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Headline: 2015 International Geneva Motor Show welcomes international press, as the show opens Europe's new car season.

SHOWS: GENEVA, SWITZERLAND (MARCH 3, 2015) (GENEVA INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW)

GENERAL VIEWS

1. VARIOUS OF GENERAL VIEWS AT PALEXPO, CROWD, HOSTESS

CAR PREMIERES

ASTON MARTIN: DBX CONCEPT

2. VARIOUS OF ASTON MARTIN DBX CONCEPT PRESENTED

3. VARIOUS OF ASTON MARTIN VULCAN

4. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ANDY PALMER, CEO ASTON MARTIN, SAYING:

"We've got the plan which is to completely renew our portfolio of current sportscars. On top of that we're going to be adding three new car lines which will allow us to grow our volume to something significant which will allow us to have no more famine and feast in the future – a very sustainable business model. But we also need to make sure we're creating the future collectible cars."

5. (SOUNDBITE) (English) ANDY PALMER, CEO ASTON MARTIN, SAYING:

"We needed to make a sportscar, a DB, a David Brown sportscar. We needed to think about how that looks in the future, in order to attract women to the brand, which of course are so important because women control 60-80 percent of the buy decision. Then we need to make it attractive in different ways. So having a higher vehicle, a crossover, getting that centre of gravity up, making it more approachable, easier to get in and get out, giving you more confidence on the road."

AUDI: RS 3 Sportback

6. VARIOUS OF AUDI RS 3

7. (SOUNDBITE) (English) RUPERT STADLER, CEO AUDI, SAYING:

"The genetic code of Audi is very clear: it is sporty, it is progressive and there are always high values. And the sportiness and the attribute of sportiness is not better expressed than with the R8 and this is really a big momentum for us."

FORD: FOCUS RS

8. VARIOUS OF FORD FOCUS RS PRESENTED

9. (SOUNDBITE) (English) STEPHEN ODELL, GLOBAL MARKETING CHIEF, SAYING:

"Legacy goes way back to racing times and they were always limited editions, low models, absolute high performance vehicles, a lot of them of course taken on track and rally as well, so when you get a chance to drive it, I hope you do, then you'll find that it fits right at the pinnacle at the RS nomenclature."

10. (SOUNDBITE) (English) STEPHEN ODELL, GLOBAL MARKETING CHIEF, SAYING:

I think the spirit of RS is the ultimate driving experience, can be off road of course, on track. They got 4 settings in this car where you can also drift it as well, so if you're a rally driver in the dirt and the dust and a lot of them like to do it, there is a lot of capability even for people like me, who is not a professional driver to drift the car

around the corners, so the pinnacle really of the performance attribute from the car you can drive on road but also take of road as well.”

11. (SOUNDBITE) (English) STEPHEN ODELL, GLOBAL MARKETING CHIEF, SAYING:
“It really does seat on the top of Ford brand, and of course the fact that it’s a Focus as well, we had RS Fiesta as well, I think raises the whole profile of the brand.”

MERCEDES-BENZ: Mercedes-Maybach S600 Pullman

12. VARIOUS OF MERCEDES-BENZ MAYBACH S600 PULLMAN BEING PRESENTED

13. (SOUNDBITE) (English) OLA KALLENIOUS, BOARD MEMBER SALES & MARKETING, SAYING:

“The new Mercedes Maybach S600 Pullman is really a legend on wheels. We have a 50 year tradition with this vehicle for heads of states, for monarchs and for stars – so if you’re looking for the ultimate comfortable ride in the chauffeured car luxury segment you will come to the S600 Maybach.”

14. (SOUNDBITE) (English) OLA KALLENIOUS, BOARD MEMBER SALES & MARKETING, SAYING:

“This is very clearly a chauffeur driven car so you need to feel like a king when you’re in the back seat. It has the most quiet back seat of any serious production car in the world; the smoothest ride; and actually the most exclusive hi-fi system that has ever been built into a car in a serious production. It has enormous space with a wheel base of 3.7 metres and heads of states, kings and queens, stars can use this car as their show car so to speak.”

BMW: BMW SERIE 2 GRAN TOURER

15. VARIOUS OF BMW SERIE 2 GARN TOURER BEING PRESENTED

PEUGEOT: 208

16. VARIOUS OF PEUGEOT 208 BEING PRESENTED

SMART: BRABUS

17. VARIOUS OF SMART BRABUS BEING PRESENTED

QUANT: Quantino

18. VARIOUS OF QUANTINO BEING PRESENTED

MITSUBISHI: XR-PHEV II concept

19. VARIOUS OF MITSUBISHI CONCEPT BEING PRESENTED

MINI: Countryman Park Lane

20. VARIOUS OF MINI COUNTRYMAN BEING PRESENTED

OPEL: Karl

21. VARIOUS OF OPEL KARL BEING PRESENTED

MORGAN: AERO8

22. VARIOUS OF AERO 8 BEING PRESENTED

SEAT: 20V20 CONCEPT

23. VARIOUS OF 20V20 CONCEPT BEING PRESENTED

VOLKSWAGEN: Golf GTD Variant

24. VARIOUS OF VOLKSAGEN GOLF GTD VARIANT BEING PRESENTED

VOLVO: XC 90

25. VARIOUS OF XC 90 BEING PRESENTED

SKODA: Superb Limousine

26. VARIOUS OF SKODA SUPERB LIMOUSINE BEING PRESENTED

BENTLEY: EXP 10

27. VARIOUS OF EXP 10 BEING PRESENTED

INTERVIEW WITH MASERATI CEO (HJ WESTER)

28. (SOUNDBITE) (English) HJ WESTER, CEO MASERATI, SAYING:

"The absolute opposite of ordinary. That's the distinctive alternative to all those who are born after many years of driving a uniform. If you look to the global luxury market still growing, beyond the million further gloving till 2018 at 1.1, the large SUVs where the Levante will play the segment it counts for more than 50% of this. Big regions again after United States, Asia, Pacific, in particular China but also important in Europe, Middle East, our levanter as it has been reported lately a real attractive alternative to everybody who's already there."

29. VARIOUS OF MASERATI STAND

FEATURE STORY ON NISSAN NISMO BACK AT LE MANS

30. GVS OF NISSAN GTR LM NISMO RACE CAR

31. (SOUNDBITE) DARREN COX, GLOBAL MOTORSPORT DIRECTOR, NISSAN/NISMO, SAYING (English):

"Motorsport regulations over the years have evolved and really it's about slowing cars down. So the rear of the car has been reduced in terms of aerodynamic efficiency. So the best thing to do? Put the aerodynamic efficiency at the front. But that means you've got to put the engine at the front. And then the whole train of thought from our engineers went from there. So it's really at a problem with a blank sheet of paper and coming up with what we think is the right solution. The funny thing about motor racing is that someone will be right and someone will be wrong. Let's find out in June at Le Mans."

32. DARREN COX LOOKING AT NISSAN FTR LM NISMO

33. (SOUNDBITE) DARREN COX, GLOBAL MOTORSPORT DIRECTOR, NISSAN/NISMO, SAYING (English):

"The reaction to this car's been incredible. Normally today in motor racing the drivers are the stars, whether it be Vettel, whether it be Mark Webber moving from World Endurance Championships, people talked about that rather than the new Porsche. With this we announce a new driver it's like 'oh yeah, a new driver, but what about the car?' and that's really turned around the way it's been motorsport over the past few years. The coverage we've got of this car has been incredible. As one of our competitors said: we're winning off track, let's see if we win on track or not."

34. FILE - UNKNOWN RACE TRACK (NISSAN HANDOUT - ACCESS ALL)

35. NISSAN GTR LM NISMO RACE CAR ON TRACK

36. (SOUNDBITE) DARREN COX, GLOBAL MOTORSPORT DIRECTOR, NISSAN/NISMO, SAYING (English):

"The racing drivers really have got to re-learn their craft if you like. Most of them have come up through the single-seater ranks where the engine's in the back and it's driving the rear wheels. So they're having to work out how to drive this car differently. It was the same with ZEOD and some of our other projects. In a way it's the same as the GTR. The four wheel driver roadcar GTR doesn't drive the same as its competitors. So they have to re-learn. But these guys are clever guys, they're very adaptable, and they're getting their heads around it."

37. VARIOUS CLOSE UP SHOTS OF NISSAN GTR LM NISMO RACE CAR

38. (SOUNDBITE) DARREN COX, GLOBAL MOTORSPORT DIRECTOR, NISSAN/NISMO, SAYING (English):

"Normally on a race car you've got big tyres on the back and small ones at the front. If you look at this you've got small tyres on the rear. It's all about the aerodynamics, the weight and the tyre sizes matching across the car. So actually there's not much downforce on the back compared to the front so you don't need as wider tyres. So when you think about it, it's quite logical. When you look at it, it's not logical at all."

39. PERSON PLAYING ON NISSAN GT ACADEMY VIDEO GAME

40. (SOUNDBITE) DARREN COX, GLOBAL MOTORSPORT DIRECTOR, NISSAN/NISMO, SAYING (English):

"Two of our drivers have come from the Nissan GT Academy, which we've run with PlayStation now for the past seven years. And we take a very simple concept which is: can a driver train on a computer game. And when we did that seven years ago -much like the reaction to this car, or Qashqai, or Leaf, people said 'that's crazy, that will never work.' And today, two of our nine drivers from our Le Mans line up are from gaming, which is incredible."

41. GVS OF NISSAN GTR LM NISMO

42. (SOUNDBITE) DARREN COX, GLOBAL MOTORSPORT DIRECTOR, NISSAN/NISMO, SAYING (English):

"Our job is to go to Le Mans in the first year and be credible, to prove this is was right decision. That doesn't mean going out to win, that doesn't mean going out to get pole position, it means be credible and do a good job in the first year. And then we can push on from there and see what we do in 2016."

43. GVS OF NISSAN GTR LM NISMO

STORY: The 85th Geneva International Motor Show, the first major event on the European auto industry calendar in 2015, opened its doors to the press on Tuesday (March 3), welcoming more than 10,000 accredited media from around the world.

The first two days, historically dedicated to media, will see 131 World and European premiers, before the show opens to the public on Thursday (March 5) and finishing on March 15.

This year's talk of the town is mainly small SUV's for families and again powerful expensive sports cars like the new Ferrari 488 GTB, the McLaren P1 GTR and the Aston Martin Vulcan.

But the latest has shocked Geneva motor show crowds by unveiling alongside the Vulcan, the DBX concept – an all-wheel drive, all-electric crossover unlike anything the firm has ever produced. The brand says the DBX has been created to 'defy

conventional thinking about the luxury GT segment', and while luxury SUVs are now nothing new – with Bentley, Jaguar, Porsche and several other marques already coming to market – the DBX is far from traditional in its approach.

"We needed to make a sports car, a DB, a David Brown sports car. We needed to think about how that looks in the future, in order to attract women to the brand, which of course are so important because women control 60-80 percent of the buy decision. Then we need to make it attractive in different ways. So having a higher vehicle, a crossover, getting that centre of gravity up, making it more approachable, easier to get in and get out, giving you more confidence on the road," said Andy Palmer, Aston Martin CEO.

At its base level, the DBX is a four-seater, with 'generous' luggage capacity (in both a rear boot and a forward load bay, like Tesla's Model S) and a beautifully-trimmed cabin worlds away in design from the firm's existing products.

Another highlight making its world appearance in the Palexpo halls of Geneva was Audi's all-new RS3 Sportback. The car is powered by a reworked 2.5-litre five-cylinder petrol engine producing 362bhp, and offers a supercar-challenging 0-100 km/h time of 4.3sec. The engine returns a combined 34.8mpg, with CO2 emissions of 189g/km.

Ford presented its third-generation Ford Focus RS' model that features the turbocharged 2.3-liter EcoBoost four-cylinder engine found in the 2015 Ford Mustang and has a final output of "more than" 316 horsepower.

"I think the spirit of RS is the ultimate driving experience," said Stephen Odell, Global Marketing Chief of Ford.

"So the pinnacle really of the performance attribute from the car you can drive on road but also take of road as well," he added.

The car goes from 0-100km/h in less than five seconds. Despite the impressive power on offer, CO2 emissions are reduced by around 20% compared to the old RS, meaning the new car should emit around 180g/km.

Mercedes-Benz unveiled the new Mercedes-Maybach Pullman S600 limousine. The four-door, six-seat model offers 2+2+2 seating complete with a middle row of rear-facing seats. Positioned above the Mercedes-Maybach S600, the Pullman is powered by the 6.0-liter V-12 engine, good for 523-horse power (hp). The car is 6.5 metres long, and 10 centimetres taller than the standard S-class, for extra headroom. Deliveries of the 2016 Mercedes-Maybach Pullman S600 will begin in early 2016.

"The new Mercedes Maybach S600 Pullman is really a legend on wheels. We have a 50 year tradition with this vehicle for heads of states, for monarchs and for stars – so if you're looking for the ultimate comfortable ride in the chauffeured car luxury segment you will come to the S600 Maybach," said Ola Kallenius, Mercedes Sales and Marketing representative.

Also on Tuesday, BMW took the wraps off its new 2 Series Gran Tourer that is marked out for being both the first premium compact model to offer up to seven seats and the carmaker's latest front-wheel-drive model. The sister model to the 2 Series Active Tourer, the new Gran Tourer is 214mm longer and 53mm higher with a longer wheelbase of 2,780mm to provide more space. It also comes with seven seats as standard. Engine range comprises five turbocharged petrol and diesel engines with either three or four-cylinders and six-speed Steptronic transmission for the former with the option of an eight-speed Steptronic transmission for four-cylinder engines, with this gearbox standard on the 220d xDrive Gran Tourer. The most efficient model in the range is the 216d Gran Tourer, which features a new, 114bhp 1.5-litre, three-cylinder diesel engine and brings combined fuel consumption of 68.9mpg and CO2

emissions of 108g/km along with a top speed of 192 km/h and 0 to 100 km/h time of 11.4 seconds.

French manufacturer Peugeot revealed a refreshed looking 208. The biggest change to the look is the revised front end that makes the little hatchback look wider than before. The interior is left largely the same aesthetically for this update, except for some added soft-touch materials. Buyers can also now spec a rearview camera and Active City Brake, a system that can bring the vehicle to a stop from less than 32 kilometres per hour if it senses an accident. Peugeot is also adding a new trim level to the 208 called the GT Line. The model takes on some of the styling of the GTi hot hatch but offers more pedestrian engines under the hood. It gets upgrades like a gloss black grille, black mirrors and a chrome exhaust tip. All versions of the refreshed 208 meet the Euro 6 standards and every diesel is now below 95g/km of CO₂.

Smart presented its new BRABUS tailor made. Highlights include special paintwork in "lizard green", "spring break orange" and "darknight blue" and the sporty tailor made exterior design for the two smart fortwos. A unique feature in the small and mini car segment is the twinamic dual clutch transmission, which combines the comfort of automatic gear-shifting in urban traffic with the option of manual operation. Manual gear-shifting is possible using the selector lever in a separate gate or by means of the shift paddles included in the Sports package. The smart fortwo rated at 52 kW/ 71 hp is the first model of the new smart generation to be available with this state-of-the-art dual clutch transmission.

NanoFlowcell presented on Tuesday in Geneva the Quantino, the smaller sibling of the Quant F. The low voltage vehicle is described as an "innovative electric vehicle with mass appeal". The 2+2 coupé, which measures 3.91m in length, uses flow cell battery storage technology derived from the Quant F. An ionic liquid is stored in two 175-litre tanks, one tank with a positive charge and the other with a negative charge. It provides power to a low-voltage drive system with four 25kW electric motors producing a total of 136bhp. NanoFlowcell claims a top speed of 200 km/h and an all-electric driving range of more than 998 kilometres.

Mitsubishi brought a new XR-PHEV II concept car to Geneva. The car that is 4.49m long, 1.89m wide and 1.62m high is powered by a plug-in hybrid powertrain designed for front-engine, front-wheel drive models and will come with a "high-output" electric motor offering a "low environmental impact, dynamic agility and athletic design". The updated plug-in hybrid system, which combines a conventional internal combustion engine with a newly developed electric motor and 12kWh battery, emits 40g/km of CO₂ and produces 160bhp. Depending on driving conditions and remaining battery charge, the system automatically switches between all-electric, 'series hybrid' or 'parallel hybrid' modes. The driver can also manually select the driving mode by switching between 'battery save' or 'battery charge' modes.

BMW's MINI division has introduced a limited-edition version of the Countryman called Park Lane. Designed to slot near the top of the Countryman lineup, the Park Lane stands out from the standard Countryman thanks to an eye-catching two-tone Earl Grey and Oak Red paint job, silver trim on both ends and a sprinkling of model-specific emblems. MINI has not made any mechanical modifications. Park Lane buyers can choose between the Cooper Countryman's 121-horsepower four-cylinder engine and the Cooper S Countryman's 181-horsepower turbo four. Both engines come standard with a six-speed manual transmission, and the S model can be ordered with MINI's ALL4 all-wheel drive system at an extra cost.

The Opel Karl made its first outing on Tuesday in Geneva. The new addition to the Opel family can be equipped with numerous safety and comfort technologies that are unrivalled in the micro-car segment. At just 3.68 meters long and 1.48 meters high, the new Opel KARL offers the perfect combination of a spacious interior and compact exterior dimensions. KARL is powered by a modern, latest generation one-litre, three-cylinder gasoline engine that emits 99 g/km CO₂. The mini segment model will have a fully electric version dedicated to those who want to get rid of emissions and gas stations. The autonomy range proposed by the Karl EV will be about 150 kilometres.

The 2015 Morgan Aero 8 made its global debut in Geneva, 15 years since the launch of the original Aero Eight. Significant visual and mechanical changes make the 5th generation of this iconic model the most refined Morgan Aero product to date. The car is powered by a BMW 4.8 litre V8 and is the lightest V8 sports car in the world.

Spanish manufacturer Seat revealed a new concept 20V20 that has the vision of an extremely sporty and powerful SUV. The SEAT 20V20 (meaning "vision veinte veinte", Spanish for 20:20) combines the dynamic silhouette of a four-door sports coupé with the refinement of an SUV and the versatility and utility of a mid-size estate car. The array of drive options is multi-faceted and accommodates powerful TSI drives of up to around 220 kW / 300 PS as well as TDI engines that are as powerful as they are efficient, with up to 176 kW / 240 PS – both, of course, also as plug-in hybrids with the option for electric-only driving. The power is delivered to the wheels via the DSG transmission and electronically controlled all-wheel drive.

Volkswagen introduced the first-ever GTD-badged Golf Variant. Designed to strike a balance between performance, fuel economy and practicality, the wagon was created by shoe-horning the GTD's 2.0-liter TDI turbo-diesel engine into the Variant's engine bay. The mill is tuned to generate 181 horsepower at 3,500 rpm. The GTD Variant sprints from zero to 100 km/h in 7.9 seconds, half a second slower than its hatchback sibling.

The highlight of the Volvo stand was the display of the full range of XC90s – from the high-end Inscription and R-Design trim levels to the Momentum, with the appropriately named Rugged and Urban Luxury accessory styling kits also on display. The XC90 will be available at dealerships this spring.

Skoda presented its third-generation of Superb Limousine. The new Superb is bigger, roomier, more proportionate and much better looking than the car it replaces. Power comes from a choice of eight engines (five petrol, three diesel), the most efficient able to return a fuel economy figure of 76.4mpg and emit 95g/km of CO₂, making it exempt from vehicle excise duty.

Bentley introduced the 2015 EXP 10 speed 6 on Tuesday in Geneva, It is just a design study, but it shows there is tendency among Bentley's top brass to produce a full-blooded super car. The styling of the new Speed 6 draws inspirations from the old Bentley models as well as the more contemporary ones. The car is finished in a deep metallic British Racing Green and boasts the iconic Bentley matrix grille and four-round headlamps. The interior design is even more amazing, featuring Bentley knurled surface created in a two-metal 3D texture, 3D quilting, milled directly in to solid straight-grain cherry wood, and a 12-inch curved media.

Nissan has displayed its radical new GTR LM NISMO race car at the Geneva Motor Show. The car's engine is placed in front of the driver, and power is delivered through the front wheels.

That's a departure from motor racing orthodoxy which suggests the engine should be at the back with the rear wheels push the car along the track.

The car will compete in this year's World Endurance Championships and its most famous event the Le Mans 24 Hours.

Nissan/NISMO's global motorsport director Darren Cox said the innovative design aims to take advantage of aerodynamic rules governing Le Mans cars.

"Motorsport regulations over the years have evolved and really it's about slowing cars down," he said.

"So the rear of the car has been reduced in terms of aerodynamic efficiency. So the best thing to do? Put the aerodynamic efficiency at the front. But that means you've got to put the engine at the front. And then the whole train of thought from our engineers went from there."

The rear tyres are also smaller than the front, in another departure from the traditional layout of racing cars.

The GTR LM NISMO has proved a viral sensation despite not yet starting a race.

Darren Cox says Nissan's roster of nine drivers will have to "re-learn their craft", thanks to the GTR LM NISMO's unique front-wheel drive arrangement.

Two of those drivers, Jann Mardenborough and Lucas Ordonez, were selected from the Nissan GT Academy, a programme which sees the world's best PlayStation gamers elevated to real race seats.

The GTR LM NISMO makes its race debut at the Silverstone round of the World Endurance Championship on 12 April before contesting the Le Mans 24 Hours on 13-14 June.