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Friday, January 13, 2012
[FIA Formula E.](#)

'Electric-powered racing is really taking off with the launch of the new FIA Formula E world championship for electric racing cars planned for 2013 and we are thrilled to be at the forefront of the push for innovation at such an exciting time for the sport and industry.'

There were two interesting developments this week in the world of electric vehicles. With Europe heading into recession from all their austerity programs, and the US economy only in the weakest of rebounds, 2012 is an inauspicious year for the world's auto manufacturers to begin the serious promotion of electric vehicles. Bad timing or not though, that is exactly what is about to happen this year. By year end, EV models will be available from nearly all the manufacturers entering the market, and supplies of the lithium batteries will be adequate to match demand as new factories come on-stream this year and next. Unlike 2010 and 2011, across 2012 an EV model of some description, will be coming to a dealership near most in America and western Europe. Plus the roll out of recharging stations will continue accelerate.

Despite that, it's hard to see much other than commercial fleet purchases until a better economy arrives on both sides of the Atlantic. Private motorists are unlikely to be daring in a struggling economy. 2012 is unlikely to be the big EV success story manufacturers planned for back in 2010. However, as part of the auto industry promotion of EVs, motor racing's international governing body, the Paris based FIA, is introducing Formula E from 2013, an all electric powered class of single seat Le Mans style of racing cars. This week saw the public roll-out of one of the first contenders. There will be some demonstration performances at some of the European race tracks this year, possibly some of the Asian tracks too.

Lola-Drayson electric racing car unveiled
 12 January 2012



A new electric race car prototype has been officially revealed by Lola Group and Drayson Racing Technologies (DRT).

The Lola-Drayson B12/69EV is a technology demonstrator that is aiming to break lap records for electric vehicles at tracks around the world.

Built around the current Lola LMP1 group B12 Le Mans chassis, the new vehicle uses a DRT electric drivetrain to generate

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Power is stored in a new generation of Lithium Nanophosphate cells made by A123 Systems and packaged by Mavizen. The team is also experimenting with structural composite battery technology from BAE Systems - where the batteries are essentially part of the body of the car in an effort to keep weight down.

Charging is done wirelessly and inductively where charge pads made by Halo IPT will be available in the pit garages. The initial target is for the car to be used for short 'time attacks', essentially optimising its qualifying performance. To this end multimatic electrical regenerative dampers will also be available.

The Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) at Warwick University will provide recyclable composite body panels, while Cosworth will provide electronic control systems.

Project pioneer Lord Drayson said: 'Electric racing represents a considerable new business opportunity for

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motorsport and underlines the growing commercial potential of green racing and technology.

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From our RMB interest, EV sales are unlikely to add much in the way of additional REE demand this year, unless unexpectedly the G-7 economies suddenly pick up. But one way or another EVs are going to be a large part of the future. The battery weight and performance are only going to keep improving, the manufacturing cost and operating costs will be falling over the decade. We are going to start seeing EVs appear in our streets.

In better EV news this week, Pike Research expects heavy-duty hybrid and EV truck sales to almost double this year. With most of the non-Chinese supply of REEs not really likely to be available until mid-decade, it's perhaps just as well that EVs in 2012 are likely to proceed at a more subdued pace.

Hybrid truck sales to double in 2012

January 13, 2012

Boulder, Colorado - Sales of medium- and heavy-duty hybrid and electric trucks will nearly double in 2012, according to Pike Research.

The clean tech market intelligence firm said that the worldwide market for hybrid, plug-in hybrid and battery electric medium- and heavy-duty trucks will grow at 92 per cent this year, with total sales surpassing 19,000. Going forward, Pike expects the market to experience a compound annual growth rate of 47.2 per cent between 2011 and 2017, reaching 100,746 truck sales by the end of that period.

"The performance of specific economic sectors will play a big role in the growth of electric drivetrains for trucks," said senior analyst Dave Hurst. "For example, as the retail industry rebounds, pickup and delivery vehicle sales will rebound with it. This in turn will have a positive impact on the hybrid, plug-in and battery electric truck markets as well."

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Tekton said...

Watching a segment on "F1 Debrief" on Speed Channel, the discussion was about F1 becoming a hybrid racing venue. The new cars being proposed like this one above, have 100% torque available the moment the accelerator is hit. This makes the cars much faster out of the corners, smoother under power, and overall improved performance beyond any of the current cars, and will become the standard for racing.

[Reply](#)

Friday, January 13, 2012 at 10:11 AM

[packaging_machine](#) said...

wow. this is really looks great. i wish them all the best.

[Reply](#)

Friday, January 13, 2012 at 03:33 PM

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