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PRESS RELEASE



Riversimple to develop hydrogen electric supercar with winning design from students at Coventry University

Riversimple is developing this car to draw attention to the crisis of vehicle weight. No zero-emission car with a 400-mile range is available at much less than 2,000kg. The UK-based circular and hydrogen car maker plans to produce a limited run of radical zero emission supercars with a range in excess of 400 miles, weighing in at only 620kg.

New cars today are [25% heavier than they were seven years ago](#). Weight has a range of unintended consequences, none of them positive – increased resource consumption, embedded carbon in manufacturing and energy consumption in use, increased injuries from accidents, air and water quality from tyre emissions ([78% of microplastics in the world's oceans are from tyres](#)) – and battery electrification has exacerbated the issues. [Scientists are warning](#) that we are in danger of replacing one environmental crisis with another.

The Riversimple supercar is the subject of a competition for postgraduate students at [Coventry University's Automotive and Transport Design course](#) as their core individual project in the autumn semester. Riversimple may use the successful exterior and interior design proposals from this competition. The school's alumni include Tesla, Maserati, Volvo Cars APAC, Bentley and Aston Martin design directors.

The collaboration between Riversimple and Coventry University will be covered by Autocar and the competition judging panel will include Head of Design at VW, Andreas Mindt, who kickstarted his own career with a student-industry competition – having studied for a semester with the Automotive and Transport Design course.

The Riversimple supercar will push the limits of range, efficiency and lightweighting and use advanced carbon composite materials, inboard motors and brakes, lightweight fuel cell technology and supercapacitors. It will accelerate from 0-60mph in 3.5s, 0-100mph in 6.4s and have a 410-mile range,

with a fuel cell of only 29kW, or 39bhp. The ultra-low unsprung mass translates to unrivalled dynamics and the car will be superlight – at just 620kg, over 1,000kg less than the battery electric Lotus Evija.

With a top speed of 100mph, the Riversimple supercar is a different take on what makes for the ultimate driving experience, showcased as an antithesis to current supercar one-upmanship. Competing on power and top speed leads to wide, heavy and over-complex vehicles more suited to use on the track than the road. Styling, even naming, has become increasingly aggressive with an inference of ‘taming the beast’, a far cry from the concept of being at one with the machine.

Hugo Spowers MBE, Riversimple’s founder and chief engineer, is keen for the styling of the Riversimple supercar to square up to the high-performance car look of the moment: “This car is an antidote to excess and power for the sake of it, and is an opportunity to redefine sports cars for the 21st century. We want the look to embody an elegant and sophisticated simplicity but unquestionably modern – as befits a cutting-edge vehicle with radically different engineering.

“These supercars will be immense fun to drive and demonstrate exceptional vehicle dynamics, range, refuel time, light weight and, with Coventry University students’ help – style.”

The Course Director overseeing this project, Associate Professor Aamer Mahmud, said: “This unique competition will challenge our students with a sports car brief, a dream project to kickstart their academic journey at Coventry University. The winning design will showcase the creativity and technical prowess of our future designers.

“The project underscores our commitment to offering real-world opportunities that push the boundaries of sustainable and forward-thinking automotive design. This collaboration not only highlights the innovative spirit of Riversimple but also reinforces our dedication to fostering industry connections that enhance our students' educational experiences and preparing them as professional graduates.”

The supercars will use similar technology to Riversimple’s new production vehicle, based on the Rasa but in a more practical, everyday package and are being developed in parallel in a joint programme. The company is preparing for production at scale, and is seeking investors, partners and sites for [regional manufacturing plants](#).

Riversimple supercar fact sheet:

- 29kW hydrogen fuel cell (39bhp)
- 620kg vehicle weight
- 410 miles of range
- 0-60mph in 3.5s

- 0-100mph in 6.4s
- 100mph top speed
- Carbon fibre chassis
- 4 inboard motors, 450Nm per (geared) motor and brakes
- Ultra-low unsprung mass, unrivalled dynamics
- 0.65g pure regen phased braking
- 1.1kWh high density advanced supercaps pack
- No batteries
- 800V architecture

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ENDS

Notes to editors:

Riversimple is pioneering the next generation of zero emission vehicles with a circular business model. Their vehicles use hydrogen, not batteries and emit nothing but water, with a refuel time of around five minutes.

Production plans do not require large-scale 'gigafactories' – Riversimple aims to build a distributed network of compact and efficient manufacturing plants that will regenerate communities and create jobs.

Riversimple was founded by former motorsport engineer Hugo Spowers MBE. Hugo set up OSCar Automotive in 2001, which became Riversimple in 2007 and led the Morgan LIFECar project, shown at Geneva in 2008. Riversimple was awarded the SIMMS Medal by the RAC Club in 2016 for "outstanding contribution to motoring innovation" and elected as an Emerging Innovator member of the Circular Economy network CE100 by Ellen MacArthur Foundation in 2017. In 2022 Hugo was awarded an MBE for Services to Technology.

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