

# TWO OF A KIND

*By Neville Barlow*

## **Jaguar C-X75 concept C-X75 Prototype**

In early 2010 Jaguar surprised many people by displaying, without prior notice, their latest concept car in the window of a shop in London. For days crowds up to three deep were absolutely blown away by the greatest looking car Jaguar had ever produced. Later that year it was unveiled at the Paris Motor Show. C-X75 stands for, C for concept, X for experimental and 75 for the years Jaguar has been making wonderful cars.

The motoring world was becoming aware of the power of Tata Motors huge money chest. Some people were rather baffled by their purchase of a company called Bladon Jets. These micro gas turbines made by Bladons were to be the centre piece of a whole new motive power, perhaps for the future of Jaguar cars.



**C-X75**

The C-X75 was expected to reach a top speed of 330 kph and a 0 – 62 mph of 3.9 seconds. It was to be powered by 4 x 165 KW (194 hp) electric motors, one on each wheel. Total power was 780 bhp and torque of 1,600 NM. Each motor weighed 110

lbs. The gas turbines generated enough electricity to give the car a range of 900ks (559 miles). All up with the lithium battery pack it would produce emissions of 99 CO<sup>2</sup> per kilometre. This was 8 years ago, so it was surely the Supercar of Supercars.

A partnership was formed with Formula 1, Team Williams in May 2011.



**Bladon Jets Car**

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It was planned to produce a maximum of 250 cars at a probable sale price between £800,000 and £900,000. In December 2012, Jaguar announced that due to the Global Economic Crisis, they were cancelling production. However, they said they would continue to work on 5 Prototypes to be developed until May 2013.

Unfortunately the motive power units were scrapped. I understand that the Bladon jets were spinning at 80,000 rpm and cooling of the system was indeed difficult. I have read that at one time 11 individual cooling radiators were used. So sadly that great idea was no more.

**C-X75 Prototypes:**

The power train to be used on the remaining 6 prototypes featured a 1.6 litre Formula 1 engine, turbo and supercharges on an in line 4-cylinder engine. It was to be coupled with 2 YASA electric motors placed on each axle of the car.

This power train produced 890 bhp and a top speed of 332 kph. Three of these prototypes were sold at auction, one went to the Jaguar Museum and one was kept by Jaguar for demonstration.

One of these cars was modified to use a 5 litre V8 and featured in the James Bond film Spectre. This car, number 4, is now for sale in the United Kingdom. Price on application! If you have to ask, you cannot afford it. What a wonderful investment for some lucky person.



This car is now offered for sale by Kaaimans International in the United Kingdom. They are currently offering 20 Classic Sports cars including 7 Ferraris, 3 Lamborghinis, 3

Porches, an Aston Martin and a Rolls Royce. These cars are priced between NZ \$160,000 to NZ \$900,000. However, the James Bond CX 75 Jaguar is listed at NZ\$2,500,000.



*Neville*