

PSA to use RVR

Mitsubishi will share its new RVR compact SUV with Peugeot and Citroen

By MARTON PETTENDY
MITSUBISHI and PSA Peugeot Citroen may have gone cold on a plan to become industrial bedfellows, but that has not stopped them devising another SUV-sharing deal – this time based on the Japanese brand’s new RVR compact SUV.

Known as the ASX in Europe, the RVR is just months away from release in Australia and has now been confirmed to spawn both Peugeot and Citroen versions for Europe in early 2012.

Like the RVR and ASX, both French iterations of the all-new five-seat crossover wagon will be available in both front-drive and AWD format. Unlike in Australia, however, the as-yet-unnamed Citroen and Peugeot versions will be diesel-only affairs, powered by Mitsubishi’s 2.0-litre oil-burner and PSA’s 1.6 HDi engine, which in front-wheel drive form is expected to return fuel economy of 4.7L/100km and CO2 emissions of 123g/km.

Neither model is guaranteed to be sold in Australia, where Peugeot already sells the Mitsubishi Outlander-based 4007 and will soon release the smaller 3008 crossover. While Citroen’s Outlander-based C-Crosser



RVR

is not on the agenda for Australia, the ‘other French brand’ is expected to enter the compact SUV segment for the first time with a forthcoming automatic version of its C3 Picasso.

“We cannot make a decision (on importing Citroen’s version of the RVR) until we see the available specifications and pricing for the local market, which is particularly pertinent in this case as it depends how close it sits to the C3 Picasso, a car that already ticks the majority of boxes in this sector and which will be available to us by then with an automatic gearbox,” said Citroen Australia spokesman Edward Rowe.

Mitsubishi and PSA have revealed a combined annual sales target of 50,000 for the French models.

“For PSA Peugeot Citroen, the new vehicles will expand the ranges of both

Peugeot and Citroen and attract new customers in a market segment that is expected to grow worldwide by almost 60 per cent by 2015,” the companies said a joint statement issued last week.

“For Mitsubishi Motors, the additional volume will enable it to bolster production of this platform, allowing it to enjoy benefits of economies of scale.”

The move marks the fourth product-sharing deal between Mitsubishi and PSA, following Outlander/4007/C-Crosser production from 2005, an arrangement to produce 100,000 versions of the Mitsubishi i-MiEV-based Peugeot iOn and Citroen C-Zero EVs from October this year and the construction of a joint-venture plant in Russia.

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Light fighter – next page

Plug-in Golf emerges as VW confirms electric versions of next-gen small cars

By MARTON PETTENDY
VOLKSWAGEN has revealed the first all-electric version of its global top-seller, the Golf, which previews the zero-emissions drive system and plug-in lithium-ion battery technology that will power a range of new small cars from 2013.

Spokesman for the German maker in Australia, Karl Gehling, said: “It is far too early to comment on the chances of the Golf Blue-E-Motion being sold here, but we would certainly have a close look at it if



Golf

the opportunity arises.”

The Golf Blue-E-Motion will follow the release of the Up Blue-E-Motion, a pint-sized “city specialist” model that

debuted in concept guise at the Frankfurt motor show last September.

Presenting his company’s answer to Germany’s ‘National Platform for Electric Mobility’ to German chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin on Monday, Volkswagen AG chairman Martin Winterkorn confirmed the German giant’s first plug-in small car, based on the next-generation Mk7 Golf, will go on sale in Europe and the US in 2013.

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