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Kepler Motion: A Hybrid Supercar in Dubai

By STEPHEN WILLIAMS



Kepler Motion hybrid supercar.

The Kepler Motion hybrid rolled onto a stand at the Dubai auto show last week. The theme of the 10th annual show was “sustainable mobility,” and while visitors found the occasional token expression of that mantra — a Chevrolet Volt here, a Toyota iQ there — the event was geared toward luxury and excess, in a country where ostentatious wealth is often expressed in rolling sheet metal.

According to [The National Post](#), “the most ridiculous, most outrageous, utterly unsustainable car on the planet” was on display at the Shelby Supercars booth, where the Ultimate Aero was on display. It goes for about \$750,000. “Obviously not satisfied with its previous model’s rather anemic 1,183 horsepower, the latest rendition of the beast now wrings out 1,287 horsepower from its 6.3-liter, twin-turbo V-8.”

Sharing the spotlight of excess was the million-dollar [Zenovo ST1](#), with a 7-liter V-8 engine that sports both a supercharger and a turbocharger: they combine to make more than 1,000 horsepower. Only 15 Zenovo ST1s will be built.

Kepler Motors plans on building more Motion hybrid supercars, but only slightly more. The company, which was founded by [Russ Wicks](#), a world speed record holder, says it will limit production to 50 units. The car, a two-seater, makes extensive use of carbon fiber and is powered by a twin-turbocharged 3.5-liter Ford EcoBoost V-6 and an electric motor capable of making an equivalent of 250 horsepower.

“There have been some orders and lots of interest in the Motion,” said Brian Towey, a spokesman for Kepler Motors. “I can’t talk about specifics, but there are orders for a couple of cars. The first, serial number 001, hasn’t been spoken for as yet, though.”

Mr. Towey added that the principal who’s providing capital for the production is Jonathan Lim, who founded the Romar Group in Singapore in 1984. According to Russ Wicks’s site, the Romar Group builds manufacturing automation equipment for welding.

“This isn’t some crazy idea,” Mr. Towey said. “The money is there, and we’re committed to building no more than 50 cars, to start in early 2011.” The cars most likely will be built in Southern California, and deliveries of the handmade boutique-mobile are to begin in 2011. No price has been set.

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