

NEWS FOCUS

Honda drives in the City

Third generation Honda City gets primed for local launch

By Justin Lee

LOCAL HONDA DISTRIBUTOR Kah Motor has started taking orders for the new City compact sedan, with deliveries scheduled to start in December. The car's official launch is on 26 September at the opening of the 2008 Singapore Motorshow.

The Thai-assembled City is based on the current generation Jazz compact hatchback but unlike the superseded model's styling, which was strangely upright and narrow-tracked, the new car has a smooth flowing exterior design that looks sporty and dynamic. Honda calls the new design language for the City the 'Arrowshot form'.

Power comes from the 120bhp 1.5-litre i-VTEC engine shared with the Jazz. Cost conscious drivers will be glad to know that the engine has been designed to work with 92RON fuel.

All models can be purchased with either a five-speed manual or five-speed automatic transmission. The higher specced City LX will come with steering wheel mounted paddle shifters for sequential shifting, a



feature rarely found in compact sedans. The new City is longer and wider by 5mm and 25mm respectively when compared with the old model, but is 15mm shorter.

The car's wheelbase has grown by a whopping 100mm over its predecessor's 2,450mm.

It will be sold in two trim levels, a standard trim version and the more luxurious LX version. The standard model gets 15-inch alloy wheels, a 2 DIN audio unit with iPod connectivity, anti-lock braking system,

electronic brake force distribution, brake assist, dual front airbags, a remote central locking system and an engine immobiliser.

The LX version gets 16-inch alloy wheels, silver exterior door handles, an integrated factory fitted audio unit with USB port, foldable and reclining rear seats, front fog lamps and a security alarm on top of the safety equipment that is offered on the standard model.

Vincent Ng, product manager of Kah Motor says that the "City has been meticulously designed around the needs of the young and

savvy new customers that Honda is attracting. The interior design embodies a new level of quality and, fit and finish not found in many vehicles within its competitive price range."

The new City costs slightly more than the 1.6-litre Toyota Corolla Altis, which is likely to be its main competitor.

The prices for the City are as follows:
1.5 manual - \$62,000 with COE
1.5 auto - \$63,500 with COE
1.5LX manual - \$63,500 with COE
1.5LX auto - \$65,500 with COE