

Audi Compact Performance SUV Concept

At the Shanghai Motor Show, Audi presented the Audi Cross Coupé quattro, intended to combine the design and dynamism of a compact premium sports car with the spaciousness and versatility of a four-seat sport utility vehicle. The silhouette is typical Audi. The concept is painted in Liquid Silver, reminiscent of the sportiest models produced by the Ingolstadt brand. The proportions and large 20" wheels point clearly toward offroad potential. A new element is the fabric folding roof, for optimum headroom and fresh air. The hood is opened and closed electrically.

A transversely installed four-cylinder inline TDI diesel engine with common-rail fuel injection and piezo injectors is a completely new development. With power output of 204 bhp and 295 ft.-lbs. of torque, it gives sporty performance and surprising efficiency. The ultra-modern 2.0 TDI needs just 5.9 litres of diesel fuel per 100 km average. A diesel particulate filter and Bluetec system reduce soot and nitric oxide emissions effectively.

The quattro permanent four-wheel drive system includes a Haldex clutch engineered to distribute traction precisely according to conditions. An Audi S tronic dual-clutch gearbox executes gearshifts in milliseconds.

Running gear features McPherson-strut front and four-link rear suspension for agile handling with a high degree of stability. The running gear gives near-luxury-class handling and comfort on all types of road and in rough terrain. Ceramic brake discs claim non-fading deceleration. 20" wheels give the car style and plenty of ground clearance.

An electronic drive select system has three configurations for the engine, gearbox, steering and adaptive shock absorbers: standard "dynamic" mode, a "sport" setting, and an "efficiency" program that modifies the engine map and shift points for fuel economy; it also deactivates energy-hungry components such as the air-conditioning compressor.

The MMI control panel is operated by a touch pad and has dual-view technology, producing different images for the driver and front-seat passenger, visible only when viewed from a specific angle. This allows the driver to read data from the on-board computer while the front passenger watches a TV program, listening to the sound through headphones. ■

