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## 2021 WORLD CAR FINALS - THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

### Top Ten and Top Five Finalists Announced

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TORONTO, Canada – Tuesday, March 2, 2021 – For Immediate Release

The **WORLD CAR FINALS** countdown excitement begins today with the announcement of the Top Ten and Top Five finalists in five World Car Awards categories as tabulated by KPMG.

A jury of 93 distinguished international automotive journalists selected the finalists by secret ballot based on their evaluation of each eligible vehicle as part of their professional work. For more details about all our jurors and their outlets, please visit our web site: [www.worldcarawards.com](http://www.worldcarawards.com) and click on “Jurors”.

The 2021 **World Car of the Year** (WCOTY) winner will be selected from the following Top Ten finalists chosen from an initial list of 24 contenders:

- Audi A3
- BMW 2-Series Gran Coupe
- BMW 4-Series
- Honda-e
- Kia K5 / Optima
- Kia Sorento
- Mazda MX-30
- Mercedes-Benz GLA
- Toyota Yaris
- Volkswagen ID.4

The 2021 **World Urban Car** will be chosen from these top five finalists:

- Honda Jazz / Fit
- Honda-e
- Hyundai i10 / Grand i10
- Hyundai i20
- Toyota Yaris

The 2021 **World Luxury Car** top five finalists are:

- Aston Martin DBX
- BMW X6
- Land Rover Defender
- Mercedes-Benz S-Class
- Polestar 2

The 2021 **World Performance Car** top five finalists are:

- Audi RS Q8
- BMW M2 CS
- BMW X5 M / X6 M
- Porsche 911 Turbo
- Toyota GR Yaris

All cars competing in these four categories are eligible for the 2021 **World Car Design of the Year** award.

A design panel consisting of seven highly respected world design experts was asked to first review each candidate, and then establish a short-list of recommendations for the jurors' final vote. The design experts are in alpha order: **Gernot Bracht** (Germany – Pforzheim Design School), **Ian Callum** (United Kingdom – Director of Design, CALLUM), **Gert Hildebrand** (Germany – Owner Hildebrand-Design), **Patrick le Quément** (France - Designer and President of the Strategy Committee - The Sustainable Design School), **Tom Matano** (USA – Academy of Art University, Former Head of Design – Mazda), **Victor Nacif** (USA - Chief Creative Officer, Brojure.com and Design instructor, NewSchool of Architecture and Design) and **Shiro Nakamura** (Japan - CEO, Shiro Nakamura Design Associates Inc.).

The five finalists chosen by the design panel for the jurors' final vote are in alpha order:

- Honda-e
- Land Rover Defender
- Mazda MX30
- Polestar 2
- Porsche 911 turbo

The **WORLD CAR FINALS'** excitement will continue to build on **Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**, 2021 when the *Top Three in the World* are announced followed by the declaration of the winners in all five categories on **Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**, 2021. Be part of the moment by following the announcements on World Car TV [YouTube.com/worldcartv](https://www.youtube.com/worldcartv)

Part of the World Car Finals countdown is a look into the future. The **Global Trends Report**, coming mid-March, is produced bi-annually by **Cision Insights** and is co-presented by **BREMBO** –the world leader and acknowledged innovator of brake technology for automotive vehicles. Each report focuses on the emerging and future trends that are transforming the industry right now. The report is the culmination of research and insights across a six month period.

“We are proud to be a partner to the prestigious World Car Awards for the third consecutive year. Our new company vision, “Turning Energy into Inspiration” perfectly matches the values of the international jurors and association. Inspiration, leadership and innovation is in all of our DNA,” states Daniele Schillaci, CEO of Brembo.

2021 marks the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the World Car Awards partnership with the **New York International Auto Show**. The 2022 awards season and the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Road to the World Car Awards* journey will begin on August 19, 2021 at the New York show in the newly renovated Jacob Javits Center in NYC. A new highlight of the 2022 World Car Awards program will be the debut of the World Electric Vehicle of the Year award. This new award is intended to recognize, support and celebrate the global transition to electrically-powered vehicles that is now underway and the efforts of automakers around the world in developing these climate-conscious vehicles.

“There has never been a better time to highlight and celebrate the world's best electric vehicles. We are thrilled to once again be part of this year's World Car Awards and are excited about adding this new award to the program. With the importance of EVs and growing consumer interest, the need for trusted sources for consumers to turn to is paramount, and like the New York Auto Show, the industry's top

journalists that make up the World Car Awards are a trusted resource for buyers as they research their next new vehicle.” said Auto Show president, Mark Schienberg.

**The Road to the World Car Awards** is an annual journey that follows more than 90 of our international jurors as they test-drive, and vote on, the eligible vehicles for the 2021 awards. The jurors’ road-test journey is captured virtually on **World Car TV**: [YouTube.com/worldcartv](https://www.youtube.com/worldcartv) The jurors provide viewers with reviews and commentary on the awards’ eligible vehicles in five categories: World Car of the Year, World Luxury Car, World Performance Car, World Urban Car and World Car Design of the Year.

*The Road to the World Car Awards* journey and the awards program would not be possible without the support of our official partners that, in addition to the New York show, also include **ZF, Cision Insights, Brembo, KPMG** and **Newspress** – our official media partner. Thank you to our partners.

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**VIDEO:** <https://youtu.be/G8vBBMoolW8>

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**THE ROAD TO THE 2021 WORLD CAR AWARDS**  
*Began August 26, 2020*  
*Will end with the winners’ announcement on April 20, 2021*

**THE ROAD TO THE 2022 WORLD CAR AWARDS**  
*Will begin August 19, 2021*  
*At the New York International Auto Show #RoadtoNYC*

**FOLLOW OUR 90+ INTERNATIONAL JURORS :**  
**World Car TV:** [YouTube.com/worldcartv](https://www.youtube.com/worldcartv)  
**Instagram:** #wcoty @theworldcarawards #wca2021 #WorldCarAwards  
**Twitter:** #wcoty @worldcarawards #worldcarawards #wca2021  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/WorldCarAwards](https://www.facebook.com/WorldCarAwards) #worldcarawards #wca2021

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For additional information please visit [www.worldcarawards.com](http://www.worldcarawards.com) or contact Beth Rhind, Co-founder and Executive Director, E: [beth@worldcarawards.com](mailto:beth@worldcarawards.com)

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## **ABOUT**

### **World Car Awards**

*The World Car Awards and its 90+ global jurors are missioned with recognizing and rewarding automotive excellence on a global scale. We test drive and evaluate all new or fully redesigned vehicles that are for sale on more than one continent from May to May each year, voting to determine the World Car Design, World Luxury Car, World Performance Car, World Urban Car and World Car of the Year.*

*Now in their 17th year, the annual World Car Awards are the number one awards program in the world for the eighth (8th) consecutive year based on Cision Insight’s 2020 media report.*

*The awards were inaugurated in 2003, and officially launched in January 2004, to reflect the reality of the global marketplace, as well as to recognize, reward and inspire excellence, leadership and innovation in a rapidly changing automotive industry.*

*The awards are intended to complement, not compete, with existing national and regional Car of the Year programs.*

### **New York International Auto Show**

*Owned and operated by the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association, the New York Auto Show is an awesome combination of new ideas, technological innovation, exceptional concept cars and nearly 1,000 of the latest new cars and trucks. Over one million visitors are expected to visit the show this year to see what is truly possible from the automotive industry.*

### **Important 2021 Auto Show Dates**

*Press Preview: August 19, 2021 (credentials required)*

*Public Sneak Preview: August 20, 2021*

*Public Show Date: August 20 – 29, 2021*

*Social Media: Twitter: @NYAutoShow Facebook: nyautoshow Instagram: nyautoshow #nyauto #nyias #RoadtoNYC*