars by 2025.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-volkswagen-electric-idUKKBN28711O>



New Vehicle/International

Audi A3 Sportback 45 TFSI e Revealed as the Premium Alternative to the Golf GTE

The Volkswagen Group relies on synergies to cut costs, and this is more than apparent in the compact segment. Even though it's brand-spanking new, the Audi A3 Sportback 45 TFSI e is joined at the hip with no fewer than three alternatives from Volkswagen, Skoda, and the Cupra brand. A 1.4-liter turbo four-cylinder engine and a transmission-integrated electric motor generate 245 PS (242 horsepower) and 400 Nm (295 pound-feet) of torque, which isn't too shabby at all for a five-door compact hatch. Audi further quotes 63 kilometers of EV driving range from a 13 kWh battery, which can be charged up to the brim in around five hours. Now available to order in Germany, the A3 Sportback with plug-in hybrid shenanigans will set you back 40,395

euros at the very least. Like all three siblings, the A3 Sportback 45 TFSI e is gifted with a sporty appearance that helps it stand out from most PHEVs out there. The E-shaped signature lighting is complemented by red brake calipers, and standard equipment further includes sport seats as well as automatic climate control. The premium-oriented, plug-in hybrid hatchback always starts up on electric power even though Auto Hybrid is the default mode.

<https://www.autoevolution.com/news/audi-a3-sportback-45-tfsi-e-revealed-as-the-premium-alternative-to-the-golf-gte-152733.html>



Facelift/International

Renault Unveils Koleos Model Year 2021

The updated Renault Koleos SUV will offer modified lighting, new interior and exterior colors, new assistance technologies and a simpler offer. Probably the most significant change in the Koleos for the model year 2021 took place in the area of headlights, which in all versions boast a new light signature with LED technology. The LED headlights offer 25% better performance and 10% lower energy consumption compared to halogens. The rear lights are equipped with 3D dynamic turn signals. The all-wheel drive version can be newly equipped with downhill assistant. This device, supplied in combination with the Blue dCi 190 4×4 X-Tronic diesel engine, operates at speeds of 5 to 30 km/h and limits

the car's descent speed without having to step on the brake pedal. The latest novelty of the Koleos for 2021 is the simplification of the offer, which will start with the Intens trim level. The basic engine is the recently introduced TCe 160 petrol engine, combined with a seven-speed EDC automatic engine, which promises comfort and high efficiency. Of course, all engines (TCe 160 EDC FAP & Blue dCi 190 4×4 X-Tronic) then meet the Euro6 DFull emission standard.

<https://www.world-today-news.com/renault-koleos-for-2021-will-bring-new-technologies-and-a-simpler-offer/>



New Drivetrain/International

Lexus Teases Electric SUV Powered by New Drivetrain Technology

Lexus is teasing an upcoming new electric SUV powered by the automaker's new "DIRECT4" drivetrain technology. DIRECT4 precisely controls the delivery of drive torque from front and rear electric motors and braking force to all four wheels. By automatically adjusting the balance of front and rear-wheel drive, the system adapts the driving conditions to the driver's intentions, changing the driving feel and giving the car the best driving posture. The system uses a front and rear e-axle, each featuring a high-torque electric motor and transaxle, focusing on optimum drive force distribution. As the motor is directly connected to the wheels by a single driveshaft,

it operates without delay. Takashi Watanabe, Lexus electrified chief engineer, and Koichi Suga, chief designer at Lexus, presented the new electric drivetrain and at the end of their presentation, they teased a new electric SUV. They didn't release a plan or timeline to bring the vehicle to production, but the company has previously indicated that it will launch its first all-electric vehicle next year.

<https://electrek.co/2020/12/07/lexus-teases-electric-suv-powered-drivetrain-technology/>



New Vehicle/International

Volvo Completes Electrification of XC60 Range

Volvo's XC60 mid-size SUV is now available with a full range of electrified powertrains. The former World Car of the Year is offered purely with hybrid power, from mild-hybrid petrols and diesels to petrol-electric plug-in hybrids. Every mild-hybrid powertrain in the XC60 range combines a powerful 2.0-litre engine with a 48-volt battery and a KERS kinetic energy recovery system to reduce fuel consumption and improve driveability and response, especially at low speeds. An integrated starter generator also provides faster, quieter restarting of the engine. This mild-hybrid set-up can be combined with front-wheel drive in the 197hp B4 diesel and 250hp B5 petrol for optimum efficiency, or with all-wheel-drive for extra stability and security, especially in slippery conditions. The 235hp B5 diesel and 300hp B6 petrol mild-hybrids are offered exclusively with all-wheel

drive. The XC60 is also available with three plug-in hybrid powertrains. These combine a supercharged and turbocharged 2.0-litre petrol engine that drives the front wheels and an electric motor that powers the rears, ensuring the plug-in hybrid's exceptional efficiency is twinned with the reassurance of all-wheel drive. Recently introduced to the XC60 range, the entry-level plug-in is the Recharge Plug-in Hybrid T6. Despite having a total of 340hp from its petrol engine and electric motor for stirring performance when needed, its high-voltage battery enables it to travel up to 32 miles on electric power alone.

<https://www.automotiveworld.com/news-releases/volvo-completes-electrification-of-xc60-range-with-mild-hybrid-and-plug-in-hybrid-powertrains/>



Preview/International

2021 Porsche 911 GT3 Cup Racer Coming Soon

It's been two years since we first saw the current 992-generation Porsche 911 make its world debut. Incredibly, we are yet to see any racing variant. Well, that's only half true as we already brought you spy shots of the 992-gen 911's GT3 R race car, which was spotted testing at a secret location in Germany. Now Porsche has released teasers for the 992-gen 911's GT3 Cup race car, which the automaker has confirmed will be ready for the 2021 motorsport season. The GT3 Cup is the race car most closely related to the 911 GT3 road car, the new version of which is due

for a reveal in early 2021. The GT3 R mentioned above is related to the 911 GT3 RS road car and should be ready in time for the 2022 motorsport season, if not earlier. The new GT3 RS will also arrive about then. There should also be a new 911 RSR at some point, a race car without a road-going counterpart.

https://www.motorauthority.com/news/1080959_2021-porsche-911-gt3-cup-racer-coming-soon



Facelift/International

Alfa Romeo Introduces Range for MY21 and Presents the New Stelvio Veloce Ti

The Model Year 2021 of Alfa Romeo Giulia and Stelvio is being refreshed following an intuitive logic and offers the most appropriate driving trim both for customers seeking sportiness and for those who prefer exclusive comfort and elegance. Stelvio makes its debut appearance in the 'Veloce Ti' trim level, a perfect combination of sporty content and style that highlights the superb performance of this SUV, now with new and more efficient engines, in line with E6d-Final regulations. The Stelvio Veloce Ti comes fitted with either a 280-hp 2.0-litre turbo petrol engine or a 210-hp 2.2-litre diesel engine, both paired with 8-speed automatic transmission and Q4 all-wheel drive. The MY21 Stelvio range also boasts all-new 21-inch alloy wheels – to date

only available up to 20-inch. MY21 Giulia and Stelvio both include a complete set of ADAS (Advanced Driver Assistance Systems) features, offering the highest level of autonomous driving in a perfect balance between driving pleasure and assistance systems. This is level 2, achieved by definition when the driver gives the car control of the accelerator, brakes and steering under certain conditions.

<https://www.marketscreener.com/quote/stock/FIAT-CHRYSLER-AUTOMOBILES-18191992/news/Fiat-Chrysler-Automobiles-N-Alfa-Romeo-introduces-the-Model-Year-21-range-and-presents-the-new-Ste-31972629/>



New Vehicle/International

Hyundai Motor Reveals Details on All-New Tucson Plug-in Hybrid

Hyundai Motor has revealed new details of the all-new Tucson Plug-in Hybrid, which will be available for the first time in spring 2021. The vehicle will be equipped with a powerful and efficient powertrain. The system is based on the third generation 1.6-litre T-GDi Smartstream engine. This is paired with a 66.9 kW electric motor with a maximum torque of 304 Nm and a 13.8 kWh lithium polymer battery. Combined, the gasoline engine and electric motor deliver 265 PS maximum power and 350 Nm maximum torque. The system is paired with a six-speed automatic transmission (6AT) operated through shift by wire and standard four-wheel drive. The all-new Tucson Plug-in Hybrid is also equipped with an Active Air Flap that adjusts air intake

depending on the engine coolant temperature, vehicle speed, and more. The purpose of this function is to minimise air resistance and maximise fuel efficiency. Drivers can also switch to fully electric driving on demand by pushing the respective button, benefitting from an all-electric driving range of over 50km (internal WLTP estimate). Equipped with a 7.2 kW on-board charger, the Tucson Plug-in Hybrid can be charged at an EV charging station or using a home wall box. Four-wheel drive (4WD) comes standard on the all-new Tucson Plug-in Hybrid.

<https://newspressuk.com/publicReleaseView/95628/52167/>



Production Launch/Europe

Audi e-tron GT Enters Production

Audi officially announced the start of production of its all-new all-electric model, the Audi e-tron GT, at its Böllinger Höfe plant in Neckarsulm, Germany. The same production line will be utilized also to make the conventional Audi R8. It's the first electric Audi produced in Germany, as the Audi e-tron and Audi e-tron Sportback are produced in Brussels, Belgium. The Böllinger Höfe site also makes the plug-in hybrid models of A6, A7 and A8. The order books for the Audi e-tron GT will be opened in Spring 2021, which

suggests that the initial rate of production will not be particularly high. Since the Audi e-tron GT shares a lot with the Porsche Taycan, we can expect that it will be a really high-performance model. We guess that it will be an interesting, less expensive alternative to the Taycan.

<https://insideevs.com/news/459305/audi-etron-gt-entered-production/>



Preview/Europe

2021 Nissan Qashqai Interior Teased: More Spacious, Loaded With Tech

Undoubtedly Nissan's cash cow in Europe, the current Qashqai is getting a bit long in the tooth considering it was launched back in 2013. Carrying a name that's still a bit tricky to write down and pronounce, the compact crossover is getting ready to enter the third generation. To ease the wait, new teaser images preview the revamped interior of the model also known as Rogue Sport in the US. Starting from left to right, the new Qashqai comes with a fully digital 12.3-inch instrument cluster configurable in many ways and accompanied by a 10.8-inch head-up display on the high-end trim levels. Nissan says it's the biggest HUD in the segment and projects various info onto the windscreen within the driver's line of vision. The most significant change in the dashboard layout is a new nine-inch touchscreen that sits atop the center console. It has support for Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, the latter of which works wirelessly. Go for a more expensive Qashqai and Nissan will throw in a 10-speaker Bose sound system with a subwoofer mounted in the

cargo area for that extra bass. The list of new tech goodies goes on with wireless charging, front and rear USB ports (including USB-C), along with Amazon Alexa integration and Vehicle Health reports. There's also a NissanConnect smartphone app to remotely use the horn and lights as well as lock/unlock the doors and predefine alerts for speed, time, and zone. Beyond the tech, the 2021 Nissan Qashqai has a roomier cabin as a result of an increased footprint needed to distance itself from the now larger Juke. Rear-seat passengers have an extra 28 millimeters (1.1 inches) of knee room, now at 608 mm (24 in), while headroom both front and rear has increased by 15 mm (0.6 in). The compact crossover is now 35 mm (1.37 in) longer, 32 mm (1.25 in) wider, and 25 mm (1 in) taller than the model it replaces, with the wheelbase stretched by 20 mm (0.8 in).

<https://www.motor1.com/news/458752/2021-nissan-qashqai-interior/>



New Vehicle/Europe

Lunaz to Begin Production of Electric Classic Range Rovers

Lunaz, the leading creator of electric classic cars, is delighted to announce the first tranche of production availability for classic electric Range Rovers. The company, based in Silverstone, England will create an initial run of 50 of the luxury SUVs built in the 'classic era' between 1970 and 1994. Since unveiling Jaguar, Bentley and Rolls-Royce electrified classics, Lunaz has been consistently asked by its global customer base to apply its re-engineering and restoration approach to these cars. In response to feedback from these customers, electric classic Range Rovers by Lunaz will be offered in both 'Town' and 'Country' specification. The more urban

expression of these cars will be presented with increased focus on rear-seat and driver comfort, reflecting their dual use as either self-driven luxury vehicles or chauffeured cars. These cars will be available in both standard and long wheelbase. Prices for classic electric Range Rovers by Lunaz start at £245,000 excluding local taxes. The first production tranche of 50 vehicles is currently being allocated with first customer deliveries anticipated for the summer of 2021.

<https://newspressuk.com/publicReleaseView/95553/52082/>



New Vehicle/Europe

The First New Bentley Blower for 90 Years

After 40,000 hours of work, Bentley Mulliner has completed the first new Bentley Blower in 90 years on December 9, with the delivery of Car Zero – the prototype car for the Blower Continuation Series. This highly exclusive run of 12 customer cars – all pre-sold – will be crafted from the design drawings and tooling jigs used for the original four Blowers built and raced by Sir Henry 'Tim' Birkin in the late 1920s. Specifically, Bentley's own Team Car (Chassis HB 3403, engine SM 3902, registration UU 5872 - Team Car #2) has provided the master model

for the Continuation Series, with every single component laser-scanned as part of a wheels-up, sympathetic restoration. From this data, 1,846 individual parts have been designed and hand-crafted to create the new Blower. 230 of those parts are actually assemblies – one of which being the engine – taking the total part count to several thousand when fixings and interior trim parts are included.

<https://www.bentleymotors.com/>



Preview/Europe

Mercedes-Benz Vans Announces Next-Generation eSprinter Based on "Electric Versatility Platform"

Mercedes-Benz Vans is accelerating down its road to full electrification and will make all of its model ranges available with a battery-electric drivetrain with a focus on reliability, quality and optimized total cost of ownership (TCO). To create even greater added value for customers in the future, Mercedes-Benz Vans developed the new Electric Versatility Platform for the large van segment. This innovative e-drive platform will be the technical basis for the next-generation eSprinter. The core elements of the new platform are three modules that enable the greatest possible

flexibility in the development and design of different body types. This allows for new eSprinter body configurations previously only available with combustion engines.

<https://www.thenewsmarket.com/news/mercedes-benz-vans-announces-next-generation-esprinter-based-on-newly-developed--electric-versatility/s/97315e58-983c-4455-b941-7f5ee049de38>



Facelift/Japan

Outdoors Themed Jasper Model Added to Mitsubishi Delica D:5 Range

The recipient of a mid-life facelift two years ago, Mitsubishi has brought a series of mainly small specification upgrades to the Delica D:5 in Japan. One of the oldest models present in the highly popular Japanese Domestic Market minivan segment having debuted in 2007, the revisions include improved auto on/off headlights, a new outdoors inspired Jasper trim level with water resistant fabric seats, rain sense wipers and a heated steering wheel on the range-topping P Edition. Up front, the 2.2-litre DI-D turbodiesel engine remains unchanged

with outputs of 130kW/380Nm, fed to all four wheels via an eight-speed automatic gearbox that replaced the normally aspirated 2.4-litre petrol and CVT combination at the mentioned facelift.

<https://citizen.co.za/motoring/motoring-news-motoring/2407566/forbidden-fruit-outdoors-themed-jasper-model-added-to-mitsubishi-delica-d5-range/>



New Generation/Japan

2021 Suzuki Solio & Bandit (Hybrid) Officially Unveiled

The city car twins of the 2021 Suzuki Solio and the 2021 Suzuki Solio Bandit have been officially unveiled. The new generation 'compact height wagon' kei cars went on sale in Japan, their main market, on December 4. The next-gen Suzuki Solio and next-gen Suzuki Solio Bandit have more aggressive designs compared to their predecessors. The interior of the 2021 Suzuki Solio and 2021 Suzuki Solio Bandit is less cluttered compared and while the layout is the same, the instrument panel and centre console seem to have shrunk. The 2021 Suzuki Solio and 2021 Suzuki Solio Bandit are underpinned by the new Heartect platform. They measure 3,790 mm in length, 1,645 mm in width and 1,745 mm in height, and they have a 2,500 mm

wheelbase. The rear seats and luggage compartment are also wider, while their luggage compartment's floor is 100 mm longer. Under the hood, the K12C 1.2-litre DualJet N/A four-cylinder petrol engine producing 67 kW or 91 PS of power and 118 Nm of torque is standard. It is married to a CVT across the range. As an option, customers can equip it with mild-hybrid technology in the 2021 Suzuki Solio, and in the 2021 Suzuki Solio Bandit, this fuel-sipping technology is standard.

<https://electricvehicleweb.in/2021-suzuki-solio-2021-suzuki-bandit/>



Sales Launch/Japan

Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross PHEV and Gasoline Options Now Available In Japan

Mitsubishi has launched the updated Eclipse Cross plug-in hybrid and gasoline models in Japan. The redesigned model will be the second PHEV in the Mitsubishi lineup, marking the company's dedication and investment in PHEV technology. Launched globally during Mitsubishi Motors' 100th anniversary in 2017, the Eclipse Cross boasted a stylish coupe shape and dynamic power, epitomizing the essence of Mitsubishi cars. The redesign takes SUV dynamics to a new level, while achieving a graceful, flowing form. For the first time, the company introduces a new PHEV variant which incorporates the twin-

motor 4WD system from the Outlander PHEV, the world's top-selling PHEV. The carmaker started taking pre-orders for the new Eclipse Cross from mid-October in Japan, and already doubled the original sales target, reaching about 2,000 units in six weeks.

<https://www.automotiveworld.com/news-releases/mitsubishi-eclipse-cross-phev-and-gasoline-options-now-available-in-japan/>



Preview/North America

Bollinger Unveils Updated Electric Truck and Pickup 'Production-Intent Design'

Bollinger has unveiled an updated design for its electric SUV and pickup trucks with new “production-intent” versions. The startup is a New York-founded (now Michigan-based) EV company that has been developing a very simple yet versatile electric truck platform. They first unveiled an all-electric Jeep-like truck, the Bollinger B1, and later a pickup version, the Bollinger B2. Both vehicles have a simple and rugged design that might appeal to people who actually get things done or even go off-roading with their trucks. They have been talking about bringing the trucks to production,

but they have been delayed several times, and at a starting price of \$125,000, they might have a tough time selling them. The updated design is still rugged with things like exposed rivets, but it looks more refined than the previous design.

<https://electrek.co/2020/12/10/bollinger-updated-electric-truck-and-pickup-production-intent-design/>



New Vehicle/North America

Ford Expands Off-Road Family of Trucks with All-New 2021 F-150 Tremor

Ford is expanding its rugged off-road family of trucks with the all-new F-150 Tremor. The 2021 F-150 Tremor combines all-terrain upgrades perfect for tackling the trails with the outstanding towing and payload capability its owners expect. F-150 Tremor has been designed and engineered for customers seeking more off-road capability than the available FX4 package. Like every other F-150, Tremor uses a high-strength steel frame and high-strength, military-grade, aluminum alloy body. It comes in SuperCrew configuration with a 5.5-foot box, 3.5-liter EcoBoost V6 engine and 10-speed automatic transmission plus standard four-wheel drive. The upgraded suspension starts

with retuned springs front and rear for added ground clearance and to help keep tires more firmly in contact with terrain. The hood and front end are redesigned for a more muscular, aggressive profile, while a unique grille featuring a blacked-out Ford oval is highlighted by the signature Tremor color of Active Orange.

<https://www.thenewsmarket.com/news/ford-expands-off-road-family-of-trucks-with-all-new-2021-f-150-tremor---a-rugged-4x4-for-work-and-re/s/4a18be64-cef0-4a0f-880c-980f171e6979>



New Vehicle/North America

Mustang Mach-E GT Gets Upgrade with Performance Edition

Targeting a 0-60 mph time of 3.5 seconds, Mustang Mach-E GT Performance Edition joins the Mustang Mach-E GT stable, making an already-fast electric pony even quicker. Pumping out 480 horsepower (358 KW) and 634 lb.-ft. of torque (860 Nm), Mustang Mach-E GT Performance Edition delivers more torque, grip and better handling by drawing more power from its battery pack and targets an EPA-estimated range of 235 miles. Offering more than just added “oomph,” the Mustang Mach-E GT Performance Edition features sportier components including

19-inch front brakes with red-painted Brembo calipers as well as 20-inch machined-face Ebony Black-painted pockets paired with 245/45R20 Pirelli summer tires and MagneRide damping that helps to improve handling performance.

<https://www.automotiveworld.com/news-releases/mustang-mach-e-gt-gets-upgrade-with-performance-edition-accelerates-to-60-mph-in-targeted-3-5-seconds/>



New Brand/Russia

KAMA-1 Electric Car Presented in Moscow

The official presentation of an electric car jointly developed by Russian truck maker KAMAZ and the Peter the Great Saint Petersburg Polytechnic University was held within the framework of the Vuzpromexpo-2020 exhibition in Moscow. The three-door, four-seat city car with a length of 3.4 m, a width of 1.7 m and a height of 1.6 m, received the KAMA-1 name. It is equipped with a 33 kWh lithium-ion battery and a 80 kW electric motor, which allows it to travel up to 250 km on a single charge and reach a maximum speed of 150 km/h, while the 0-100 km/h acceleration is rated at 6.7 seconds. The KAMA-1

features full led front and rear lights, dynamic turn signals. A 9-inch display for information, multimedia and control is located on the steering column. All systems of the car are controlled via this screen: activation of ADAS level 3 functions, climate control, multimedia functions, and car diagnostic modes. The KAMA-1 is still in its pre-production phase, but it already successfully passed all necessary tests and certification processes.

<http://www.napinfo.ru/en/news/cars/the-presentation-of-kama-1-electric-car>



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