

2017

DAuto Newsletter

MAY EDITION



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

TECHRULES REN TO BE DISPLAYED AT VILLA D'ESTE

Techrules, the China-based automotive R&D company, will display its first production electric supercar, Ren, at the upcoming 2017 Concorso d'Eleganza at the Villa d'Este.

Featuring an aerospace-inspired design, Ren is equipped with a Turbine-Recharging Electric Vehicle (TREV) powertrain technology.

The development is currently in the final stages of the testing programme, undertaken by L.M. Giannetti in Turin. First deliveries of track versions of the supercar are due for delivery next year.

While TREV technology will first be integrated into Ren, the engineering team is also in the advanced stages of developing variants of the technology for installation into more conventional passenger and commercial vehicles in the near future.

Ren will be on display alongside a host of historical and luxurious vehicles at the Concorso d'Eleganza event, which takes place at the Grand Hotel Villa d'Este on the shores of Lake Como, Italy, from Friday 26th May to Sunday 28th May 2017.

In parallel, development of Techrules' proprietary TREV technology towards series production readiness continues rapidly at company's technical centers in Beijing and Shanghai.



TECHRULES REN TO BE DISPLAYED AT VILLA D'ESTE

First revealed at the 2017 Geneva Motor Show, Ren is the world's first electric production supercar to feature Techrules' proprietary Turbine-Recharging Electric Vehicle (TREV) system. The innovative series-hybrid powertrain technology delivers unprecedented levels of efficiency and performance, and an ultra-low environmental impact.

The flagship version of Ren has a battery capacity of 25 kWh and delivers maximum power of 960kW (1,287 hp / 1,305 PS) with a range of 1,170 km from 80 litres of diesel fuel (NEDC). The lightweight chassis has been designed by Italian motorsport specialist, L.M. Gianetti, Techrules' development and manufacturing partner.

The performance-focused modular layout allows the car to be configured with one, two or three polycarbonate canopies, specific to the needs of the driver.

Ren's interior makes extensive use of luxury materials: the driver's cockpit and passenger pods are finished using the finest Italian leather and Alcantara, while the seat cushions are finished in an exclusive denim fabric produced by the haute couture clothing company, PT (Pantaloni Torino).

Its bespoke texture is designed to grip the occupant to the seat and help prevent sliding around under high cornering or braking loads.

Production of Ren is likely to start in 2018, with orders already being taken. A limited run of track versions will be hand built by L.M. Gianetti in Italy.



SHANGHAI 2017: LYNK & CO 01 AND 03 CONCEPTS

At the Shanghai Show Geely-owned LYNK & CO has revealed two concepts: a production-ready SUBand the concept sedan, anticipating the upcoming series models with free connectivity and lifetime warranty.

Both the new 03 sedan and the 01 Concept In addition to announcing a free compact SUV, which was first unveiled in connectivity service, Senior VP Alain Visser October 2016, are based on the Compact has reported that the cars will be offered Modular Architecture (CMA) by Volvo, with the world's first in-car digital share another company owned by the Chinese function. Geely Group.

When defining the design identity of the brand new company, the design team led by Peter Horbury, Excecutive Vice President Design at Geely Auto Group, took inspiration from the linear shapes of Jeeps and the sculpted, dynamic surfacing of Porsches

The goal is to create a new brand that appeals the younger generation of drivers: that is why YNK & CO is said to be "born digital".



As a result, the final look is characterized by a mix of rugged and sporty features, and manages to create a family feeling through a distinctive face with compact headlights and a full-width grille as well as a consistent surface treatment.

The interior showcases its focus on connectivity through the digital instrument cluster and the large touch screen integrated in the center console.

LYNK & CO has announced plans to launch the 01 SUV in China within 2017, with US and European debuts to follow in 2019.

GESTAMP OPENS U.S. R&D CENTER

Spanish-owned Gestamp North America, a metal parts supplier, opened its **first r&d facility** in the U.S. in suburban Detroit.

The U.S. subsidiary of Gestamp Automocion already has a manufacturing plant in Michigan but believes it will benefit from having a location closer to Detroit, a "mecca of automotive engineering," according to Paul Belanger, the company's director of r&d.

Renovations in the premises in Auburn Hills, Michigan, began last August. The area, formerly occupied by Recaro Child Safety Systems, will be used for research and production of basic materials to make lighter, safer vehicles.

In this branch, chassis development is a priority. Crash and computer simulations will be conducted on-site, along with metal fatigue testing and prototyping.



As of its opening, 44 engineers and techs are employed at the center. The company plans to expand that to 64, 36 percent less than the original plan of 100 employees.

Two additional r&d centers are set to open abroad soon, but the locations are still to be announced. Between 2012 and 2016, Gestamp invested about \$500 million in U.S. locations.

PRICOL TO ACQUIRE PMP AUTO COMPONENTS

Auto components maker Pricol is acquiring Ashok Piramal Group company PMP Auto Components for an undisclosed amount, as it looks to expand in Europe and North American markets.

The board of Pricol has "approved the acquisition of PMP Auto Components," Pricol said in a regulatory filing.

Both the parties are working towards "executing definitive documentation and closure of this deal shortly", the filing said further.



The acquisition will give Pricol access to manufacturing locations in Europe and North America, where it does not have any footprint.

"This will enable Pricol to also manufacture its current product portfolio in these new geographies. With this acquisition, Pricol will increase its presence with the passenger vehicles manufacturers, thereby opening up future cross-selling opportunities," the company said.

PMP, which has a turnover of Rs 250 crore, has manufacturing facilities in the Czech Republic, Mexico and India. It supplies components to auto majors such as Volkswagen, Daimler, Fiat, John Deere, Skoda, Audi, Renault and Tata Motors.

"Pricol is acquiring the business as part of a long-term product diversification strategy and believes that wiping systems is a growing product segment with India, the Czech Republic and Mexico serving as best cost manufacturing bases," the company said.

FIAT AUTOMOBILES TO ROLL OUT JEEP COMPASS ON JUNE 1

Fiat India Automobiles Pvt. Ltd. (FIAPL) today said it will roll out its first ever, 'Made-in- India' Jeep Compass production vehicle from the assembly line in Ranjangaon near Pune on June 1.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will roll out the first ever 'Made in India' Jeep Compass production vehicle from the assembly line at Ranjangaon on Thursday, a company statement said. This development comes 23 months after Fadnavis, along with a high level delegation met senior Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) officials in June, 2015 at the company's headquarters in Auburn Hills, Michigan in the United States.

The delegation discussed FCA's investment strategy in Maharashtra and reaffirmed the state government's interest in strengthening ties with FCA, besides offering full support to the company's manufacturing, said the statement.



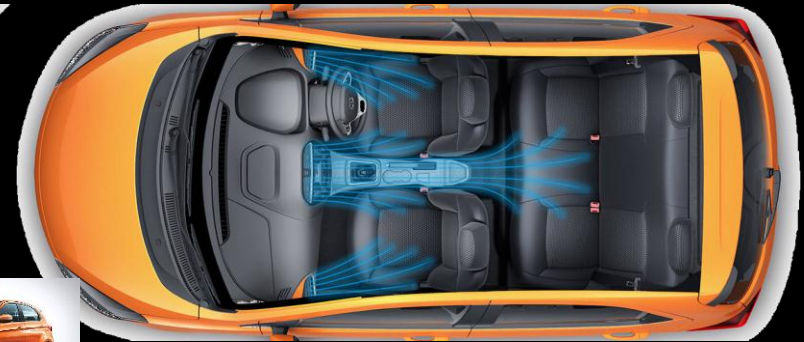
The Ranjangaon facility has become a significant manufacturing and export hub for FCA joining Brazil, Mexico and China on the global production map.

FIAPL will be FCA's sole manufacturing facility that will supply Jeep Compass SUVs to all international right-hand drive markets, it said.

FCA has invested USD 280 million towards localization of the Jeep Compass and has enhanced the facility to world standard.

TATA MOTORS WORKING ON ALL-ELECTRIC TIAGO

Tata Motors is working on an all-electric version of the Tiago hatchback and it will be the first all-electric vehicle to make an addition to the company's lineup. Though, the home grown car manufacturer has not made any official announcement, but the company has been focusing on electric mobility for quite some time.



Tata has been working on battery electric vehicles for quite some time now with UK-based Tata Motors European Technical Centre that will take charge of the development work. The car maker also showcased an electric version of the Bolt hatchback in the UK, though the car shown there was a prototype and never made to the production line. Reportedly, the company is now set to give the Tiago an electric powertrain. The plans might have come with the government's push towards electric vehicles and along with the recent government promotion, Tata will soon add the EV to its product range.

The higher price of the electric powertrain is expected to be offset with the hatchback's low-cost platform that is expected to keep its price competitive. Currently, the Tiago is the best-selling car from Tata Motors. Therefore, introducing an electric variant of the model will help the auto major to garner more interest in the Indian car market as compared to an electric Nano or Bolt.

2017 NISSAN MICRA TO BE LAUNCHED ON JUNE 2

After the launch of Nissan Terrano earlier this year, the company is all set to launch the updated version of the Micra hatchback on the 2nd of June. With its launch date around the corner, the company is using the social media platform to provide the world with a glimpse of updated hatchback and slowly building up to the mega launch.

The upgraded Nissan Micra hatchback is expected to showcase some aesthetic changes to make the four-wheeler more appealing and sporty. With the aesthetic changes in place, the upcoming car might get a bit of a new look even though the other major aspects of design and body will be the same.

The 2017 Nissan Micra is expected to come with new features like rear parking sensors with camera and a touchscreen infotainment system.

Apart from these changes, the company has also taken an innovative approach by introducing rain sensing windscreen wipers.



The upgraded Micra is expected to have a 1.2-litre petrol engine and a 1.5-litre diesel engine which will be capable of producing a maximum power of 76 bhp for petrol variant and 63 bhp for the diesel variant.

With all the changes onboard, one should expect the upgraded version of the Nissan Micra to be priced higher than the existing model. The hatchback is likely to face stiff competition from the likes of Hyundai Grand i10 and Honda Brio. The two engines will be attached to 5-speed manual transmission gearboxes as standard while the petrol engine will also have an optional CVT gearbox variant.

TESLA MODEL 3 SPIED AHEAD OF JULY LAUNCH, INTERIORS REVEALED

The Tesla Model 3 is probably that one car the company has put everything into. Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla Inc., is no less than being overly passionate about this car. The company keeps testing the car to make sure that nothing goes missing in this car, giving emergence to a new batch of spy shots of the car. This time around, the interior designing has been captured before its official unveiling in July.

Tesla Inc. has kept the front dashboard to a bare minimum in terms of designing and detailing. The interior carries an all black colour scheme along with a contrasting wooden strip running across the dashboard. The HVAC (heating, ventilating and air conditioning) system has just one vent stretching across the entire width of the dashboard.

There are not many functionality buttons on the instruments cluster but a large 15-inch touchscreen system which seems to be the sole control centre of the car. It also acts as the driver's display for information and the likes.



The Tesla Model 3, as we all know, will be a performance car running on electricity. It will have an engine that can hit an acceleration of 0-100 kms per hour in around 5.7 seconds and will have an electric drive range of around 350 kms on a single charge. Once launched, it will be one of the most aggressively priced performance EVs. Expected price tag is around USD 35,000.

Regarding India launch, a statement was made by Elon Musk back in February that the Model 3 will be launched by 2017. There has been no further revelations from the company after that.

BMW MOTORRAD REVEALS CONCEPT LINK SCOOTER

The zero-emission scooter comes with a reverse gear, touchscreen controls and a digital assistant.

BMW Motorrad has been reinventing two-wheeled mobility solutions through the concept series called BMW Motorrad Vision Next 100. After coming up with a motorcycle that looks like the Batpod (originally named as The Great Escape), BMW has developed something radical for scooter lovers. Christened BMW Motorrad Concept Link (could've been named better, if you ask me.), the scooter aims to incorporate digital connectivity to enhance urban mobility on two wheels.

Explaining the concept scooter, Edgar Heinrich, head of design of BMW Motorrad says, "The BMW Motorrad Concept Link stands for a new understanding of urban mobility. It links the digital and analogue world and places the focus on the rider and his mobility needs. In the way it links functionality and digitalization it performs both as a means of transport as well as a communication device. For me the BMW Motorrad Concept Link, with its timeless and reduced style, is more than a concept – it is rather a symbol for a new era."

Interestingly, the design language of the scooter bears resemblance to two-wheeled creations in Japanese Manga. The bulbous, sloping front apron houses the BMW logo on the sides and it is surrounded with a lot of design elements in the form of creases, cuts and slashes. The wheels are covered and the rear doughnut-shaped wheel is mounted on a single-sided swingarm and is driven by a belt drive.



Speaking of the powertrain, the scooter is powered by the flat batteries stored in the underfloor compartment, and the compact electric motor is at the rear. They are connected by distinct and fat orange cables which are exposed on the right side.

BMW MOTORRAD REVEALS CONCEPT LINK SCOOTER

The electric drive is tuned to offer better acceleration and easy handling, optimized for urban usage. The low seat can be adjusted length-wise and underneath the bench seat lies a storage compartment which closes using a sliding door. The scooter also has a reverse gear to help the rider take it out of tight parking spots. Pretty cool, no? Also, the side panels and the windshield can be customized according to the rider's taste.

The scooter also comes with an intelligent digital assistant. The AI is capable of pairing up with the rider's digital space and checking the calendar for his/her next destination. It also gives the rider an option to choose between the fastest or the most scenic route to take. Additionally, it can also select the apt music for the ride..

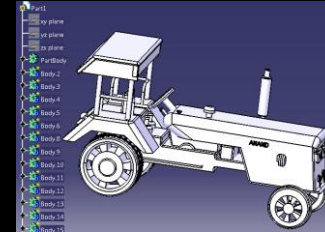
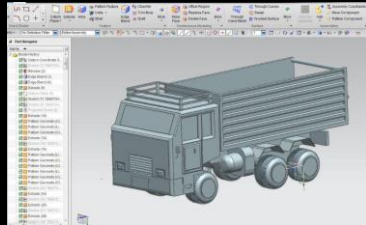
To maintain the sanctity of no-frills riding, information such as speed, navigation and battery level are projected directly into the rider's field of vision, thus avoiding the need to look away from the road. Additionally, there's a large touch-sensitive surface panel below the handlebars using which the rider can control infotainment, connectivity and route information. The touch-sensitive buttons on the handlebar are freely programmable for quick access.

The tech-laden scooter comes with an equally clever and snazzy-looking jacket. One can open or close the scooter's storage compartment via a motion on the arm of the jacket. The water-repellent jacket also subtly houses shoulder and elbow protectors so that it's actually functional as well.



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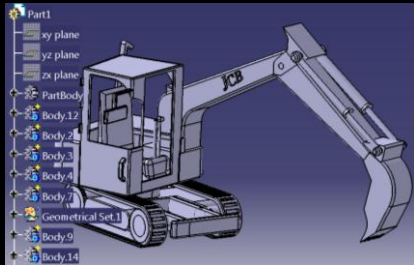
DAuto Training Yield



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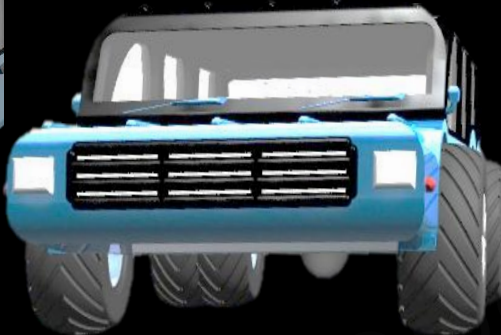
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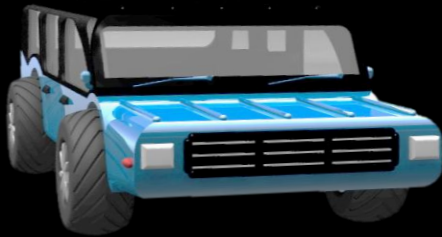
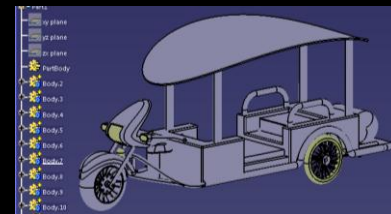
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STUDENT'S CORNER



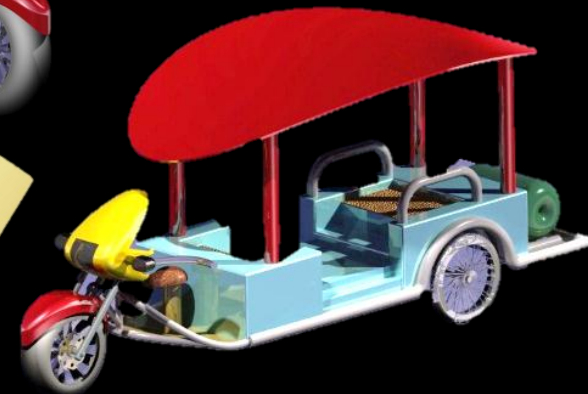
DAuto Training Yield



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