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Driving

Today's News by Jack Nerad for Driving Today

800-horsepower Supercar Unveiled

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

Do oil-rich Arab sheiks care about saving gasoline?

By implication, at least one car company seems to think they do.

Kepler Motors, a relatively new company founded by world speed record holder Russ Wicks, has just unveiled (so to speak) its groundbreaking MOTION supercar at the 10th annual Dubai International Motor Show. By using both an efficient engine and a powerful electric motor, the car is designed to have exoticar performance potential while using far less fuel than the typical exoticar.

At the heart of the car's technical wizardry is the all-wheel drive **Dual Powertrain Technology** (DPT), which provides a total of 800 horsepower. A 550-horsepower, modified Ford EcoBoost twin-turbo 3.5-liter V6 drives the rear wheels, and a 250-horsepower electric motor drives the front wheels. This unique AWD system is claimed to launch the MOTION to 60 mph in under 2.5 seconds and enable a top speed of over 200 mph.

"We're delighted to host the worldwide debut of the Kepler Motors MOTION at the Dubai International Motor Show," said Wicks. "The region has a passion for ultrahigh-performance, limited-edition supercars and presents the ideal platform to showcase the advanced technology and innovative features of the MOTION."

The supercar incorporates a number of leading-edge technologies, including active suspension, active aerodynamics, launch control and a programmable track assistant system. Since light weight and efficiency are two design goals, it features extensive use of carbon fiber composite materials for its monocoque chassis and body. The light, strong and highly impact-resistant structure provides a two-seat cabin designed to accommodate drivers of above-average size in a stylish and aerodynamically efficient design. To bring all this sophisticated engineering to a halt, the car uses StopTech's new Continuous Carbon Ceramic AeroRotors on all four wheels, thus ensuring smooth, fade-free stopping power. The company says only 50 MOTIONs will be produced, so ownership will go to a small, exclusive and elite group of individuals. Each vehicle will be hand-assembled, and deliveries will start in 2011.

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