

MotorWeek Transcripts Car Keys 'Nissan EV-02'

JOHN DAVIS: The zero-emissions race continues to build steam – or voltage in this case. Enter the Nissan EV-02 electric car prototype.

Currently undergoing testing inside this older Nissan Cube mule, the plug-in electric powertrain will be fitted to an all new 5-door compact starting in 2010.

With a 107 horsepower electric motor, and advanced lithium-ion-manganese batteries, Nissan claims the EV-02 has a range of 100 miles. 110 Volt household current is fine for charging overnight.

The EV-02 also touts a top speed of 85 miles-per-hour, adequate for the typical interstate commute.

This next-generation electric car is the flagship of Nissan's plans to establish its EV operations and charging network across the US and worldwide.

DOMINIQUE THORMANN, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE, NISSAN NORTH AMERICA: We are very close to making this an industrial reality. And we see initially rather limited fleet users and professional users in 2010, but we're going to mass market this car in 2012.

DAVIS: When it does arrive, the EV-02 will not be bare bones, with advanced airbags and options like premium audio and navigation.

But the real attraction, besides no more gas pumps, will likely be a generous federal tax credit for anyone who buys this little green commuter.