

NEWS

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GEM's new half-ton payload capacity eL XD redefines battery-electric powered utility vehicles

Fargo, N.D. - For the first time, fleet managers and eco-minded consumers can choose heavy-duty performance along with the cost and emissions benefits of battery-electric vehicles.

Global Electric Motorcars, LLC (GEM), a DaimlerChrysler company, today officially introduced its new extra-duty utility electric vehicle, the GEM eL XD, and other 2007 electric vehicle models at its assembly facility in Fargo, N.D.

The GEM eL XD, an enhanced version of its existing eL utility vehicle, features a long-back bed and an additional 400 pounds of cargo capacity.

"We are committed to changing the way the world thinks about battery-electric vehicles," said Larry Oswald, chief executive officer and director of the GEM and Electric Vehicle Product Team for DaimlerChrysler. "People are not realizing they can have the cost and emissions benefits of electric vehicles and get real capacity and performance."

"The GEM eL XD has the capacity to tackle heavier loads and rough ground. That, on top of its low operating cost and zero emissions," stated Rick Kasper, president and chief operating officer of Global Electric Motorcars, LLC.

In addition to the increased payload capacity, the GEM eL XD features nine 8-volt maintenance-free gel batteries, giving it a driving range of up to 40 miles per charge.

Improvements have been made to all GEM vehicles in the 2007 model lineup. A new standard feature for the 2007 models is a steering system that reduces the amount of steering effort by over 33% and also reduces the turning diameter. Along with the utility vehicles, the current GEM lineup includes two-, four- and six-passenger vehicles.

GEM Care, a national warranty program, is also new for 2007. Available on all new GEM vehicles, it provides 24-hour roadside and towing assistance, and more.

Kasper added, "GEM Care is just one of the examples of our commitment to providing new options and innovations for GEM vehicles. It further shows our steadfast dedication to customers and reinforces our market leadership in neighborhood electric vehicle transportation."

GEM vehicles, with a top speed of 25 miles per hour, are street-legal in most states and can be driven on roads posted at 35 miles per hour or less. They also meet all federal safety standards for Low Speed Vehicles.

There are more than 32,000 GEM vehicles on the road today in the U.S. and internationally, used in settings such as city centers; planned communities; rural areas; military bases; local, state and national parks; industrial developments; airports; and college and university campuses.

GEM vehicles provide clean, quiet, efficient and affordable transportation. With zero emissions, they are an alternative to conventional vehicles and can have a significant impact on air quality.

"GEM vehicles cost just pennies a day to operate," said Kasper. "Their cost of ownership is one-third of their gasoline-powered counterparts, while their fuel-efficiency is eight times greater."

Federal tax credits are available for the purchase of GEM vehicles. Depending upon the area, consumers may also receive incentives from air districts or other governmental agencies.

Information on GEM electric vehicles is available at www.gemcar.com.

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Additional information and news from DaimlerChrysler is available on the Internet at:
www.media.daimlerchrysler.com.
