

Beat: Automobiles

LONDON WITH NEW HYBRID BLACK CABS THANKS TO CHINA

LATEST BATTERY-POWERED TX5 MODEL

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USPA NEWS - The new London taxi, which will be available from 2017, will be made with Chinese electric vehicle technology. It was designed by the London Taxi Company, which is owned by Chinese car manufacturer Geely...

The new London taxi, which will be available from 2017, will be made with Chinese electric vehicle technology. It was designed by the London Taxi Company, which is owned by Chinese car manufacturer Geely. It will receive a green makeover with the launch of the latest battery-powered TX5 model, meaning it can run on battery power and then switch from electric to petrol power when its battery runs out. It will also come with WiFi internet access and charging points for passengers' mobile devices.

The new black TX5 cab was unveiled by the London Taxi Company on October 21, coinciding with the state visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to London. There are hopes that the TX5 will retain a major part of the London taxi market and could be a key, iconic export for the firm. The current London demand for black cabs is only about 3,500 units per year, according to autocar.co.uk, meaning that the export market is a key target.

Also, Stephen Knight, Liberal Democrat London Assembly environment spokesperson, called on the Mayor to ban Euro VI diesel vehicles from the capital's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), which will come into force in 2020. The Euro VI testing procedure has come under heavy criticism following the revelations surrounding VW's use of a "defeat device" to cheat emissions tests.

The unveiling of the new model comes at a time when the U.K. is keen to promote its business opportunities for Chinese investment. The red carpet has been rolled out for President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, with China's most powerful couple being treated to the best pomp and pageantry Buckingham Palace can muster. (CNBC)

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