

Press Release

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Volvo Cars' new Recharge plug-in hybrid powertrain outperforms average daily mileage on a single charge

Volvo Cars has introduced a new, improved Recharge plug-in hybrid powertrain on its 90 and 60 series models, significantly extending electric range while lowering CO₂ emissions, increasing performance and improving driveability.

Volvo Cars' new and improved hybrid powertrain brings the all-electric range up to a projected 56 miles (90 kilometres)* on a single charge. With the average premium car owner travelling fewer than 31 miles (50 kilometres) each weekday**, most Volvo drivers with home charging will be able to do their daily motoring on pure electric power in a new Volvo plug-in hybrid.

The main improvements include a new long-range battery, featuring a third layer of cells to increase nominal energy from 11.6kWh to 18.8kWh, and a more powerful rear electric motor now delivering 145hp. The additional electric power results in a total combined output of 350hp for Recharge T6 and 455hp for Recharge T8 models, making the latter the most powerful Volvo cars ever produced. Besides the new powertrain, new upgrades include one-pedal drive on specific models.

The increased battery capability means that more customers will be able to drive primarily in pure electric mode, and Volvo Cars estimates that the new powertrain has the potential to reduce CO₂ emissions by up to around 50 per cent under the WLTP drive cycle.

"It's 2021, and people should no longer have to rely on petrol or diesel when commuting," said Henrik Green, Chief Technology Officer at Volvo Cars. "Our latest plug-in hybrids deliver all the electric driving range needed in most people's everyday life."

The new and improved e-motor ups the power to the rear wheels by 65 per cent, enhancing performance and driveability in all scenarios. Together with the boosted battery, the upgraded e-motor also enables better all-wheel-drive capability, which can prove particularly useful at low speeds, when towing, or when driving on slippery roads that demand extra traction and stability.

The suite of upgrades includes the addition of one-pedal drive, which can help deliver an especially smooth and intuitive driving experience. The function, already seen on pure electric Volvo models, gives the driver the option of controlling both acceleration and deceleration with only the accelerator pedal. It will be rolled out initially on the Volvo XC60, S90 and V90 Recharge plug-in hybrids.

The extra battery capacity also comes in useful on cold winter days, as well as in scorching summer heat. Even when the car is not plugged in, drivers are able to pre-heat or pre-cool the cabin remotely via the Volvo Cars app while still maintaining a generous amount of electric range.

Volvo Cars is committed to becoming a leader in the fast-growing premium electric car market. By the middle of this decade it aims to sell 1.2 million cars globally, with at least half being fully electric cars. By 2030, it plans to become a fully electric car company.

Customer research shows that Volvo Cars' plug-in hybrids are already now driven around half of

the time in pure electric mode. This powertrain upgrade will increase that percentage, further cementing their position as 'part-time electric cars'.

"Driving a plug-in hybrid is often a stepping-stone to going fully electric," said Henrik Green. "We believe that this upgrade will show to many that driving electric is the future, and take us closer to our 2030 ambition of becoming fully electric."

The new powertrain is introduced on all Volvo Recharge plug-in hybrid models based on the Scalable Product Architecture (SPA), which includes the Volvo S60, V60, XC60, S90, V90 and XC90 Recharge models***.

Along with the powertrain improvements, the turbocharged T8 petrol engine is upgraded for higher fuel efficiency and performance. This means higher engine power at low revs and take-off, while ensuring a more refined electrified drive with reduced CO₂ tailpipe emissions.

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Note to editors:

*Range figures vary per model. Range according to the realistic WLTP driving cycle under controlled conditions for a new car. Real-world range may vary.

**Based on research from consulting company Sigma. Sigma's research includes statistics on average daily driving distances in China, the US, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK.

***UK pricing details are available at www.volvocars.co.uk. The updated Recharge models are on sale in the UK now, with first customer deliveries expected in Q1 2022.

Volvo Car Group in 2020

For the 2020 financial year, Volvo Car Group recorded an operating profit of 8.5 BSEK (14.3 BSEK in 2019). Revenue over the period amounted to 262.8 BSEK (274.1 BSEK). For the full year of 2020, global sales reached 661,713 cars (705,452), a decline of 6.2 per cent compared to 2019.

About Volvo Car Group

Volvo Cars was founded in 1927. Today, it is one of the most well-known and respected car brands in the world, with sales of 661,713 cars in 2020 in about 100 countries. Volvo Cars has been under the ownership of the Zhejiang Geely Holding since 2010.

As of December 2020, Volvo Cars employed approximately 40,000 (41,500) full-time employees. Volvo Cars' head office, product development, marketing and administration functions are mainly located in Gothenburg, Sweden. Volvo Cars' head office for APAC is located in Shanghai. The company's main car production plants are located in Gothenburg (Sweden), Ghent (Belgium), South Carolina (US), Chengdu and Daqing (China).

Under its new company purpose, Volvo Cars aims to provide customers with the Freedom to Move in a personal, sustainable and safe way. This purpose is reflected in a number of business ambitions: for example, by the middle of this decade it aims for half of its global sales to be fully electric cars and to establish five million direct consumer relationships. Volvo Cars is also committed to an ongoing reduction of its carbon footprint, with the ambition to be a climate-neutral company by 2040.

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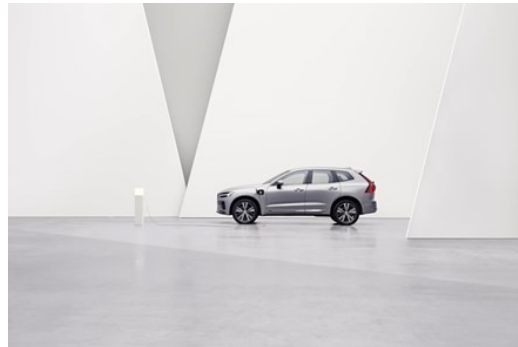
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