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Aston Martin DBX Concept challenges convention

- DBX Concept redefines the luxury GT segment for the 21st Century
- World debut for idea of first all-electric, all-wheel drive, Aston Martin
- Sophisticated design and innovative engineering to broaden appeal

3 March 2015, Gaydon: Aston Martin today challenges the nature of luxury GT travel in the 21st Century with the debut at the 85th Geneva International Motor Show of the innovative DBX Concept.

Created to defy conventional thinking about the luxury GT segment, the DBX Concept widens the appeal of the iconic British luxury brand and reaches out to a more diverse global audience than ever before.

Unveiling the concept, Aston Martin CEO Dr Andy Palmer said: "The DBX Concept is a challenge to the existing status quo in the high luxury GT segment. It envisages a world, perhaps a world not too far away, when luxury GT travel is not only stylish and luxurious but also more practical, more family-friendly and more environmentally responsible.

"I asked my team at Aston Martin to expand their thinking beyond conventions, to explore what the future of luxury GT motoring would look like in years ahead, and the DBX Concept you see before you is the result."

Dr Palmer added: "This is, clearly, not a production-ready sports GT car, but it is a piece of fresh, bold thinking about what Aston Martin GT customers around the world could request of us in the future.

"The DBX Concept is more than a thought starter for us and for our customers, though. We will, in due course, be entering a car into the new DBX space and I am very much looking forward to seeing how this concept is received not only here today, but also by our legion of existing loyal customers and by those potential customers around the world who have, to this point, yet to consider one of our cars."

Harmonious design

Imagined by Chief Creative Officer Marek Reichman and his team at the brand's global headquarters in Gaydon, Warwickshire, the all-electric DBX Concept showcases not only cutting edge engineering but also a major evolution of the British brand's world-renowned and highly-regarded design language.

Clearly signalling an extension to the brand's existing model lines in the future, the all-wheel drive DBX Concept seamlessly combines traditional Aston Martin beauty with elegant new engineering that gracefully aligns form and function.

Capable of accommodating four adults in comfort, the DBX Concept also majors on day-to-day practicality. It offers generous luggage capacity by virtue of the fact that its rear trunk and forward load bay can both accept passengers' belongings.

Opulence and cutting edge style go hand-in-hand in the DBX Concept thanks to a unique fusion of high luxury and advanced technology. These characteristics, allied to the ingenious use of unconventional materials and finishes inside and out, are calculated to further broaden the appeal of Aston Martin.

The concept's exterior bright work emphasises the brand's approach to the use of authentic materials, and is made up of machined billet aluminium with visible milling lines in a piece of exquisite craftsmanship intended to be seen as the car's jewellery. The DBX Concept's unique paint finish – Black Pearl Chromium – has been specially created to mimic the look of a genuine black pearl, and comprises a micro-fine layer of chrome to deliver a level of reflectivity that cannot be obtained through normal paint finishes.

Inside, the deliberate use of non-automotive standard materials generates a uniquely soft, cocooning ambience. The extensive application of velvet-like Nubuck leather contrasts with the concept's hard, hi-tech equipment. The exposed leather reveals a sandwiched accent layer, more akin to high-end furniture, while the car's interior bright ware matches that of the exterior with the addition of a gold 'pin striping' element on the edging.

Marek Reichman explained: "The exceptional craftsmanship, with detailing more typically seen on luxury consumer goods or fine jewellery, gives the DBX Concept genuinely global appeal."

Experimental engineering

Embracing the very latest engineering techniques and theories, the DBX Concept

needs no engine compartment thanks to its use of electric, inboard-of-wheel, motors

powered by lithium sulphur cells.

Drive-by-wire electric steering, toughened glass with an auto-dimming 'smart glass'

inter-layer, and bespoke driver and passenger head-up displays are further examples

of its cutting edge technology.

Active LED exterior lights, carbon ceramic brakes with a kinetic energy recovery

system (KERS) and rear view cameras in place of conventional mirrors also underline

the mould-breaking nature of this luxury GT concept.

Dr Palmer explained: "A concept car such as this should, in my view, challenge

conventional thinking and explore the art of the possible. In the DBX Concept, I believe

we have created a new type of luxury car that can not only broaden the appeal of

Aston Martin to a whole new generation of customers, but sit with pride alongside the

rest of our range."

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

A video news release will be available from Reuters World News Express platform on Tuesday

3 March 2015 at 13:00 GMT. Reuters subscribers will have access to the content from this time.

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