



Electric Evolutions

As electric vehicles take to the roads, an overhaul on traditional automobile design is needed in order to maximise the performance of future models.

Customer needs and expectations must be incorporated directly, but are rather unknown.

The development of new concepts for electric vehicles is an important task. The European project **Advanced Electric Vehicle Architectures (ELVA)** is currently investigating and developing purpose-built architectures for future electric vehicles. While the first wave of mass-produced electric vehicles arrives on European roads, most of these car models were originally designed to house combustion engines. Electric vehicles have an electric motor and batteries instead of the traditional combustion engine and fuel tank, these modifications require extensive design revolutions in order to integrate the electric components in an efficient manner.

The goal is to now exploit new freedoms in design and to realise effective lightweight measures. The project partners would like to incorporate the requirements and needs of potential customers directly into the development. Due to this fact they have set-up a questionnaire which will especially help in this regard.

The ELVA consortium would be very grateful if you could invest about 15-20 minutes of your time in order to answer their questions. Please use this unique chance to directly influence the future of electro mobility! As an incentive, you may win one of three navigation devices.

The survey can be accessed from now and until 30 June 2011 at www.elva-project.eu/survey.html

ELVA is a European project consisting of 7 partners which will develop within the next 2 years architectures for fully electric vehicles for electric drive around 2020. The project is coordinated by Institut für Kraftfahrzeuge (ika) of RWTH Aachen University. Furthermore, Continental, Fiat, Renault, and Volkswagen participate in the project as industrial partners. The consortium is supplemented by the Swedish Vehicle and Traffic Safety Centre SAFER as well as IDIADA Automotive Technology from Spain. It receives funding within the 7th Research Framework Programme of the European Commission.

Coordinated by ika, the project partners will redefine what is known as vehicle architecture, an aspect currently dominated by the combustion engine and evolving with the adoption of mass-produced electric vehicles.

Further information on the project is available at www.elva-project.eu/