

# The *Lotus Live* Guide to **Cars**

(Updated January 17, 2007)

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## **Introduction**

- This guide is your source for information about concept electric cars and plug-in hybrids that are nearing production in the coming years: the Aptera, Tesla, Karma, and Volt.
- As Lotus Live's knowledge base increases, and as new resources are created, this guide will be updated. The most recent version of this guide can be found [here](#).

## Cars of the Future

### *Tesla Motors Electric Roadster*



The Tesla is an all-electric sports car that uses state-of-the-art lithium-ion batteries to fuel its acceleration from 0 to 60 in 3.9 seconds! Unlike electric cars of the past, for which range was a major constraint, the Tesla has a 220 mile range, long enough to make the journey from Boston to New York City.<sup>1</sup> It gets the energy equivalent of 135 mpg, has significantly fewer emissions than a gasoline car (even if the electricity is 100% from coal), and it costs 2 cents per mile to drive. The Tesla costs \$100,000, and will soon be shipping to those lucky enough to pre-order one.

For more information: [Tesla Motors](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Boston to New York City is 215 miles.

## *Fisker Karma*



The Fisker Karma is a series plug-in hybrid that uses an all-electric drive train to accelerate from 0 to 60 in 6 seconds. The Karma can be charged at home or work to give it an all-electric range of 50 miles per charge<sup>2</sup>, after which an auxiliary gasoline engine kicks in to recharge the battery on the go. As a series plug-in hybrid, the Karma combines the unprecedented power and control of an electric drivetrain with the unlimited range of a gasoline hybrid. The Karma will cost \$80,000 and is expected to ship in late 2009 and/or early 2010.

For more information: [Fisker Automotive](#)

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<sup>2</sup> According to Fisker's research, 60% of Americans and Europeans drive less than 50 miles per day, and with the Karma would essentially be driving all-electric vehicles.

## *Chevy Volt*



The Chevy Volt is another series plug-in hybrid that utilizes an all-electric drive train, with an auxiliary gasoline motor to recharge the battery. The Volt accelerates from 0 to 60 in 8 seconds, has an all-electric range of 40 miles, and achieves 50 mpg after the gasoline engine kicks in.<sup>3</sup> It will cost two cents per mile all-electric, and seven cents per mile after that.<sup>4</sup> The goal is to release the Volt in 2010 with a price tag less than \$30,000.

For more information: [GM Volt](#) and [Chevrolet Volt](#)

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<sup>3</sup> Average fuel economy between charges is equal to  $50 * M / (M - 40)$  where M is miles travelled.

<sup>4</sup> Assuming \$3.50/gal gas.  $\$3.50 / 50 \text{ miles} = \$0.07 / \text{mile}$

## *Aptera*



The Aptera will be the most aerodynamic vehicle commercially available. In late 2008, production will begin for two Aptera models for 2009 sales in California: a series plug-in hybrid with phenomenal range and typical fuel efficiencies of 300 mpg, and an all-electric with a 120 mile range. This futuristic two-seater is being built to meet all safety requirements set for regular cars, and will cost only \$26,900 for the electric model, and \$29,900 for the plug-in hybrid model.

For more information: [Aptera](#)

## About this Guide

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If you have any ideas, suggestions, or corrections you would like to contribute to this guide on Cars, please send us an email at [transport@lotuslive.org](mailto:transport@lotuslive.org).

Feel free to make use of any of the information in this guide for any purpose--we simply ask that you credit us and our predecessors, and link to us.

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