

2015

DAuto Newsletter

DECEMBER EDITION



Design engineers turn designs into reality. Without them, a great idea but nothing more than, well, a great idea.

PININFARINA ACQUIRED BY INDIAN MAHINDRA FOR €33 MILLION

Following months of negotiations, Tech Mahindra Limited and Mahindra & Mahindra, part of the global Mahindra Group, have purchased a controlling stake in Pininfarina S.p.A.



Just few years after Italdesign's acquisition by the VW Group in 2010 and Bertone's bankruptcy in 2014, the other major Italian design firm has now been purchased by the Indian group Mahindra, and more specifically by Tech Mahindra Limited, a leading provider of IT, Networks and Engineering solutions and BPO services, and Mahindra & Mahindra. The companies have jointly entered into an agreement with Pincar S.r.l., to purchase a controlling stake in Pininfarina S.p.A..

The terms

As part of the agreement, Tech Mahindra and M&M shall purchase 76.06 % of Pininfarina shares from the current controlling shareholder Pincar S.r.l. at a price of Euro 1.1 per share.

This investment by Tech Mahindra and M&M shall be done via a joint venture company ("JVCo"), whose ownership shall be held 60 % by Tech Mahindra and 40 % by M&M. This will be followed by an open offer for all the remaining ordinary shares of Pininfarina, at the same purchase price paid for the shares held by Pincar. A rights issue to infuse funds into the design & styling major will also be executed before the end of 2016.

Pininfarina will continue to remain an independent company, listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, with Mr Paolo Pininfarina continuing as the Chairman of its board.

ACURA TEASES PRECISION CONCEPT AHEAD OF DETROIT DEBUT

At the 2016 North American International Auto Show Acura will unveil the Precision Concept, a show car developed at the Californian Design Studio that anticipates the next-gen luxury sedan.



"The Acura Precision Concept will signal the stronger and sharper focus of Acura styling on our core DNA we call 'precision crafted performance'," said **Dave Marek**, global creative director for the Acura brand.

"It is our intention to more strongly express performance through design and the Acura Precision Concept will serve as the inspiration for the styling and proportion of the next-generation of Acura vehicles, especially for our sedans."

HYUNDAI IONIQ PREVIEW

Hyundai has revealed updated images and details on the Ioniq, the compact vehicle that will be available from early 2016 with electric and hybrid drivetrains.



The interior is characterized by simple shapes and makes use of eco-friendly materials to convey a futuristic yet warm cabin ambience.



The Ioniq will combine a highly aerodynamic exterior characterized by a coupe-like silhouette, with a flexible interior and a unique range of drivetrains, including a full electric, a plug-in gasoline / electric hybrid, and a gasoline / electric hybrid.

The exterior design features simple contours that help minimize wind resistance and assist the efficient management of airflow around the body. At the front, the signature hexagonal grille is topped by a gloss-black element that extends outwards to meet the headlamps featuring integrated 'C'-position lights.



Following a world premiere in Korea in January, the Ioniq will be also on display at the Geneva International Motor Show and the New York Auto Show.

VOLKSWAGEN TEASES ELECTRIC CONCEPT AHEAD OF CES 2016

At the CES 2016 show in January Volkswagen will bring a new concept car that will indicate the technology direction for electro mobility and connectivity for the next few years.

According to VW, the new concept will mark the beginning of a new era of affordable long-distance electro mobility, and will demonstrate how advanced connectivity of cars could change the man-vehicle relationship.

Additionally, new display and operating concepts will also be making their debut in Las Vegas.



VOLVO REVEALS THE S90 SEDAN

Volvo has unveiled its new top-of-the-line S90 sedan, which applies the design language introduced with the 2013-2014 concepts and focuses on safety and connectivity technologies.



With the new S90 Volvo enters the premium E-segment market, and makes a step up compared to the outgoing sedan model, the S80, both in terms of dimensions and target.



Seen from the side, the S90 is characterized by a relatively long hood, short front overhang and a longer dash-to-axle ratio. The greenhouse has been extended by 10 inches backwards with a third separate window and the roofline has a more fastback-like shape.



The front end adopts the design introduced with the Concept Coupe: it successfully blends a clean, elegant look, with a distinctive identity and trademark styling cues like the horizontally-split headlamps and the particular 3D treatment of the grille.

VOLVO REVEALS THE S90 SEDAN



Like the front end, the rear end draws its inspiration from the Concept Coupe for the overall treatment and graphics.

Given the different proportions of the cars, and some production constraints, the S90's tail appears a bit heavier and busy.

The new Volvo S90 also comes equipped with an advanced semi-autonomous drive feature, Pilot Assist. The system gives gentle steering inputs to keep the car properly aligned within lane markings up to motorway speeds of around 130 km/h and no longer needs to follow another car.

The interior makes use of the Sensus Connect touchscreen that debuted in the XC90, providing a clutter-free interior with minimal dashboard buttons.

"Our idea was to bring something entirely new to this rather conservative segment and deliver a visual expression that exudes leadership and confidence on the exterior. On the inside we have taken the S90 to the next level, delivering a high-end luxury experience that promises comfort and control," said **Thomas Ingenlath**, Senior Vice President Design at Volvo Car Group.



MAGNETI MARELLI AND CHANGCHUN FUDI JV TO PRODUCE LIGHTING SYSTEMS AND COMPONENTS



According to the agreement, Automotive Lighting Reutlingen GmbH will own 60% of the share capital of the new company, Changchun Magneti Marelli Automotive Lighting System, while FUDI will hold the remaining 40%. The industrial facilities of the JV will be located in the Xin Xing industrial park of the economic and technological development zone of Changchun, Jilin province and will be aimed at supplying car makers in the North-East of China

Automotive Lighting maker, the Magneti Marelli Company and Chinese investment company Changchun Fudi Equipment Technology Development (FUDI) have signed an agreement to establish a joint venture (JV) company. The JV is aimed at the production and sale of automotive lighting systems for the automotive market. Magneti Marelli and FUDI are already partners in a JV that manufactures power-train components since 2012.

The business scope of the JV will be to produce automotive lighting systems (headlamps and rear lamps) based on halogen, xenon and high-end LED technologies. The plant will be set up within the first quarter of 2016, while the production is expected to start in the first quarter of 2017. Built over a land area of 48,000 square meters, the plant with a total surface of 23,300 square meters will employ a workforce of about 800 employees at its peak volume.

RINSPEED ETOS

A new concept from Swiss-based Rinspeed is usually one of the more interesting diversions at the firm's home Geneva Motor Show. However, in a sign of changing times, its 22nd and most-recent concept will debut at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas next month.



As with the Budii, the new bodywork for the Etos was designed in collaboration with 4erC, and built by Esoro; both are Swiss firms located close to Rinspeed's base near Zürich.



The changes include a simplified front mask that deletes BMW's kidney grille but keeps the i8's lamps; the floating, layered bodywork around the C-pillar is smoothed into a single sloping surface; and the rear features an extended tail similar to that of BMW's hydrogen-powered i8 prototype shown earlier this year.

Following the BMW i3-based Budii that debuted at Geneva this year, the Rinspeed Etos uses the BMW i8 as its underpinnings. As with previous showcars, Rinspeed has collaborated with a host of automotive suppliers to create a unique take on the donor car.

RINSPEED ETOS



The Etos is fully autonomous, and its interior design includes new self-driving technology from a number of suppliers.

One feature that the i8 certainly doesn't feature is a drone landing pad on the rear deck. Made of 12,000 LEDs covered with smartphone-spec Gorilla glass, the deck can display all sorts of information, with the idea being that a car's exterior will become an ever-changing message board in the future.

The steering wheel by ZF is collapsible, and retracts into the IP when the car is in autonomous mode, while the two 21.5-inch curved HD screens are part of Harman's Connected Car infotainment system.

This uses software to tailor the infotainment experience to the driver's preferences, based on everything from their previous sat-nav destinations to their music choices. Its interface includes voice, gesture, touchscreen and button controls.

The drone itself can run errands, including picking up deliveries for the driver, or fly alongside the car, filming its journey.

GAC i-LOUNGE CONCEPT

GAC's Trumpchi brand will expand its line-up of sedans and crossovers with its first full-size MPV, previewed by the i-Lounge concept shown at the recent Guangzhou motor show.



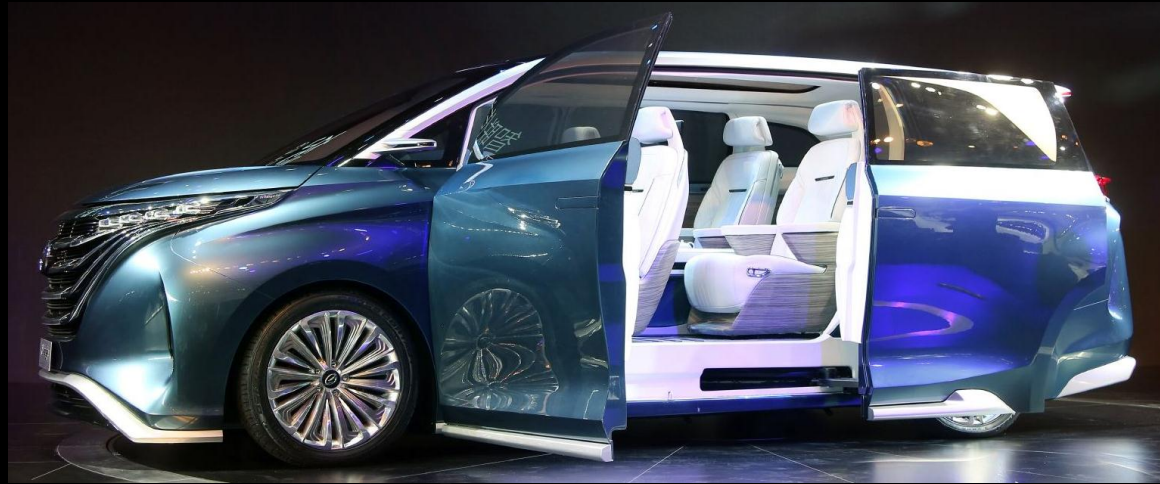
The bodyside surfacing is relatively simple, while the rear features a single horizontal LED tail-lamp, helping emphasise the car's width.



The i-Lounge develops Trumpchi's 'flying dynamics' front lamp and grille theme seen on the GS4, shown at the Detroit auto show at the start of this year. However, these graphics have been expanded to suit their larger application, and the lamps and grille are now fully integrated rather than being separate elements.

Thanks to a 3000mm wheelbase, the minivan's interior features ample space for seven. In the first and second rows, each passenger gets their own, individual seat, which adjusts and has its own personalised air-conditioning zone. The third row is a bench seat.

GAC i-LOUNGE CONCEPT



The concept gets GAC's T-BOX connected infotainment system that includes 3D-navigation for the driver, while the rear-seat screens feature facial recognition that automatically selects appropriate TV shows, movies or music based on the passenger age and current mood.

GM and its partners in China currently dominate the MPV sector, accounting for over 50 percent of minivan sales, driven by the top-selling Wuling Hongguang. However, it represents the more utility-focused end of the segment, while the Toyota Alphard is the premium MPV of choice. GAC's offering will be positioned between utility and high-end, in what could be the sweet spot for China's expanding middle-class families.

The move by GAC is an interesting one, and could be part of a wider, significant trend towards Chinese consumers embracing MPVs. China's government has recently relaxed the one-child policy in a bid to increase the country's population. However, it also levies high taxes on those who own more than one car, making the MPV an increasingly appealing choice in the future.

TATA ZICA

The Tata Zica is the Indian carmaker's new entrant to the ever-popular B-segment in its home country.

Built on an all-new platform and designed in collaboration with Tata's UK (coventry), Italian (Turin) and Indian (Pune) design studios, the Zica (which is an amalgamation of 'zippy' and 'car') will take on the dominant Maruti Suzuki.

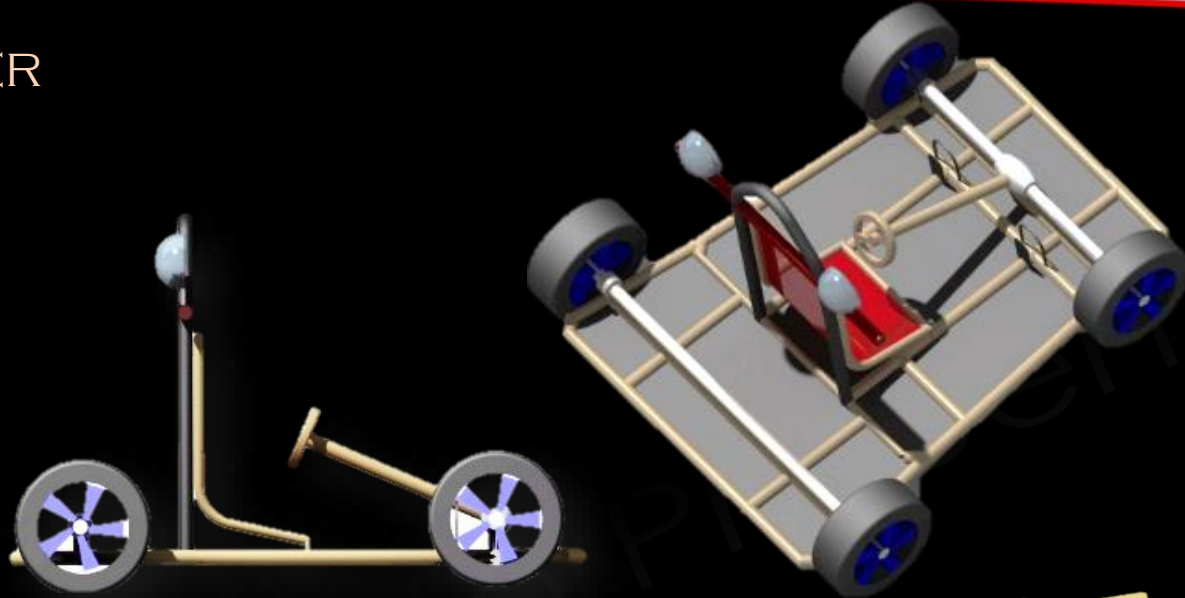
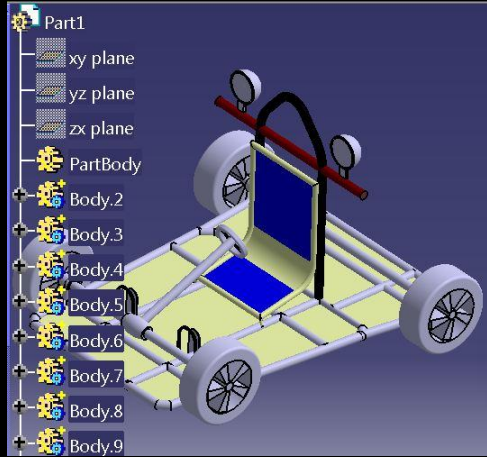


When it goes on sale early next year it will join the recent, larger Bolt hatchback and Zest sedan and will be priced between 3.5 and 4 lakh (\$5300-6000).

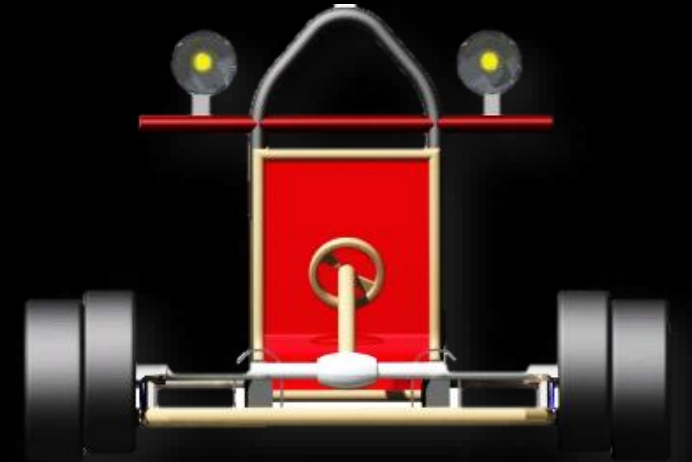
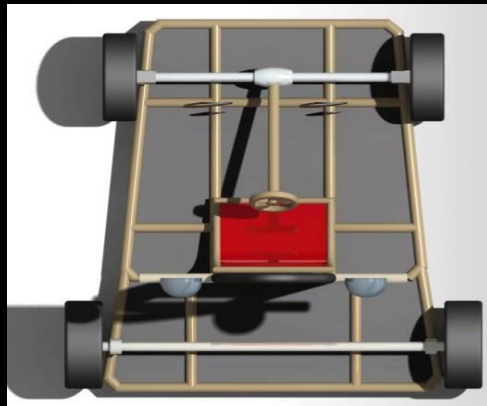
Tata will be hoping its more sophisticated design will help draw in new buyers with its strong horizontal feature lines to add a sense of stability and an expressive front end with its chrome grille highlights running into the lamps.

STUDENT'S CORNER

DAuto Training Yield

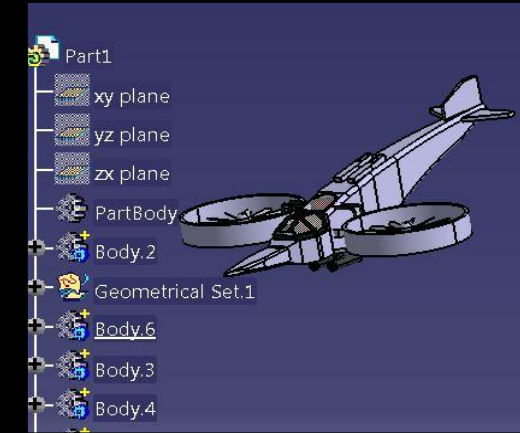


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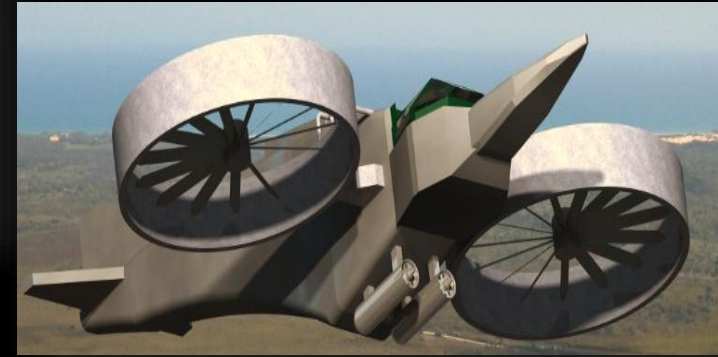
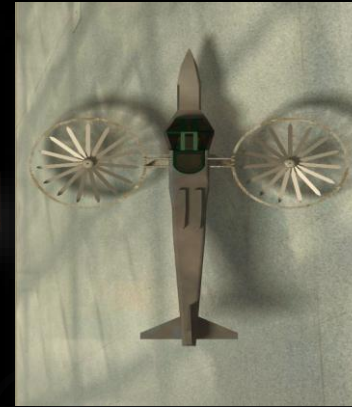


STUDENT'S CORNER

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