

- [Subscribe: Digital / Home Delivery](#)
- [Log In](#)
- [Register Now](#)

- [Home Page](#)
- [Today's Paper](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Most Popular](#)

[U.S. Edition](#)

- [Global Edition](#)
- [中文网 \(Chinese\)](#)



Search All NYTimes.com

The New York Times

Thursday, February 14, 2013

[Automobiles](#)

- [World](#)
- [U.S.](#)
- [N.Y. / Region](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Style](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Autos](#)

- [New Cars](#)
- [Used Cars](#)
- [Collectible Cars](#)
- [Sell Your Car](#)
- [All Classifieds](#)

[Advertise on NYTimes.com](#)



Wheels

The Nuts and Bolts of Whatever Moves You



October 10, 2011, 3:07 pm

Edison2, X Prize Winner, Claims 350 M.P.G. Equivalent for Prototype

By [JIM MOTAVALLI](#)



Brad Jaeger/Edison2The battery-

electric version of the Edison2 Very Light Car.

[Edison2](#), the tiny, Virginia-based engineering company [that won the \\$5 million mainstream class](#) in the Automotive [X Prize](#) last year, recently tested the performance of its all-electric, four-passenger Very Light Car design — a rounded pod with outboard-mounted wheels — at Roush Laboratories in Livonia, Mich.

The design slips through the air with very little resistance, returning a drag coefficient of 0.16, and weighs in at just 1,140 pounds. And the company claims gaudy efficiency for the E.V., a combined rating of 350 [miles per gallon equivalent](#) on the dynamometer. The electric prototype also achieved a per-charge range of 114 miles in the company's tests.

The car that won the X Prize [had a small turbocharged gasoline engine](#) that ran on E85. For the E.V., the company used a relatively small 10.5-kilowatt-hour [lithium](#)-polymer battery and a modest 41-kilowatt, 55-horsepower electric motor to make the technology financially scalable for production. According to Brad Jaeger, Edison2's director of research and development, a production version of the car could be built for \$25,000 or less.

With such a small battery, the vehicle takes about seven hours to charge from a standard 110 outlet.

Mr. Jaeger said that a production version could be built with a 200-mile range, which may require a larger battery. Crash testing would be a hurdle, but Mr. Jaeger said that the Roush testing offered encouragement on the Very Light Car's safety performance.

“By focusing on platform efficiency, we can reduce the size of the battery pack, cut back on the charging time and give greater range,” Mr. Jaeger said in a telephone interview. “Our car has a battery that is 40 percent the size of the pack in the Nissan Leaf, and yet it can travel farther on a charge.”

Oliver Kuttner, the founder and chief executive of Edison2, said in an interview that the company has never intended to become an automaker.

“Too many people like me have tried to build a car and gone bankrupt,” he said. Instead, Edison2 hopes to license its technology. Mr. Kuttner said that he had a letter of intent from a California-based company, [Eckhaus Fleet](#), that wanted to produce electric meter-maid vehicles with 140-mile range using Edison2’s proprietary technology. Tim Yopp, Eckhaus’s chief technology officer, confirmed the letter of intent, adding that there was an opening in the market for such a vehicle, which could offer reduced pollution, maintenance and operating costs.

Mr. Kuttner also said that Edison2 was in discussions with a large Chinese company to produce a plug-in hybrid vehicle, with some similarities to the [Chevrolet Volt](#), for the Chinese market, but he would not reveal the company’s name.

The Edison2’s aerodynamic design is, by its makers’ own admission, unconventional, but the vehicle’s basic form factor was seen recently in numerous concepts shown at the [Frankfurt auto show](#), including the [Volkswagen Nils](#) and [Audi Urban Concept](#), offering some vindication to the company. The [Aptera](#), another electric car of that type, has been unable to reach production.

Mr. Kuttner stands by the shape, saying that the teardrop-like fuselage represented a pathway to the highly efficient cars of the future. “It can’t be done any other way,” he said.

-
-
-
- Save
- E-mail
- Share
- [Print](#)

[Design](#), [Electric Vehicles](#), [Fuel Efficiency](#), [Technology](#), [Audi](#), [Automotive X Prize](#), [E.V.](#), [Edison2](#), [Volkswagen](#)

Related Posts

From Wheels

- [Wheelies: The Circuit Breaker Edition](#)
- [In Audi E-tron Program, Pure Electrics Surrender Some Charge to Plug-in Hybrids](#)
- [Beijing Auto Show: Volkswagen E-Bugster Presages Shape of Drop-Top Beetle](#)
- [Unable to Raise Financing, Aptera Shuts Down](#)
- [On Electric-Vehicle Incentives, Diesel Defenders Cry Foul](#)

-
- [Previous Post](#) [1884 De Dion-Bouton Sells at Hershey for \\$4.62 Million](#)

- Next Post [1930 Model A Ford Wraps a Year on the Road](#)

Search This Blog

- Previous Post [1884 De Dion-Bouton Sells at Hershey for \\$4.62 Million](#)
- Next Post [1930 Model A Ford Wraps a Year on the Road](#)

- Follow This Blog

- [Twitter](#)
- [RSS](#)

Wheels

The latest from Times contributors and elsewhere.

☼ Loading Twitter messages...

[Advertise on NYTimes.com](#)



Contributors



[Carla Baranauckas](#)

Acting Wheels Blog Editor (New York)

- [Twitter](#)



[Mary M. Chapman](#)

Industry News, Michigan Issues (Detroit)

- [Twitter](#)



[James G. Cobb](#)

Automobiles Editor (New York)

- [Twitter](#)



[Ezra Dyer](#)

Reviews, Product News (North Carolina)

- [Twitter](#)



[Jerry Garrett](#)

Reviews, Industry News (Los Angeles, Las Vegas)

- [Twitter](#)



[Josie Garthwaite](#)

Technology, Green Energy, Urban Mobility

(San Francisco)

- [Twitter](#)



[Cheryl Jensen](#)

Consumer Issues, Industry News (New Hampshire)



[Christopher Jensen](#)

Safety, Industry News, Recalls (New Hampshire)



[Norman Maversohn](#)

Deputy Automobiles Editor (New York)

- [Twitter](#)



[Jim Motavalli](#)

Environmental Policy, Green Cars (Connecticut)

- [Twitter](#)



[Phil Patton](#)

Design, Product News (New York)

- [Twitter](#)



[Robert Peele](#)

Automobiles Staff (New York)

- [Twitter](#)



[James Schembari](#)

Automobiles Staff (New York)

- [Twitter](#)



[Paul Stenquist](#)

Product News, Industry Issues (Detroit)

- [Twitter](#)



[Lawrence Ulrich](#)

Lead Reviewer (New York)

- [Twitter](#)

About Wheels

A team of New York Times contributors blogs about news, trends and all things automotive. Check back for insight, photos, reviews of cars and more. And remember to join the conversation — you can comment on the cars, offer your own reviews, and post questions in our reader comment area. All comments are moderated [[Details at the City Room blog](#)]. Send questions, suggestions or complaints [by e-mail](#).

Safety News

- [Chrysler Is Recalling 278,000 Pickups and S.U.V.'s](#)
- [Safety Agency Investigating Brake-Light Problem in Pontiacs](#)
- [BMW Recalls 1 Series ActiveE for Powertrain Problem](#)

Recent Posts

February 14

[U.S. Report Criticizes Battery Company's Grant Management](#)

The plant in Holland, Mich., has yet to "manufacture battery cells that could be used in electric vehicles sold to the public," a memo with the report says.

February 14

[That Tesla Data: What It Says and What It Doesn't](#)

About three hours into the trip, the reporter placed the first of about a dozen calls to Tesla personnel expressing concern about the car's declining range.

February 14

[Bloomberg Endorses Preparing Parking Spaces for E.V. Charging](#)

The mayor says he wants New York City to be a "national leader" in electric vehicles.

February 14

[Chrysler Is Recalling 278,000 Pickups and S.U.V.'s](#)

The rear differential could fail, causing the driver to lose control, Chrysler said in a report.

February 13

[Microcars From Georgia Museum Going on the Auction Block](#)

This week, some 200 microcars are set to be sold by RM Auctions. They are the collection of the Bruce Weiner Microcar Museum.

Archive

Select Month

[Follow The New York Times »](#)

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [RSS](#)



Internet Explorer cannot display t



Glenn Frey and Don Henley reflect on "History of the Eagles"

ALSO IN ARTS »

- ["A Good Day to Die Hard," with Bruce Willis](#)
- [The way they tell it, science is spelled F-U-N](#)

nytimes.com

ARTS

- [© 2013 The New York Times Company](#)
- [Site Map](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [Your Ad Choices](#)
- [Advertise](#)
- [Terms of Sale](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)
- [Work With Us](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Help](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Site Feedback](#)