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WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2017

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Electric car start-up unveils 'new species' of vehicle



AFP

Faraday Future, the secretive electric car start-up with ambitions to overtake Tesla, unveiled its first production vehicle Tuesday, proclaiming it to be a "new species" for personal transportation.

The company, backed by Chinese billionaire Jia Yueting (YT Jia), announced at the Consumer Electronics Show that it would begin taking reservations for deliveries in 2018 with a \$5,000 deposit for its FF91 model.

Faraday, which last year unveiled its prototype and is

building a factory outside Las Vegas, did not offer details on pricing of the new vehicle.

But it touted specifications on battery range, power and acceleration which pointed to a high-end vehicle, outperforming Tesla on key benchmarks.

In one key benchmark, Faraday offers an estimated 378 miles (604 kilometers) of range before needed recharging, based on US testing standards, better than Tesla's 315 miles. Based on European testing standards, the range is 700 kilometers or some 435 miles.

"This is day one of a new era of mobility," said executive vice president of engineering Nick

Sampson. "This is the first of a new species."

Because Faraday started from scratch, "we don't have to follow outdated practices or retrofit existing equipment," Sampson said. "We have to flip the auto industry on its head."

The vehicle is packed with technology: it has a semi-autonomous mode which allows for self-parking, and multiple modems to connect to the internet. It personalizes settings for each driver and occupant.

"Everyone in the car will have their own seat configured for them," Sampson said.

Lightning fast

Faraday's tests show it accelerates from zero to 60 mph (100 kph) in an eye-popping 2.39 seconds, outclocking key rivals.

"This is the fastest production electric EV in the world," said Peter Savagian, vice president of propulsion for the company.

The sleek, aerodynamically FF91 demonstrated its muscle with an acceleration demonstration on a straight track in front of an audience, after similar demonstrations by powerful rival cars including the Bentley Bentayga, Ferrari 488 GTB and two Teslas.

The company made no comment on reports of financial difficulties, after several reports that it missed payments to suppliers and had to cut costs.

Those reports come amid news of a cash crunch at Jia's

Chinese-based technology group LeEco, which has been rapidly expanding its products and moving into the US market. Jia appeared at the Las Vegas event, telling the audience in halting English that "this car is very, very cool."

The Chinese entrepreneur said he hopes the project will help usher in a new era of mobility which is more environmentally friendly.

"Once you have this you can get rid of the other cars in the garage," he said.

The Peninsula

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The latest introduction to the Mazda's SKYACTIV-generation lineup might just be one of its mightiest, as the 2017 CX-3 is a proven companion for whatever the road may throw its way—from urban sprawl to the great outdoors.

National Car Company (NCC), the sole agent for Mazda vehicles in Qatar, started the sales of the most stylish, smart and compact cross over 5-seater SUV. The all-new 2017 CX3. The new CX3 AWD and 2WD models are now on display at the showroom located in Fereej Al Nasr which is open 7 days a week from 9 am to 9 pm except on Fridays when the showroom is open during evening hours.

CX-3 was developed to "Create the standard for the next era." It's a vehicle designed to meet the needs of a new generation of car buyers, supporting creative, adventurous lifestyles.

CX-3 even though shorter and lower in capacity than Mazda's best-selling CX-5 but delivers a similarly upmarket experience with its available predictive i-ACTIV all-wheel drive, a punchy 146-horsepower, 2.0-liter SKYACTIV-G engine and Mazda's full suite of i-ACTIVSENSE safety features available, including lane-departure warning, rear camera, and Cruise Control.

CX-3 is tailored to deliver a rich, inviting experience not just for its driver, but also for its passengers, with rear seats set slightly inboard to ease conversation between front and rear passengers. It is a vehicle with interior details that look and feel as elegant as they are forward-thinking, from the dark red seat stitching to the soft touch materials. And it is a vehicle that carries itself with style, with a long hood, short overhangs, large wheels and a slim cabin, presenting proportions that lend themselves to a sense of strength and vitality, conveying a sense of motion even when standing still.

Human-Machine Interface (Hmi) and Connectivity System

In the quickly growing subcompact crossover segment, CX-3 stands alone with its attention to detail, purpose-led ergonomics and amenities. Standard inside all CX-3s is a push-button start and MAZDA CONNECT infotainment offering Bluetooth phone pairing, audio streaming, USB ports for entertainment connectivity and Commander control knob, as well as a standard seven-inch color touchscreen interface with a built-in backup monitor—all means of keeping connected in a quick-paced environment. MAZDA CONNECT also features SMS text message audio delivery and reply, voice command and Aha Radio connectivity. Other available features include:

Other available features include:

- BOSE seven-speaker audio system
- Active Driving Display
- Blind spot monitoring
- Heated exterior mirrors
- Leather and Two-tone premium cloth interior seating surfaces

The driver-oriented cockpit comes adorned with thoughtful touches, such as available stitching on the gauge hood, premium textures and rich, soft-touch materials, red accenting throughout the interior and handles and switches that evoke a feeling of tailored craftsmanship. CX-3 feels distinctly "Mazda," from its materials to its layout that puts the driver and passenger comfort and control above all else.

Yet, it charts new territory with an intimate environment designed to feel timeless and personalized, catering to those who sweat the details and crave not just a mode of transportation but an experience and expression of their personalities—a philosophy called "Mazda Premium." Curb appeal aplenty CX-3 exudes a sense of confidence and maturity with bold looks and beautiful proportions. Upfront, a pronounced grille borders in a signature wing. This element lends a sense of flow to the body and looks as though it were formed from a single piece of metal, and the body's overall proportions are not fettered by conventional classifications of vehicle type.

Exterior

The front view of the CX-3 is designed to present a bold look that suits the model's sporty proportions. The grille stacks seven fins with available silver-painted front edges to create an expression of concentrated energy that flows horizontally. The signature wing grille surround is stout and three-dimensional, as if machined from solid metal. It forms the starting point for a powerful sense of speed that flows across the entire body. The headlamp layout positions the turn signals outside the main headlamp unit to create a narrow, sharp design that as if they were eyes gazing forward. The tips of the signature-wing extend into the headlamps with an integrated available LED illumination line. This connects seamlessly with the lighting signature that surrounds the low beams, accentuating CX-3's taut lines.

With the peak of the front fenders pushed rearward to lie beneath the base of the A-pillars, the side view of CX-3 conveys a sense of extended body size. Careful attention was devoted to creating the rich expression and subtle changes in each of the body surfaces. The front half of the body features a long nose with a flowing shape; the cabin section presents a sleek look achieved by blacking out the D-pillars, and the solid mass

2017 Mazda CX-3: Suitable for all terrains and lifestyles



CX-3 is designed to meet the needs of a new generation of car buyers, supporting creative, adventurous lifestyles.

at the rear of the body conveys a look of strength and power.

The license plate is located in the upper part of the rear bumper to realize a short overhang design that gives the rear a clean look and sense of solidity.

CX-3 is available in Ceramic Metallic, a paint color that was introduced exclusively for the first in Mazda SUV range. Its expression of a finely honed metallic surface and strong sense of hardness changes in appearance depending on the angle and intensity of light hitting it.

The color joins Soul Red with show-car-levels of paint quality. Mazda had to develop an entirely new paint process to apply these industry-unique colors, and they further make the CX-3 stand apart from its more pedestrian competition.

Interior

The interior offers a high-quality and sophisticated feel that complements the exterior design. Attention was paid to every detail, including the cohesiveness of designs and quality of materials.

The surrounding character line and relatively high beltline, along with the deeply sculpted three-dimensional form of the door trim, create a comforting atmosphere for front-seat passengers.

All information displays and control systems are positioned in toward the driver based on Mazda's

"Head-Up Cockpit" concept. The soft material that covers the hood over top of the gauges features a stitch-like finish on its front edge on Grand Touring models.

Each part has been refined to provide the interior with a polished, high-quality feel. Examples includes the available dark red accent color used on the door trim armrests and floor console kneepads and the sharp form of the inner door handle bezels, which look as if they were sculpted from solid metal.

With Optimum Dimensions Comes The Comfort

With dimensions of 168.3 in. overall length, 69.6 in. width and 60.7

in. height (when equipped with the shark fin antenna and 16-inch wheels, 60.9 inches with 18-inch wheels and shark fin antenna), CX-3's size makes it easy to handle, even when driving in town or parking. Its long 101.2-in. wheelbase establishes flowing proportions while securing adequate space for comfortable seating.

The front seats provide excellent shoulder room, distance between the two front seats and legroom to comfortably seat occupants of any size.

The CX-3 provides a wide field of vision. At the same time, mounting the outer mirrors on the body panel of the doors widens the field of vision between the front window and mirror. To maximize visibility to the rear, the height of the rear part of the beltline and position of the C-pillars are carefully designed and quarter windows adopted.

Positioning the front wheels forward and optimizing the shape of the pedals and the distance between them provides a comfortable driving position that enables the driver to sit comfortably, extend his or her legs and reach the pedals more naturally. A floor-hinged accelerator pedal is used because the arc it travels as the driver presses down on it is more natural feeling than that of a top-hinged pedal.

The seatbacks and cushions are designed for a comfortable ride while still fitting all shapes and sizes of drivers.

Confidence-Inspiring I-Activ All-Wheel Drive

All-wheel-drive systems aren't created equally. Case-in-point is Mazda's novel i-ACTIV all-wheel drive, which literally climbs mountains above the competition—or wades through bogs. The assurance of i-ACTIV all-wheel drive comes through its sensors, which take into account factors like steering angle, throttle inputs and wheel-spin along with temperature and use of wipers to paint a clear picture of the outside conditions. i-ACTIV all-wheel drive can adjust power output under more than 200 times per second, using 27 different variables, to "predict" what the road conditions look like.

The benefit is rather than the driver or passengers feeling slip before the rear wheels deliver power, i-ACTIV all-wheel drive seamlessly drives all four wheels, adjusting quicker than humans can detect any loss in traction. i-ACTIV all-wheel drive's benefits can also be felt on dry roads with driving dynamics that are far better than a crossover SUV has any right to be—a nod to Mazda's unwavering commitment to making vehicles that thrill and delight.

CX-3's dashboard layout is based on the "Head-Up Cockpit" concept, which aims to help drivers process large amounts of information while maintaining the correct driving position and concentrating on driving safely.

Mazda CONNECTTM is an in-car infotainment system that makes it safer and easier to take advantage of functions such as music streaming and communications on the move. It provides convenience by enabling hands-free phone operation and internet radio including Aha by Harman via Bluetooth connectivity

Overall Packaging

Human-centric packaging aimed at true ease of use. In addition to applying the latest iteration of the KODO design language, CX-3 development also focused on providing space for everyday use and practicality. It provides drivers with the clear view they need, is easy to enter and exit with a seating position that lends a reassuring sense of confidence when driving.

All trim levels come with a standard SKYACTIV-G 2.0-liter engine, paired exclusively with a six-speed automatic transmission. The powertrain offering produces 146 horsepower and 146 lb-ft of torque.

CX-3 mid-grade models come equipped with 16-inch alloy wheels, power mirrors, cloth seats, a seven-inch Mazda CONNECTTM touchscreen infotainment system with voice commands, Bluetooth phone connectivity for phone and audio streaming, a USB input, keyless entry, push-button start, power door locks, a six-speaker audio system and air conditioning, among a long list of other features.

In addition to the above, the exhaustive list of features includes LED headlights with Adaptive Front-Lighting System (AFS), LED fog lights, navigation, automatic climate control, paddle shifters and Active Driving Display head-up unit that helps keep a driver's eyes focused on the road. The i-ACTIVSENSE package includes Lane Departure Warning (LDW), automatic on/off headlights and rain-sensing wipers.

For more information, visit Mazda showroom, call 44335965/44417859 or visit www.mazda-qatar.com





Your car wants to pay for your coffee

Olga Kharif
Bloomberg

Most consumers have yet to figure out how to pay for their daily lattes using their smartphones. But that hasn't stopped automakers from adding digital wallets to cars, too.

In-car payments, long just a pipe dream on the research floors at big automakers, are finally ready to make their real-world debut. Honda Motor Co. showed off a prototype at CES 2017 in Las Vegas earlier this month that lets drivers pay for parking or gas without ever reaching for their credit card. General Motors Co. and Kia Motors Corp. may offer a similar feature as soon as this year. And Volkswagen AG purchased PaybyPhone, a provider of parking-meter mobile payments, in a deal last month.

The idea is to make better use of the 48 minutes that the average American spends in the car each day. Initially, the usefulness of the technology will be limited to things like tolls and the fast-food drive-through. Within the next 10 years, as self-driving cars catch on, automakers envision vehicles that double as major e-commerce hubs, with consumers shopping for clothing and groceries to be picked up curbside on the way home from work.

"All the carmakers are at various

As self-driving cars catch on, automakers envision vehicles that double as major e-commerce hubs, with consumers shopping for clothing and groceries to be picked up curbside on the way home from work.

stages of readiness, but they're all working on it," said Jim McCarthy, global head of innovation and strategic partnerships for Visa Inc., which joins Mastercard Inc. in the race to enable payment capabilities for automakers. "It's just convenience, it's kind of like Uber."

Carmakers expect the digital wallets to catch on as the number of connected autos — vehicles with built-in satellite, cellular, Wi-Fi or Bluetooth — expands. This year, the global figure with cellular connectivity alone will rise to 65.7 million cars, up from 40.4 million in 2016, according to researcher Gartner Inc.

At CES 2017, Gentex Corp. hyped a technology embedded in rear-view mirrors that could make car payments more secure by scanning a person's iris to verify his or her identity. The technology should be in cars next year, said Salil Prabhakar, chief executive officer of Gentex's iris-recognition technology supplier Delta ID Inc.



Smart Parking Meters

The infrastructure behind parking meters, gas pumps and restaurants may take awhile to catch up. Parking meters — able to notify drivers when they are available and to accept payments — may be among the first to come online, but gas stations are typically expensive and slow to upgrade. Still, there will be 9.7 billion connections in the so-called Internet of Things that will be used by smart cities by 2020, up from 1.1 billion last year, according to Gartner.

The major hurdle will be convincing consumers to adopt the technology when pay-by-phone apps already have

the head-start, said Chetan Sharma, an independent wireless analyst. Not surprisingly, California has the highest concentration of early users of the budding technology, but even there only about 1 percent of transactions on Black Friday were conducted using smartphones, according to Cayvan LLC.

"You don't have to do it in-car, you can do it from a smartphone," Sharma said in an interview. "That's why a lot of these things have never taken off. Depending on how seamlessly it's integrated, it can make an impact."

GM will have 2 million cars with the pre-installed OnStar Go app on the roads by the end of the year, and drivers will be able to pay with a digital wallet built

into the car known as Masterpass, said Kiki Del Valle, a senior vice president at Mastercard, GM's payment partner. (Don't worry, she says, consumers can disable the feature when they drop the car off with the valet.)

Kia is doing internal tests of an app that drivers would download on their phone and link to a credit card, said Henry Bzeih, managing director of the company's connected and mobility division. The vehicle will connect to the app and display information on the dashboard "so customers don't have to fiddle with their phones while driving," Bzeih said. "Voice recognition is integrated. The whole experience is the same as if you do it on the phone."

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Al-Futtaim's Doha Marketing Services Company (Domasco), the official distributor for Honda in Qatar, announced the official launch of the new 2017 Accord recently. The new Accord gets a major facelift with sportier, more sophisticated styling.

New Accord features restyled alloy wheels on the 4 cylinders and Honda Sensing™ Technology on V6 grades. An additional grade namely DX boasts of safety features such as Vehicle Stability Assist and Curtain airbags as standard features not found in any of its competitors. This grade has been introduced to ensure affordability, as well as compete in the corporate fleet 'user chooser' market.

Commenting on the launch of the 2017 Accord, Faisal Sharif, Managing Director at DOMASCO said: "Accord is widely recognized as a segment-defining product, delivering class-leading interior space and superior ergonomics along with outstanding fuel efficiency, refined and responsive driving dynamics and top-class safety performance. This is what has made the Accord one of Qatar's most popular midsize sedans. We are confident that the new 2017 Accord will exceed expectations of the Qatar market."

"Accord continues to set the bar high in its and the new 2017 model is no exception. This new Accord exudes quality and features that you would only expect in a luxury car" said Greig Roffey, Head of Sales & Marketing at DOMASCO Honda.

"Prices remain attractive and the Accord continues to offer exceptional value for money. We are inviting everyone to visit our showrooms and take a test drive to experience the ultimate mid-size sedan," he added

Exterior Styling

The 2017 Accord face is more sharply creased and an intricately structured bumper fascia integrates an all new chrome grill design that features a prominent bright bar as a solid setting for the H-badge.

LED Daytime Running Lights (DRL), integrated LED Light Bar Tail Lights are standard in all grades, and V6 grades have redesigned LED headlights providing better light distribution for improved visibility and enhanced night time driving. LED Front Fog Lights in 2.4EX and upwards, project a wide low beam for enhanced forward visibility in dust storms or during heavy fog. 17-inch alloy wheels are equipped in LX grades and above and 18-inch alloy wheels in 3.5EX Sport grade.

Other features standard in all grades include side turn signal on door mirror, body colored power door mirror, Sunroof standard in all grades except DX grade, and twin finisher tail pipe in 2.4EX upwards.

Interior Styling

Accord's stylish appointed cabin and richly upholstered seats offer effortless comfort for five adults and an 8-way adjustable driver's seat. In 2.4 EX grade and upwards, comes with personalized settings for 2 drivers. All grades come equipped with rear ducts for ventilation, manual A/C in DX grade, Dual A/C in 2.4LX and EX grades and i-Dual A/C in 2.4EXL, 3.5EX and 3.5EX Sport grades.

The cockpit is equipped with advanced instrumentation and controls positioned for driver's convenience. The steering wheel is equipped with



Honda launches new 2017 Accord in Qatar

The 2017 New Accord for this region will be produced in USA in order to ensure regional supply requirements.

Integrated switches for hands free calling, audio system track and volume control. Paddle shifters feature in 3.5EX Sport Grade which allow driver to instantly downshift or upshift according to the terrain.

Convenience features in 2.4EX grade onwards include Remote Engine Starter which starts engine from a distance, ensuring favorable automatic climate control regulating cabin temperature ensuring maximum comfort before you get in, the Smart Entry, Push Button Start also adds to comfort and sporty feel. Auto Day and Night Rear View Mirror, Cruise Control and Electronic Power Steering are in addition.

The Honda LANEWATCH™ feature new in 2.4EX and 2.4EXL grades in addition to the 3.5V6 grades, uses a camera located below passenger side view mirror to display an expanded rear view of the passenger side road way on the high resolution Intelligent Multi-information Display (i-Mid). The Drive Rearview Camera also gives a look of three different viewing angles which can also be seen on same screen.

LX and above grades are equipped with premium quality audio system with 7-inch Touchscreen Display Audio for easy music control. The 2.4EXL

and the 3.5V6 grades have set up navigation routes with the inbuilt navigation software.

Power Train

New Accord offers choice of 16-valve DOHC i-VTEC 2.4-Liter engine or a 24-valve SOHC i-VTEC 3.5-Liter V6 engine. The 2.4-liter engine in DX and LX grades generates 185-horsepower @ 6400rpm, EX and EXL grades generate a 189-horsepower @ 6400rpm and the V6 model 3.5-liter engine delivers a 278-horsepower @ 6200 rpm. The fuel consumption of the New Accord is 16.5 (Km/l) for the 2.4L grades which is the best in its class. The 3.5L V6 grades has a fuel consumption of 13 (Km/l).

Body and Safety

The 3.5 V6 grades is equipped with 'Honda Sensing'. This new suite of driver-assistive technologies helps driver sense things which might be missed while driving. The Honda Sensing features consist of the below:

1. Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC): Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) extends existing cruise

control system to include millimeter-wave radar and camera monitors distance between your vehicle and vehicle ahead. It helps driver maintain a constant following distance eliminating manual acceleration/deceleration.

2. Lane Keeping Assist System (LKAS): Engineered to gently correct steering when driver begins to leave detected lane without signaling, applying torque progressively to steering to help guide driver back to center of lane. It helps in reducing driver fatigue.

3. Collision Mitigation Braking System™ (CMBS™): Designed to help reduce likelihood of a potential collision by alerting driver. It can also take steps to help reduce severity of an impact by automatically applying brake pressure if system determines a collision to be unavoidable.

4. Road Departure Mitigation (RDM) System: A system designed to alert driver with the help of signals and a rapidly vibrating steering wheel that the car is drifting too close to the side of the driveway without any turn signal activated. This system also uses torque and braking to keep car in the detected lane, when it detects the car continuously leaving the roadway.

The other Honda active-safety features such as Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA) with Traction Control Systems (TCS), Anti-Lock Brake Systems (ABS), Electronic Brake Distributor (EBD) and Hill Start Assist (HSA). In addition New Accord utilizes Honda's Advanced Compatibility Engineering™ (ACE™) body structure technology to enhance occupant protection and crash compatibility. Rear Parking Sensors, a new feature in the Accord, are standard in all grades.

2017 Nissan GT-R makes Middle East debut with fresh look & more power

Nissan launched the new 2017 GT-R across the Middle East, the latest iteration of Nissan's flagship performance vehicle, boasting a revised look both inside and out as well as major driving performance enhancements and more power. The 2017 models represent the most significant changes made to the GT-R since it was introduced in 2007, with Nissan also announcing the immediate availability of its GT-R NISMO in the region.

Samir Cherfan, Managing Director of Nissan Middle East, said: "The Nissan GT-R is one of the world's most iconic supercars, and the Middle East is a key market for it. Motorists in this region love high-performance vehicles and the GT-R embodies every aspect of the word. Its multi-performance character allows the driver to be completely immersed in the GT-R's capabilities, whether navigating corners on a twisting mountain road or simply running weekend errands in the neighborhood. We are very excited to be introducing the new 2017 model to its fans and customers in the region."

The new GT-R's exterior gets a complete makeover across the front end. The new chrome matte finish "V-motion" grille represents one of Nissan's latest design signatures. It has been enlarged to provide better engine cooling and features an updated mesh pattern. A new hood, which flows flawlessly from the grille, has been significantly reinforced, contributing to stability during high-speed driving. A freshly-designed front spoiler lip and front bumpers with finishers situated immediately below the headlamps give the new GT-R the look of a pure-bred racecar, while generating high levels of front downforce.

The GT-R's familiar wind-cutting shape defines its profile, but the side sills have been pushed out to improve air flow. The rear of the car also received a thorough makeover. While the GT-R's hallmark four-ring taillights remain, look closely and you'll notice new bodywork to help improve air flow, as well as side air vents next to the quad exhaust tips. Also, the belt line that separates the lower black section from the body panel has



been heightened to give the car a wider and more aggressive look from the rear. These exterior changes don't result just in a sportier-looking car, they create an aerodynamically efficient vehicle, with less drag but retaining the same amount of downforce as the current GT-R to keep the car stable at high speeds.

Step into the cabin, and you're greeted by a premium interior that is befitting a high-performance sports car of this caliber. The entire dashboard and instrument panel are new and covered with high-quality leather artfully stitched together with TAKUMI precision. The shape of the dashboard adopts a "horizontal flow" that delivers a sense of increased stability for

the car's front-seat occupants, while the line from the instrument cluster to the center console provides a distinct driver-oriented environment for those behind the steering wheel.

The shift paddles are now mounted to the new steering wheel, allowing drivers to change gears in mid-turn without having to take their hands off the wheel. The paddles themselves, along with the ventilation controls, have improved feel and better sound when engaged or adjusted.

The GT-R's award-winning 3.8-liter V6 24-valve twin-turbocharged engine—each unit handcrafted by its own TAKUMI technician—now delivers 565 HP (EUR

570 PS) at 6800 rpm and 467 lb-ft of torque. The engines are the definition of TAKUMI expertise. The improved output, which are the result of individual ignition-timing control of the cylinders and extra boost from the turbochargers, allow the new GT-R to possess superior acceleration in the mid- to high-ranges (3200 rpm and above). It comes mated to a thoroughly refined 6-speed dual-clutch transmission that features smoother shifts and less noise. That familiar GT-R tone also has been upgraded with an engine that has never sounded better. The resonance of the new titanium mufflers and Active Sound Enhancement (ASE) enhance the driving experience.