

Peugeot unveils petrol hybrid using compressed air

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The engine, which allows up to 80 percent driving on compressed air in

cities, offers [fuel economy](#) of 2.9 litres of fuel per 100 kilometres (81 [miles per gallon](#)) and emits just 69 grammes of carbon dioxide per kilometre.

"This breakthrough technology ... represents a key step towards the two litre per hundred kilometre car by 2020," chief executive Philippe Varin said at a press conference unveiling a series of new technologies.

Peugeot said what it calls Hybrid Air technology can be fit into small to midsize cars without any loss to storage space.

Whereas conventional hybrids use electric batteries to store energy, the compressed air system "allows the recuperation of energy from braking and slowing down," said the head of the Hybrid Air project, Karim Mokaddem.

The project, partially financed by the French state, also includes German auto parts specialist Bosch and Faurecia, a car parts firm controlled by Peugeot.

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