

Rolls-Royce to unveil electric car next month

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A picture supplied by Rolls-Royce Motor Cars of the grill of its new electric car, the Phantom 102EX. The first electric-powered Rolls-Royce car will be unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show on March 1, the luxury vehicle maker announced.

The first electric-powered Rolls-Royce car will be unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show on March 1, the luxury vehicle maker announced on Sunday.

The one-off Phantom 102EX, to be fully electric-powered, will then go on a global tour taking in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and North America, according to the Goodwood, England-based company.

“We have engineered the world’s first battery electric vehicle for the ultra-luxury segment,” chief executive Torsten Muller-Otvos said. “With this vehicle, we begin an exploration into alternative drive-trains, seeking clarity on which alternative technologies may be suitable to drive Rolls-

Royce motor cars of the future.”

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars said it wants to test opinions and reactions from owners, enthusiasts, members of the public and the media.

"While there are no plans to develop a production version, as one of the company's EX models it will serve to begin a dialogue with existing owners and stakeholders, posing as well as answering questions of its audience," the company said said.

These include the car's ability to deliver an acceptable range between re-charges and to operate in extreme weather conditions, it said.

"I must be convinced that any alternative drive-train we choose for the future delivers an authentic Rolls-Royce experience," Muller-Otvos said. "It must be a technology that is right for our customers, our brand and which sets us on a sound footing for a sustainable future."

Full details of the car's specification are being kept under wraps until its Geneva launch.

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars is a division of German car company BMW and is no longer connected to aero engine maker Rolls-Royce PLC.

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