

140 kWh battery performance test

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The 140-kwh battery is the new Qilin design from Chinese battery giant CATL. Announced last June, Qilin is CATL's third-generation cell-to-pack battery and is promised with an energy density of 0.255 kwh per kilogram of weight, plus 13% improved power delivery compared to the 4680-type battery used by Tesla.

The range figures are based on the test cycle used in China, but even with the stricter test cycle used by the EPA in the U.S., the 001 with the 140-kwh may have what it takes to outlast the 520-mile range of the Lucid Air Dream Edition.

Zeekr will offer the battery in the 009 minivan later this year. Zeekr is also developing a minivan designed to be used by companies operating robotaxis. The first robotaxi customer is Waymo, the self-driving technology company of Alphabet.

Zeekr operates exclusively in China but plans to expand to Europe in 2023 with the 001. There are no plans to expand to the U.S. at present, but there are reports the brand may launch an IPO here.

The production 001 was presented on 16 April 2021 at the Auto Shanghai and launched in October 2021 in the Mainland Chinese market. Its shooting brake design is similar to the Porsche Panamera Sport Turismo and it features a similar front end to that of the Lynk & Co 05, a model from another brand in the Geely Automobile Holdings group of companies and maybe not a coincidence, as the 001 model was developed by Swedish CEVT as Lynk & Co Zero Concept.

In January 2023, the upgraded 2023 model Zeekr 001 has been announced. The 2023 model replaced the Japanese Denso motors with Chinese Vremt motors. Vremt (Viridi E-Mobility Technology) is a subsidiary of Zeekr's parent company Geely. Upgraded Zeekr 001 offers an option for 140kWh CATL Qilin batteries, with a maximum range that can exceed 1,000 kilometers.

In September 2023, Zeekr announced a limited performance edition, 001 FR (Future Road), featuring quad electric motors that could deliver 1,248hp (931kW; 1,265PS) in total, as well as track-level brakes and suspensions, carbon fibre parts and a "tank turn" mode. It would be built on 800V platform with a 100 kWh CATL Qilin battery. Zeekr planned to deliver 99 vehicles per month.

2,012 units were sold in more than 150 cities across China during the first full month of production in November 2021, with 199 additional units during October 2021. The company stated its plan to ramp up production during 2022 with a target of 70,000 vehicles, and continuing to prioritize local market customers ahead of a global roll-out in 2023.

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Zeekr 001 has set two world records. The first one was for the fastest drift by an electric car, at 208 km/h. The second world record was for the fastest slalom by an EV with 50 cones in 49.05 seconds.

Mahindra may be a little late to the EV party in India, but it wants to amend that by setting a new benchmark with two new models that promise to outdo all others in the segment for now. And the smaller of the two electric SUVs launched by Mahindra on November 26 is grabbing more attention than its bigger sibling. The Mahindra BE 6e is born to Mahindra's new INGLO platform that will underpin all its upcoming models, the BE 6e is one of the first from Mahindra's new generation electric cars aimed to propel the carmaker to grab attention and market share in the EV segment.

Mahindra BE 6e review: Design and dimensionsAt first glance, the BE 6e comes across a concept car that has sprung to life straight out of a sketchbook. The styling, the character lines, and the overall shape of the vehicle not only promise to turn heads but also make it stand out in the crowd. In fact, hardly any car on sale in India looks anything like the BE 6e.

While looks are subjective, you cannot miss out on some unique design features this EV carries. The sleek LED DRL and headlight units, the illuminated BE logo instead of the brand identity, gloss black cladding and the weirdly-shaped bonnet with air intakes to help its aerodynamics complete the front face of the BE 6e with a bold stance.

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