

Weekly World Car Info

by

ceAUTO

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NEW MODEL LAUNCHES

INTERNATIONAL

Major Mercedes-EQ Model Offensive: Six New Mercedes-EQ Launches by 2022

Mercedes-Benz has further detailed the expansion of its all electric EQ sub-brand with the announcement of six models all due to be launched by 2022. Although all of these models have been previously confirmed, it is the first time the manufacturer has listed dates for each of the six cars.

- The S-Class-sized EQS will be the first of the new-generation EQ models to be launched, in the first half of 2021, with production then starting at the firm's Sindelfingen plant in Germany.
- Following the EQS next year will be the EQA, a GLA-based small SUV set to be produced at

Mercedes' Rastatt plant in Germany and in Beijing, China.

- The larger EQB will also be launched in 2021, with production centred in Hungary and Beijing.
- The final model to go into production before the end of next year will be the EQE, an E-Class-sized electric "business sedan". European cars





will be built at the firm's plant in Bremen, Germany, with production also starting in Beijing.

- In 2022, Mercedes will introduce two SUVs to sit above the existing EQC model. The EQE and EQS SUVs will serve as the high-riding equivalents to the saloons of the same name. Production of those models will be centred in Tuscaloosa, US.

Along with the EQC SUV and the EQV electric minibus, Mercedes will offer a total of eight fully electric models (not including Smarts) by 2022. Many of the models will be produced on the same line as combustion-engined variants. The EQS, for example, shares a fully flexible line with the S-Class, while the US-built EQE and EQS SUVs will share their line with the GLE and GLS.

The EV offensive will be complemented by an increase in plug-in hybrid models on offer. More than 20 different PHEV variants are already on sale, but that will rise to 25 by 2025. A global battery production network is in place, with plants on three continents in countries such as Germany, Poland, the US, China and Thailand. The brand predicts plug-in hybrids and full EVs to account for more than half of its sales by 2030. A further ambition is to ensure all car and van plants are CO2 neutral from "as early as 2022".

<https://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/electric-cars/mercedes-benz-six-new-eq-electric-model-launches-2022>

NORTH AMERICA

Amazon's Zoox Presents Its First Autonomous Robotaxi

Zoox, a self-driving car company that Amazon bought in June, has finally revealed its robotaxi after six years of gnarly prototypes and secrecy. And while it broadly resembles other first-generation autonomous vehicles from automakers and Silicon Valley startups, Zoox's robotaxi has a few standout features, as well as an overall polish to it that makes obvious why Amazon thinks it might be the cornerstone of a fledgling autonomous ride-hailing service.

Major Features:

- The autonomous "carriage-style" vehicle is an all-electric four-wheeler that seats up to four people, and is similar in appearance to fully self-driving vehicles created by other companies in the space. At just 3.63 meters long, it falls somewhere in between the big, boxy Origin robotaxi from Cruise (which is owned by General Motors) and the delivery-focused robot made by Nuro.
- Zoox has spent the last few years working on outfitting its autonomous vehicle with the ability

to drive both forward and backward, and side to side, or "bi-directionally." Combined with four-wheel steering functionality, the company says its vehicle will be able to handle precise maneuvers like "tight curbside pickups" and "tricky U-turns."

- Zoox claims its vehicle is the first of its kind to be able to travel at up to 75 mph, a possible nod to ambitions to one day put the vehicles on the highway.
- Like most early autonomous vehicles, Zoox's robotaxi is decked out in safety technology. There's a crown of six LIDAR pucks up top,





as well as multiple radar sensors and cameras. Zoox says this provides a 270-degree field of view at each corner, virtually eliminating blind spots as well as providing redundancy in case a sensor fails. The sensor suite allows the vehicle to see objects up to 150 meters away, Zoox says.

- The interior of Zoox's vehicle is less coldly technological. The cozy bench seats, which face inward (hence the term "carriage-style") are surrounded by what looks like textured fabric. The seats also conceal what Zoox says is a radical rethink of how airbags work. There are cupholders and wireless charging mats between seats. And the ceiling has a starry sky pattern, the kind commonly seen in luxury vehicles like the Rolls Royce Ghost. A small touchscreen at each seat is the most obvious tech found inside; Zoox says passengers will use these to control music, air conditioning, or see their route and ETA.
- The robotaxi is powered by a 133kWh battery pack, which is a little bigger than the packs that

currently power Tesla's most capable vehicles. Zoox says these battery packs will last for 16 hours of continuous use. That should be plenty of juice to help Zoox and Amazon start chipping away at their collective goal, which is creating an autonomous ride-hailing service.

Of course, Zoox is just part of Amazon's increasingly massive push into the transportation sector. Not only has the e-commerce giant essentially built out its own shipping infrastructure, but it has poured a ton of money into buzzy EV startup Rivian (and is working with the company on a fleet of electric delivery vans). It also has a stake in Aurora, the autonomous vehicle outfit that just acquired Uber's self-driving division.

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/12/14/22173971/zoox-amazon-robotaxi-self-driving-autonomous-vehicle-ride-hailing>



1817-HP Hennessey Venom F5 Revealed

Hennessey has long been known as a tuner—one with a reputation for extravagant claims in the past—but the Venom F5 marks its effective debut as a manufacturer in its own right. (The ultra-limited Venom GT that preceded it used a Lotus tub.) It's named after the highest rating on the Fujita scale of hurricane strength, and just 24 cars will be built, each priced at \$2.1 million. This hypercar is intended to become the world's fastest production car set to make the Koenigsegg One:1 seem slow and the Bugatti Chiron positively leisurely.

Major Features

- Based on Hennessey's numbers, the F5's mid-mounted 90-degree turbocharged 6.6-liter V-8 – dubbed „Fury” by the company – is set to be the most powerful engine ever fitted to a production car. This is a pushrod unit, a configuration well known to Hennessey's tuning operations, chosen for its compact dimensions and lower center of gravity. The company claims a peak of 1817 horsepower at 8000 rpm – the engine revs out at 8200 rpm – accompanied by a 1193-pound-foot torque peak at 5500 rpm.

- Drive reaches the rear wheels through a seven-speed CIMA single-clutch automated transmission and limited-slip differential, with gearbox ratios chosen to help the F5 achieve its targeted acceleration and top speed numbers. Hennessey says that the F5 will be capable of a 2.6-second zero-to-62-mph time, a 4.7-second zero-to-124-mph time, an 8.4-second zero-to-186-mph time, and 15.5 seconds from zero to 248 mph. Top speed is targeted to be in excess of 311 mph. If delivered, that would make the F5 faster even than the 304-mph Bugatti Chiron. The F5's ultratall seventh gear means the engine won't run out

of revs until 334 mph, according to Hennessey's claims.

- The F5's carbon tub is claimed to weigh just 190 pounds in its naked state. Most of the bodywork is carbon fiber, with the exception of an aluminum roof, with front and rear aluminum subframes.
- Mechanical complication is minimal: the F5 has a control-arm suspension at each corner, coil springs and separate reservoir dampers that can be adjusted for bump and rebound. Hennessey claims a curb weight of 3053 pounds, making the F5 barely heavier than the Koenigsegg One:1, but with 35 percent more power.
- A „track pack“ that includes a separate rear wing and higher downforce will be optional, although specifying this will drop the F5's top speed.
- The F5's cabin is accessed through butterfly-opening doors and over a narrower sill than the hypercar norm. Designed around function rather than luxury, the F5's interior is trimmed in leather and carbon fiber. The central screen is for an Alpine infotainment system, and Hennessey

has gone to the trouble and expense of creating bespoke switchgear for the controls that aren't integrated into the surface of the steering wheel. Lacking airbags, the F5 won't have full federal homologation. John Hennessey said the car will be sold under the „show and display“ exemption.

Production Location

The F5 will be constructed in a new facility in Sealy, Texas, but the first finished car was completed in the U.K., where the carbon-fiber monocoque is manufactured by KS Composites. John Hennessey told C/D that between 12 and 14 of the 24 F5 slated to be built have already been sold, and that his company is planning to follow it with other models, likely using a version of the same core architecture.

<https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a34961869/hennessey-venom-f5-revealed/>



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

New Vehicle/Europe

Ares Design Unveils Wami Lalique Spyder

Ares Design is the company of ex-Lotus CEO Dany Bahar, and recently they have been in the limelight for all good reasons. From the retrolicious panther to the S1, Ares has given us some great cars. Now Dany and his team have unveiled yet another stunning car: meet the Wami Lalique Spyder. The Wami has all the classy touches that will take you back to the 1950s. Everything in this spyder is magnificent, from the hand-shaped aluminum and carbon fiber body to the 'egg crate' front grille and

side vents. Dany Bahar claims that the Wami is going to be „unlike anything we have produced before.” Ares will make only 12 Wami Spyders, and the pricing hasn't been revealed yet.

<https://drivetribe.com/p/this-is-ares-designs-beautiful-fmvqj0HST7iTBf7f3qHErQ?iid=Re7euI6xRXSUXENz10v6Jg>



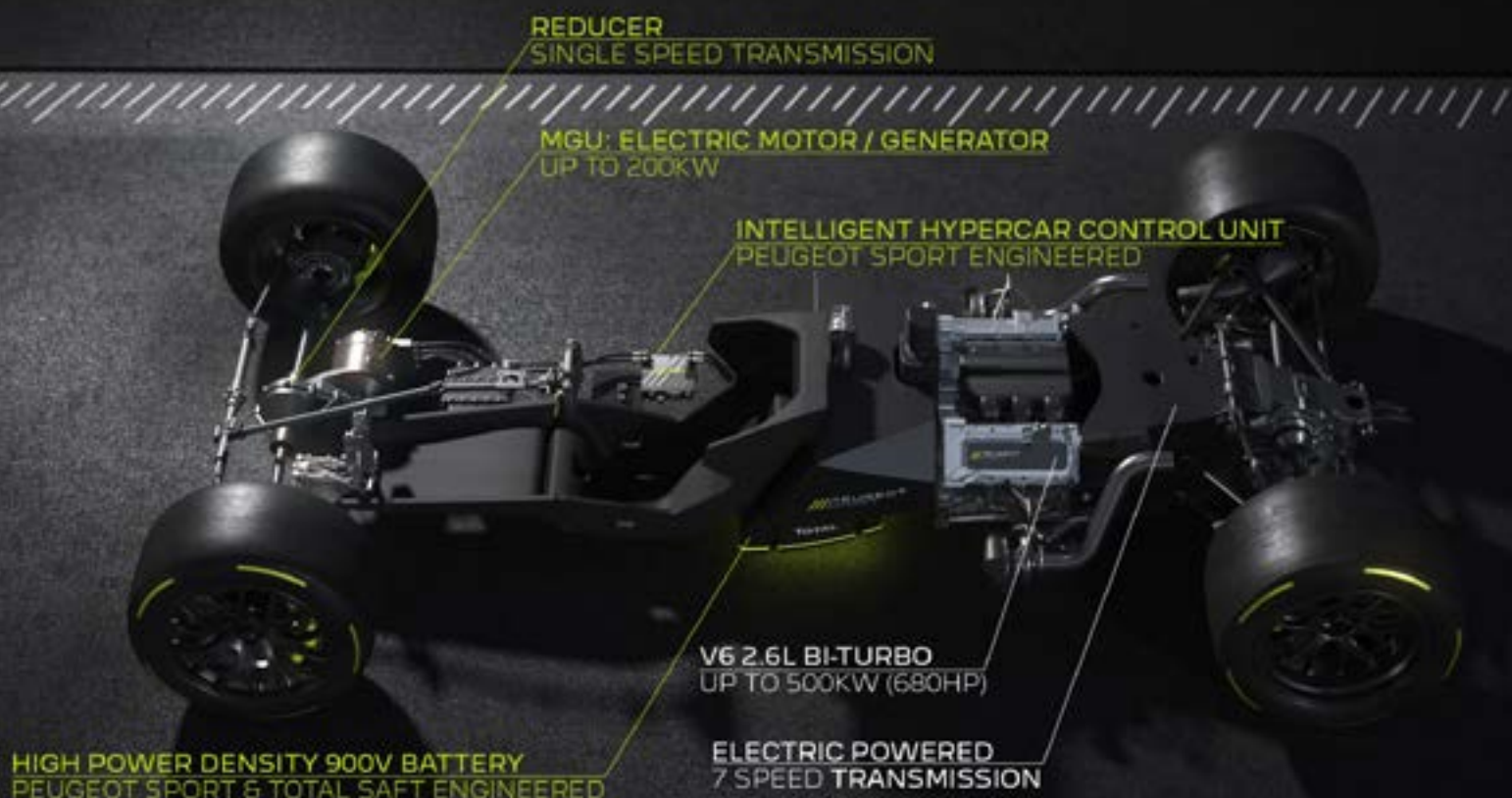
New Powertrain/Europe

Peugeot Sport and TOTAL Release Details of HYBRID4 500KW Powertrain

Partners for 25 years, Peugeot Sport & TOTAL have released the main technical characteristics of the powertrain of their Hypercar LMH for the FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC). Peugeot Sport has leveraged its experience of endurance racing (V12 and V8 Peugeot 908s) and that of PSA Motorsport in the FIA World Rally Championship (four cylinders) to develop a new 2.6-litre, twin-turbo, 90-degree V6. Positioned behind the driver, this 500kW/680hp powertrain will tip the scales at 165 kg and drive the rear wheels. The robotised sequential seven-speed (plus reverse) gearbox will be controlled by steering-wheel-mounted paddle shifters,

and the Peugeot Sport-developed brake-by-wire system will also be managed electronically. The driver will be able to adjust the level of engine-braking generated by the electric motor under deceleration and the force applied by the pads to the braking discs to achieve the optimum electric regenerative/ hydraulic braking split. Optimal energy management, both under acceleration and during energy recovery (capped by the regulations at 200 kW/272hp), will consequently be key to the car's performance and efficiency.

www.peugeot.com/



Preview/Europe

Subaru Confirms First Electric Car Will Be Europe-Bound SUV

Subaru's first electric vehicle will be an SUV built on a new bespoke EV platform shared with Toyota – and it has confirmed that it will come to Europe. The Japanese firm says that the model will be launched in the first half of this decade, although it's tipped it to be revealed next year. It will be similar in size to the existing combustion-engined Forester. Because it will be built on an electric-only architecture, it's expected to get a new name; Japanese media are reporting that it will be called Evoltis. It will use the electric platform that Subaru partnered with Toyota to

develop, known as e-TNGA. The architecture is designed to be highly adaptable to allow for vehicles of different lengths and can be used for front-, rear- and four-wheel-drive layouts, thanks to the ability to fit motors to both axles. It can also accept multiple battery sizes.

<https://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/electric-cars/subaru-confirms-first-electric-car-will-be-europe-bound-suv>



New Vehicle/Europe

2021 Porsche 911 GT3 Cup Has Arrived

Next to the 992 Porsche 911 GT3 streetcar, the next-generation Cup car has kept fans on the edge of their seats. As the top-selling racing car in the world, the German automaker certainly had big shoes to fill, but wow did they deliver. A first for the motorsport division, the one-make racing machine will not only be released to competitors in the Porsche Mobil 1 Supercup, but also to customer teams in the national Carrera Cups – held in Germany, France, Asia, Benelux, and North America. As a springboard series that's consistently proven its success over the years, it's incredibly exciting to see such a substantial update. There are obviously many improvements to the car, but one leap comes in the power department. It still uses the same

4.0-liter six-cylinder horizontally opposed engine as its predecessor, but this unit has been pumped up to produce 510 horsepower over the previous 485 hp benchmark. More grunt is fantastic, but one of the new challenger's party pieces is that it can produce those numbers using synthetic fuels, significantly lowering CO2 emissions – purists will be relieved to hear that it keeps the same exhaust configuration, producing one of the great noises in motorsport. Following its release, the racing car of tomorrow is now ready to race for €225,000.

<https://www.motor1.com/news/459941/2021-porsche-911-gt3-cup/>



Preview/Europe

VW ID.1 Entry-Level EV To Spawn Skoda Equivalent As Citigo Replacement

With the launch of the ID.3 and ID.4, Volkswagen has covered two of the world's most popular automotive segments right now - the compact hatchback and the compact SUV ones. A few more VW EVs are currently in the works for a release in the next few years and among them is believed to be an entry-level ID.1. It could spawn a Skoda version, according to a new report. The ID.1 is expected to be based on a smaller version of Volkswagen's MEB platform, called MEB-entry. It could replace both the Up! and Polo in the brand's range and a Skoda version of that car seems highly likely with the company's new CEO basically confirming it in a recent interview. "We would definitely try and follow suit on that," Thomas Schäfer told

AutoExpress. "If the platform is there we could do something clever on top of it - it would definitely look completely different. It's a good side of the family so you don't have to do everything yourself." The Skoda EV based on the MEB-entry is seen as a direct replacement for the Citigo iV, the brand's first production electric car. Even if its production gets the green light though, it won't arrive until the middle of the decade as the Czech manufacturer is prioritizing the market launch of the Enyaq and another, smaller electric vehicle.

<https://www.motor1.com/news/460099/skoda-citigo-replacement-vw-id-1/>



Design Study/Europe

Jaguar Vision Gran Turismo SV: The Ultimate All-Electric Gaming Endurance Racer

A maximum speed of 255mph, an aerodynamic design honed to perfection and race-winning powertrain technology define the Jaguar Vision Gran Turismo SV – the latest all-electric virtual race car developed for Gran Turismo, and built in the real-world as full-scale design study. The Jaguar Vision Gran Turismo Coupé – the first all-electric Jaguar sports car created for the globally-renowned Gran Turismo series revealed in October 2019 – has already proved highly successful, attracting gamers with its radical, heritage-inspired design, driver-focused interior, and outstanding ride and handling.

The streamlined, lightweight composite body structure houses four Jaguar Racing and SV-designed electric motors to the Coupé's three, generating a combined output of 1,903 PS (1,400 kW) and 3,360 Nm of instant torque with the traction and dynamics benefits of intelligent all-wheel drive and torque vectoring. Acceleration from 0-60 mph takes just 1.65 seconds, on the way to a maximum speed of 255 mph.

<https://newspressuk.com/releases/companyView/95704>



New Vehicle/Europe

VW Tiguan Now Available as a Plug-In Hybrid

Also the most recently lifted VW Tiguan can now be ordered as a plug-in hybrid. The 245 hp drive of the Tiguan eHybrid is known from the VW Golf GTE, among others. The electric range is 50 kilometers according to the WLTP standard, prices start at €42.413. This price includes 16% VAT, which is only valid until the end of the year. If the car is not delivered until 2021, however, according to the VW configurator, the old VAT of 19% will apply again. The 1.4 TSI with 150 PS together with an 85 kW (115 PS) electric motor provides the drive. Together, this results in a system output of 245 hp – but only

for a short time, as the electric motor cannot maintain the output for long. According to the VW configurator, the standard consumption is 1.5 liters (NEDC), the power consumption is 13.5 kWh/100 km. The 9.2 kWh battery is located in the floor in front of the rear axle. It is charged exclusively with alternating current – at a household socket with a maximum of 2.3 kW, at a charging station or wallbox with up to 3.6 kW.

<https://www.web24.news/u/2020/12/with-plug-in-hybrid-drive-from-42413-euros-2.html>



New Vehicle/Europe

New Lamborghini SC20 is 759bhp Open-Roof Track Weapon

Lamborghini has revealed the SC20, a unique 759bhp track car that can also be driven legally on the road. The second of two one-off projects engineered by Lamborghini's Squadra Corse racing arm, the SC20 combines styling cues from the Diablo VT Roadster, Aventador J, Veneno Roadster and Concept S, creating a "dramatic combination of creativity and racing attitude", according to Lamborghini. Other chief influences on the car include the Huracán GT3 Evo racer, which was the inspiration for the SC20's pronounced front hood air intakes, and the Essenza SCV12, which has influenced the SC20's sides. The new track car, which was designed

by Lamborghini's Centro Stile design centre, is based around a carbonfibre body with a large adjustable carbonfibre rear wing able to be set in three positions: low, medium and 'high load'. The SC20 is the second one-off Squadra Corsa project built for a customer, following the SC18 in 2018. That car was based on the Aventador, also drawing on the same 759bhp V12 powertrain used by the Aventador SVJ.

<https://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/new-cars/new-lamborghini-sc20-759bhp-open-roof-track-weapon>



New Vehicle/Europe

Pagani Huayra Tricolore Lands With 829 Horsepower and €5.5 Mln Base Price

Nearly 11 years have passed since Pagani introduced the Zonda Cinque-based Tricolore to celebrate the Frecce Tricolori, an aerobatic demonstration team of the Italian Air Force. To mark the 60th anniversary of the 313° Gruppo Addestramento Acrobatico, Pattuglia Acrobatica Nazionale, Pagani is unveiling an ultra-exclusive Huayra Tricolore as the brand's most powerful car to date. The heart and soul is a familiar twin-turbo 6.0-litre V12 specifically developed by Mercedes-AMG for Pagani. In this latest application, it develops 829 horsepower or just two horses more than the Imola unveiled

back in February. At 1,100 Newtonmeters of torque, it perfectly matches the car Pagani wanted to bring to this year's Geneva Motor Show before the event was canceled due to the coronavirus outbreak. Much like it was the case with the Zonda Tricolore, Pagani will be making three examples of its spiritual successor. At €5.5 million before value-added tax and options, it's more than four times pricier than the car unveiled at the 2010 Geneva Motor Show.

<https://www.motor1.com/news/460786/pagani-huayra-tricolore-reveal/>



Sales Launch/Europe

Xpeng Launches in Europe with G3 Electric Crossover

Chinese electric car start-up Xpeng will launch in Europe this month as part of a longterm plan to establish itself in the Western EV market. One hundred examples of its G3 electric crossover will arrive in Norway in December before the company introduces the model to other major EV markets in Europe during 2021. The G3 is promised to have a WLTP-certified range of 280 miles from a 66kWh battery pack and can charge its battery from 30% to 80% in 30 minutes. It has also been awarded five stars in China's C-NCAP crash tests. Moreover, the promised price point of around £30,000 for this model would mark out Xpeng as especially competitive. Xpeng, which sold its first car in 2018 and is now listed on the New York Stock Exchange, currently

builds two models on its self-developed EV platform. The G3 and the P7 sports saloon will be joined by two new models in 2021 and 2022. The firm has developed its own skateboard architecture, called SEPA, which leans heavily on external sensors. Xpeng says the car currently has 'level 2.5' autonomous driving and self-parking capabilities. Brian Gu, Xpeng's vice chairman and president, told Autocar the company is prepared to take a long-term view on establishing a domestic Chinese brand in Europe.

<https://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/new-cars/xpeng-launches-europe-g3-electric-crossover>



New Vehicle/North America

2020 Alfa Romeo 4C Spider Gets a 33 Stradale-Inspired Special Edition

Alfa Romeo has discontinued the 4C coupe, and soon the 4C Spider is going to say goodbye, too. Alfa is sending off the little rear-wheel-drive targa with a special-edition model that honors the 1967 33 Stradale mid-engine sports car. Production is limited to 33 cars bound for North America, and they're finished in an exclusive red with gold wheels. The unique exterior color is called Rosso Villa d'Este, a new color specifically reserved for the 33 Stradale Tributo. It also comes standard with carbon-fiber trim and Italian flag mirror caps. And it wouldn't be a limited-edition model without plaques on the dash, doorsills, and center console. A 237-hp turbocharged four-cylinder

engine powers the 2020 Alfa Romeo 4C Spider, and it sends power to the rear wheels through a six-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. The 4C Spider 33 Stradale Tributo comes with an Akrapovic dual-mode center-mounted exhaust and a race-tuned suspension. It will arrive in the U.S. in February, priced from \$81,590.

<https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a34963313/2020-alfa-romeo-4c-spider-33-stradale-tributo-revealed/>



Production Launch/North America

2021 Jeep Wrangler 4xe Enters Production, Starting Price Still Unknown

Ford may have stolen the Wrangler's thunder with the Bronco, but Jeep fought back with a couple of new engine options. One of them is the 4xe that boasts 25 miles of EV range and nearly 400 miles of total range. "The most technologically advanced Wrangler ever" is offered with four doors and a long wheelbase that isn't as capable off the beaten path as the two-door JL. Be that as it may, Jeep has gifted the 4xe with the Trail Rated badge that dates back to the 2004 Grand Cherokee, Liberty, and Wrangler. Now in production at the Toledo Assembly Complex, the eco-friendly utility vehicle

combines a 17-kilowatt battery with two electric motors, a 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine, and a TorqueFlite eight-speed transmission. The 375-horsepower rating isn't too shabby, but torque is of the essence at 470 pound-feet or 28 pound-feet more than the EcoDiesel.

<https://www.autoevolution.com/news/2021-jeep-wrangler-4xe-enters-production-starting-price-still-unknown-152955.html#>



Preview/North America

Chevrolet Bolt EUV Teased Ahead of Summer 2021 Production Start

This early look at the 2022 Bolt EUV comes in the form of a single image taken from a short video shared on TikTok by „automotive content creator” Pushing Pistons. The teaser confirms the electric crossover will get sequential turn signals at the front and LED daytime running lights integrated into a single cluster. More importantly, Chevrolet announces the Bolt EUV will become the brand’s first production electric vehicle to feature the Super Cruise semi-autonomous driving system. Chevy says the model will go into production in the summer of next year, which probably means we’ll see

it in full a few weeks or months prior. It is known for a fact the Bolt EUV will be based on the Buick Velite 7 for the Chinese market. This electric vehicle is capable of running up to about 311 miles (500 km) at a single charge per the NEDC cycle. Chevrolet is expected to use more advanced batteries for the Bolt EUV, which means the US-spec model should be even more capable.

<https://www.motor1.com/news/460598/chevy-bolt-euv-teased/>



Preview/North America

Elation Dogo 001 Hypercar Gets First Prototype

A new name in the hypercar business is Elation Hypercars based in Northern California. Its first product goes by the name of Freedom and forgoes the combustion engine to embrace a fully electric powertrain. The silent hypercar was previewed precisely a month ago in official renderings, giving us an idea of what to expect from the production model. There's still a long way to go, but Elation now says it's been making progress with its speedy EV that wants to compete with big names such as the Lotus Evija, Rimac C_Two, and the Pininfarina Battista. To speed up the process, Elation says it won't build a fullsize mockup and instead channel its efforts

towards engineering a fully working prototype. It even has its own nickname, Dogo 001. We're not going to see the production car until early 2022 when Elation promises to bring the road-going Freedom to the Geneva Motor Show. Meanwhile, further updates about the Dogo 001 are planned for next year when the company will commence static and dynamic prototype testing. Once it's ready for production, each of the 25 cars planned will take more than 4,000 hours to complete.

<https://www.motor1.com/news/460996/elation-freedom-dogo-001-prototype/>

A State of Being



Production Launch/North America

Ram Announces Start of Production for New 2021 Ram 1500 TRX

Ram announced on December 17 that production of the all-new 2021 Ram 1500 TRX has begun at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant (SHAP) in Sterling Heights, Michigan. The first vehicle – VIN No. 001 – is a Ram 1500 TRX Launch Edition adorned in exclusive Anvil exterior paint that will be auctioned for charity. More details on the auction will be available early next year. FCA invested nearly \$1.5 billion to retool SHAP to build the next-generation Ram 1500 and to support the future growth of the Ram brand. The all-new truck officially launched in March 2018. More than 7,200 employees currently build the award-winning truck. Designed bolt by bolt to significantly outperform every other truck, the 2021 Ram 1500 TRX has been tested

to handle the most punishing conditions with extreme durability. A proven and reliable high-performance engine, the 2021 Ram 1500 TRX is powered by a 6.2-liter supercharged HEMI® V-8 engine that delivers top output for extended driving sessions without degradation in performance. The quickest, fastest and most powerful mass-produced half-ton pickup truck in the world is rated at 702 horsepower, 650 lb.-ft. of torque and delivers a new level of performance: 0-60 mph in 4.5 seconds, the quarter mile in 12.9 seconds at 108 mph and a top speed of 118 mph.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ram-announces-start-of-production-for-new-2021-ram-1500-trx-301195258.html>



Design Study/North America

Ford and 250,000 Gamers Designed Team Fordzilla's P1 Race Car

Virtual cars being transformed into realities are nothing new – take a look at the Jaguar Vision Gran Turismo SV in case you need reminding – but to enlist nearly 250,000 people to build a car via an online platform is quite the achievement. Enter the Ford P1: the eSports Team Fordzilla race car that was designed with the help of nearly a quarter of a million fan votes. It is a first in the automotive world for Ford to enlist gamers to help bring a car to life from a virtual platform, that has yet to actually feature in a game. Gamers were asked to vote on the P1's

seating configuration, engine position and cockpit definition and more, while Ford designers Arturo Ariño and Robert Engelmann designed the exterior and interior, respectively. The Ford P1 is purely an exercise in creativity but has been built in real life for this unique opportunity.

<https://hypebeast.com/2020/12/ford-p1-esports-team-fordzilla-virtual-gaming-race-car-build-reality-supercar>



New Vehicle/North America

Canoo Reveals a New Electric Delivery Vehicle Ahead of Stock Exchange Debut

California EV startup Canoo has announced a new multipurpose electric vehicle aimed at last-mile deliveries and other small businesses. Due in 2022, the vehicle is the centerpiece of what new executive chairman Tony Aquila told The Verge amounts to a “re-founding of the company” ahead of its debut on the NASDAQ stock exchange at the end of next week, thanks to a reverse merger with a so-called blank check company. The new vehicle will initially be sold in two variants, though Canoo says more will eventually be offered. The smaller one (which is the one that starts at \$33,000) is 14.4 feet long,

6.4 feet wide, and 6.2 feet tall, and has 230 cubic feet of cargo space. Canoo will offer three different battery pack options, too: 40kWh (with an estimated 130 miles of range), 60kWh (190 miles), and 80kWh (230 miles).

<https://www.theverge.com/2020/12/17/22179588/canoo-delivery-vehicle-nasdaq-spac-merger-listing-public>



New Model/Russia

2021 Renault Duster for Russia Revealed 3 Years After Dacia Duster Redesign

Russia is an important market for Renault, but for some reason or another, the French automaker waited three years to reveal the second-generation Renault Duster for this part of the world. Produced by Dacia in Europe, the compact SUV differs only slightly from a visual standpoint. Described as “a distinctly assertive and robust look,” the all-new model features quite a familiar design for the headlamps, LED signature lighting, and taillamps. The only elements that strike a discordant chord come in the guise of badges on the front and rear fascias, steering wheel, and the grille. Renault is keeping

quiet about the interior design and powertrain options, but don’t get your hopes up for anything too different from the South American and European versions of the compact crossover. In all likelihood, the base engine will be a free-breathing 1.6 that’s going to be joined by a 1.3-liter TCe turbocharged four-cylinder shared with Mercedes-Benz.

<https://www.autoevolution.com/news/2021-renault-duster-for-russia-revealed-three-years-after-dacia-duster-redesign-153108.html>



Facelift/Russia

Lada Shows First Official Image of Updated Largus

Russia's largest carmaker Lada has presented the first official image of the Largus facelift. The front of the model with a new bumper, grill and headlights, has acquired a recognizable Lada X-shape design. It also has an updated interior with improved ergonomics. More details about technical features of the new Largus will be released later. As a popular choice of private customers, small business and big corporate

fleets, the Largus occupies the third place in sales of all Lada models and the first place in the delivery van segment in the Russian market. The updated car will be available in the first quarter of next year.

<https://www.lada.ru/>



New Brand/China

Baidu Considers Making Own Electric Vehicles

China's Baidu Inc is considering making its own electric vehicles and has held talks with automakers about the possibility, said three people with knowledge of the matter, the latest move in a race among tech firms to develop smart cars. The search engine leader, which also develops autonomous driving technology and internet connectivity infrastructure, is considering contract manufacturing, one of the people said, or creating a majority-owned venture with automakers. The initiative would be a step up from internet peers such as Tencent Holdings Ltd, Amazon.com Inc and Alphabet Inc, which have also developed auto-related technology or

invested in smart-car startups. Baidu has held preliminary talks – without reaching any decisions – with automakers including Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co Ltd, Guangzhou Automobile Group Co Ltd and China FAW Group Corp Ltd's Hongqi, on a possible venture, the people said, declining to be identified as the talks were private.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/baidu-auto/exclusive-china-search-giant-baidu-considers-making-own-electric-vehicles-sources-idUSL8N2IR1UR>



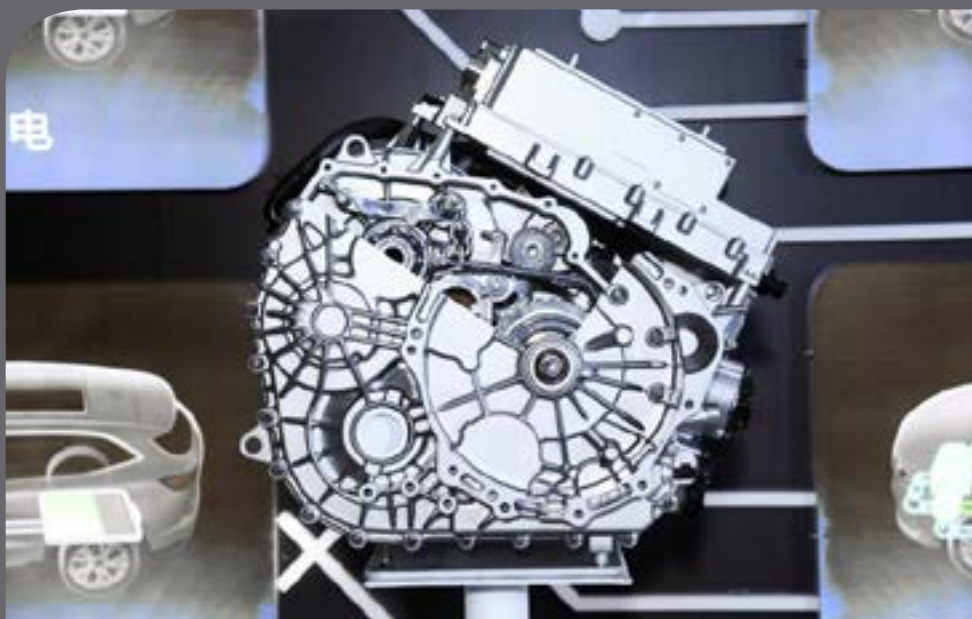
New Drivetrain/China

Great Wall's L.E.M.O.N. Dedicated Hybrid Technology Makes Its Global Debut

On December 15, the GWM Haval R&D Center in Baoding officially made the global debut of the L.E.M.O.N. DHT (Dedicated Hybrid Technology). „L.E.M.O.N. DHT” is a highly integrated, high-efficiency, multi-mode petrol-electric hybrid system with dual-motor hybrid technology to achieve an all-speed and all-scenario perfect balance between high efficiency and high performance. Two power architectures refer to the HEV and PHEV power architectures derived from this, which are in response to different consumption needs. The HEV architecture focuses on ultra-low fuel consumption on urban roads and instantaneous acceleration capability on medium-high speed roads, with a combined

efficiency of power system of above 50% and combined fuel consumption of HEV powered A-class SUVs as low as 4.6L/100km; The PHEV architecture offers the industry's highest performance with a pure electric range of up to 200km. Three power assemblies refer to the „1.5L+DHT100” and „1.5T+DHT130” power assemblies under the two architectures of HEV and PHEV respectively; and the four-wheel power assembly of „1.5T+DHT130+P4” under the PHEV architecture.

<https://www.gwm-global.com/>



Design Study/Japan

Nissan Builds Baffling, Belly-Surfing GTR-X 2050 Concept

Nissan's design team has built a full-scale model of Korean designer Jaebum „JB” Choi's concept of an autonomous supercar for the year 2050. Conceived as a mind-controlled, rolling exoskeleton, the GTR-X is one of the year's most unusual concepts. The GTR-X concept is built around the human form; you pop the top of the GTR-X and slip in, lying flat on your belly. This position allows for good low-drag aerodynamics, much like the early prototypes for the autonomous Roborace cars, but it's pretty ordinary for looking out the windscreen. So there's no windscreen. Instead, the driver straps on an oddly spherical VR helmet with a

series of vaguely lewd protrusions that provide vision from cameras on the exterior of the car. That's not all; you also have to wear a race suit and a large backpack. The GTR-X doesn't have anything so last-century as a steering wheel; it's a self-driver, after all. Your interface with the car comes through a „brain to core transmitter” that directly converts your thoughts into digital form and sends them to a glowing blue „plazma energy core” where ... things happen, and you're offski.

<https://newatlas.com/automotive/nissan-gtr-x-2050-concept/>



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